



Second Sunday of Easter - Year C - 19th April 2020

Introduction

Today we hear how Jesus appeared to the disciples after he had risen from the dead. We hear how some doubted and Jesus because he did not see it with his own eyes.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.)

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary - (an adult light the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Especially when our daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song"- (*To the Tune of Frere Jacques*)

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria (Sung) *Remind the children of the importance of singing this song of praise during the season of Easter.*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It)

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Gospel

(John 20:19-31)

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Ask the children what they remember from today's Gospel. Jesus appeared to the Disciples as they gathered together, how did they feel as they sat together? (Sad, alone, afraid without Jesus)

Jesus appeared to show them that it was true, he had risen from the dead. The mood changed, why? (They were so relieved to see him. They were in shock and disbelief but renewed in hope)

Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared, what did he say when he heard? (He said he did not believe that Jesus had risen, he would only believe if he saw for himself)

Jesus appeared again to show Thomas the wounds in his side and prove it was him, he had risen. What did Thomas cry out? (He said "My Lord and my God")

Jesus left us all with an important message, he reminded us it's easy to have faith and believe when we see for ourselves but blessed are, we who have not seen and yet believe.

Discuss with the children things in their lives they don't always believe unless they see for themselves. Ask them what helps them to believe. It may be if they see evidence of something left behind or a photograph of something that has happened. Often, it's if someone else that they trust tells them, maybe a parent or a Teacher at school.

Although we have not seen Jesus with our own eyes, our Faith allows us to know that he did rise from the dead for all of us. He sent the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in our lives so that although we do not see, we believe.

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord Jesus,

Help us to always have Faith to believe in you and be reminded of the words of your Disciple Thomas "My Lord and my God"

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Led by the Holy Spirit may we show your love to others through our words and actions in our world today.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, fill us with Faith to go out into the world and preach the Gospel to all nations. May we never lose the hope that comes from you alone as we spread your light throughout the world.

For Parents or Carers reading this at home there are some further resources on the [Archdiocese website](#).