



# Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter)

## John 20: 19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

## Some things to think about...

How/where do we see Jesus in our lives everyday?

Think about what having faith means to you. Why do you think Thomas needed to see Jesus before he could believe?

There's a time during Mass where Catholics say what they believe in. What is this called?

## Activity

In a group, think about what you think the main Christian beliefs are. Write down and decorate some "I believe..." statements, for example "I believe in Jesus who died to save us." Or "I believe that being kind to others is very important."

Use the statements to create a wall mural.

The Nicene Creed is a long statement outlining the beliefs of Catholics. See if you can fill in the blanks on the activity sheet on the next page.

## Teacher's Notes

The Church is celebrating the important events of life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The concepts of faith and belief come into question when Thomas refuses to believe that Jesus has risen from the dead unless he sees him in the flesh. The Nicene Creed was developed by the Nicene Council which was held in 325AD to clarify beliefs about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit because there were some different beliefs developing in the early Church.

It was revised in further councils, but the fundamentals remain the same and it is recited in the celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday. (Try to elicit the word "Creed" from the children)

The second part of today's activity is a Closed Passage exercise with the Nicene Creed.

The passage is on the next page, followed by a word bank to help them.

