

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) A

John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came.

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.

Reflection

In today's Gospel, we meet Thomas, who finds it hard to believe and wants to see Jesus for himself. When Jesus appears, He doesn't judge Thomas, He understands and gives him what he needs to believe. This shows us that Jesus knows us really well and is patient with us when we struggle.

In the Vincentian way, we're reminded to trust that Jesus is with us, even when we can't see Him clearly especially in people who are poor or in need. Jesus calls us blessed when we choose to believe, and invites us to show that faith by loving and caring for others.

Materials needed

- Pens
- Paper

Activity

Thomas wanted proof before he believed. We're a bit like that we wait to feel ready. But Jesus calls us blessed when we choose to act anyway. In the Vincentian way, it's not about big gestures it's choosing the better response in small, real situations. That's how we begin to recognise Christ in others, especially those who are overlooked, just as St. Vincent de Paul taught. Take some time together to make a list of small but meaningful actions you could take to share God's love. Perhaps some of these are to help with a group or situation you noticed a while ago but haven't got round to actioning yet.

Call to Action

This week, notice one moment where you could do the 'better' thing- and actually do it.

