

Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter) – 19th April 2020

Introduction

Today we hear how Jesus appeared to the disciples after he had risen from the dead. We hear how the disciple Thomas was not there and did not believe that Jesus had appeared 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.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights 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".

We are sorry, *(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)*
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 Page 47 - Sunday. Book of Readings.

The Lectionary Adapted for Children

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

All say: "Glory to You Oh Lord" and trace the sign of the cross on your forehead, your lips and your heart.

John 20:19-29

"On Sunday evening (the same day the women had been to the tomb), the disciples were gathered in a room upstairs. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Then Jesus came and stood in the room and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. Jesus said again,

“Peace be with you. As God has sent me to you, now I am sending you to others.”

Then he breathed on the disciples and said to them,

“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Now one of the apostles, Thomas, was not there when Jesus came. So later the other disciples told him,

“We have seen the Lord!”

But Thomas said “I’ll never believe it until I see the marks made by the nails in his hands and touch the wound in his side.”

One week later, the disciples were in the same room again. This time, Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. He said

“Peace be with you.”

Then he said to Thomas,

“Here, touch the marks on my hands and feel the wound in my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus said to Thomas,

“You believe now because you see me. Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet believe!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All say : “Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ”

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 that He had risen from the dead. 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 .

It's Divine Mercy Sunday today! You can pray the chaplet of Divine Mercy on your Rosary beads.

Start with : One Our Father, One Hail Mary and then the Apostles Creed

On the first "Our Father" bead pray:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the ten "Hail Mary" beads of each decade of your rosary beads pray:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.

End by praying three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Amen

Parents and children, if you would like to learn more about this beautiful devotion just google it and read about St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy.

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 Archdiocesan website.