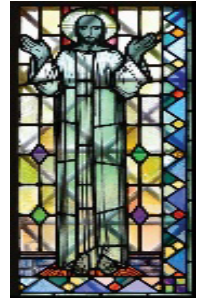


LIVING FAITH

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY-- John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'



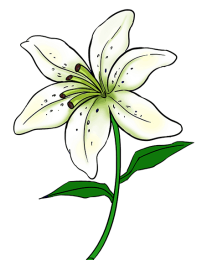
REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Thomas has been known down through the ages as "Doubting Thomas." He was not there when the other Apostles saw the risen Jesus, touched him, and heard him speak to them. He asked for proof that Jesus, who he knew had died, had in fact risen from the dead. He wanted to touch and feel, to be reassured that this was real. In a way, you and I, the modern-day-disciples of Jesus, are like Thomas. We have not seen, but we are called to believe.

To believe does not mean that we never doubt. To believe means to ask questions and seek with a sincere heart and mind for Jesus, for God, for truth, goodness and beauty. It means to trust in the love and mercy of God.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- How did you come to believe in Jesus?
- What keeps you going when you are tempted to doubt?



Drawing123.com

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



Y J M N P S M B J D J Y D J S
 C X I T A T F M L H O Y W A X
 W X R K N Y G X P O F O M E D
 X M A D V Y G E A X C O R E H
 R X C C J V D R L X H K V S A
 T L L U V E D A E T N E E D M
 T K E S H E H I R C I N S D S
 O X S C W B A S S L O C Y N T
 G R U O L K N Z E C L R G D N
 E O H D Q Z D B H J I I D E P
 T S I U J J S A S R S P F E Z
 H N T F E K D P I A M I L B D
 E T W U S N K D D U L G E E E
 R S R N U K P S E S L V H N S
 R P T V S V D O U B T I N G B

JESUS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	RECORDED
MIRACLES	SIGNS	SHOWED	BELIEVED
DOORS	LIFE	HANDS	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	THOMAS	SIDE	LOCKED

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DID YOU KNOW?

- EASTER IS CALLED "THE GREAT SUNDAY"
- THE SEASON OF EASTER LASTS FOR 50 DAYS



The Paschal Candle
is the central symbol of the Easter season, sign of the presence of the risen Lord, light of the world

Alleluia!
Praise the Lord!
THE SONG OF OUR REJOICING

It is added to acclamations and antiphons and may be used as a refrain for the Responsorial Psalm and Communion Song.



The sprinkling rite (with water blessed at the Easter Vigil) is often used at the beginning of Masses on Sundays

ASPECTS OF THE SEASON OF EASTER

As far back as the Council of Nicaea (325), the Church reflected Easter joy by prohibiting fasting and kneeling, which are signs of penance, throughout the season.

During the Easter season, we stand (rather than kneel) during the Litany of the Saints.



Confirmation and First Eucharist are celebrated during the Easter season



The constant joy of the season continues throughout the fifty days and should be reflected in the festive decoration of the church building



The Acts of the Apostles is read at all celebrations in place of the Old Testament because it presents the life, growth and witness of the early Church



Archdiocese of Toronto

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A Prayer After Easter

By Erin M. Cline

O God of the Last Supper
God of the Cross
And God of the Empty Tomb
We come before you now and we pause.

We inhale the scent of snow white Easter lilies.
We see the rain as it falls in veils and sheets of April showers.
And we listen.

Holy Week has passed.
But how we long to live by the marvelous story we have heard.

Let us remain ever beside you at the table of the Last Supper.
Show us who is hungry.
And give us the courage to offer them bread from your table.
Show us who is thirsty.
And give us the strength to lift up the cup of your love.

Most of all, show us how to linger at the table, serving others—
Doing ALL that we do
In remembrance of You,
And the way You were when You walked this earth.

We lift these simple, limited words
Up to you, O God.

Amen

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

CONTINUING TO EXPLORE THE SYNTHESIS REPORT

LOOKING AT CHAPTER 8- CONVERGENCES

Today we are going through the convergences part of chapter "8-- Church is Mission"

The Church, rather than having a mission, 'is' mission, embodying the mandate of Christ to spread the Gospel. Every disciple, irrespective of role or vocation, shares responsibility for this mission, practicing co-responsibility essential for synodality.

Baptismal Dignity

Laymen and laywomen, those in consecrated life, and ordained ministers have **equal dignity**. They have received **different charisms and vocations** and exercise different roles and functions, but all are called and nourished by the Holy Spirit to form **one body in Christ** (1 Cor. 4-31).

They are **all disciples, all missionaries**



The **family** is the **pillar** of every Christian community. **Parents** and **grandparents** and all those who live and share their faith in the family are the **first missionaries**.

PART II – ALL DISCIPLES, ALL MISSIONARIES

8. Church is Mission

Rather than saying that the Church has a mission, we affirm that **Church 'is' mission**. Supported and guided by the **Holy Spirit**, the Church **announces and witnesses the Gospel** to those who do not know it or do not welcome it.



CORESPONSIBILITY

The exercise of **coresponsibility** is essential for **synodality** and is necessary at **all levels** of the Church. **Each Christian is a mission** on this earth.



The lay faithful contribute in a vital way to advancing that mission in all areas and in the **ordinary situations** of every day[...] Wherever they are present, they are called **to witness** to Jesus Christ in daily life and to explicitly **share the faith** with others. In a special way, **young people**, with their **gifts** and **fragilities**, growing in friendship with Jesus, become **apostles of the Gospel** to their peers.