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Year A

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts 2:42-47

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24

Second Reading:

1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel:

John 20:19-31

'My Lord and my God!'



Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Check out [this video](#) on the readings for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we witness Jesus' appearance to the disciples in the upper room, and Thomas' declaration of the Lordship of Jesus.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- "Peace be with you." These are Jesus' words in today's Gospel. Take some time, silently, to recall moments in your life where you have doubted Jesus, like Thomas. Reflect on times in the past where it was difficult to see Jesus' presence with you.
- Looking at those situations now, can you see how Jesus was working in your life to show you how much He loves you?

Talk

In today's Gospel we see that Thomas didn't find it easy to trust in the resurrection of Jesus until he witnessed it with his own eyes.

- What kind of things do we need to see to believe? What kind of things do we believe without seeing?
- What kind of things do our family and friends say to us to help us when we are afraid or worried?
- Make a list of who you can turn to when you feel anxious or have doubts about your faith.
- If we keep our eyes on Jesus we don't need to be worried or afraid. Make a conscious effort this week to hand over any worries or fears to Jesus straight away!

Family Challenge!

Learn the Divine Mercy Chaplet that Jesus taught to St Faustina this week.

Check out this [video](#) with the words of the prayers produced by Holy Family Mission.

BELIEVE WITHOUT SEEING

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: BIBLE APPS



Check out the following Catholic Bible Apps available for download!



Jesus, I trust in You!

ABC OF DIVINE MERCY

Today we celebrate the second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, inspired by the message of Divine Mercy revealed to St Faustina by Jesus in a series of apparitions to the nun in Poland in the 1930s.

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple: God loves us and He wants us to truly know that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy." (723) Use ABC to help you remember the message!

- Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to be sorry for our sins and ask Him to pour His mercy out on us and upon the whole world.
- Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and in turn be merciful to other.
- Completely trust in Jesus. "The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." (1578)

Take ten minutes today or during the week to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for a special intention.



[Divine Mercy Sunday: Prove It \(M Hart\)](#)



[Chris Tomlin: At the Cross Love Ran Red](#)
St Faustina & Divine Mercy

Check out our *To the Heights Youth Newsletter*



Family Prayer

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!

EVENTS

CATHOLIC MOTHERS' ASSOCIATION RETREAT

DAY: Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, **Saturday May 13th.** Contact Sinead for more info at (086) 0528282

Divine Mercy Sunday:

- St. Mary's Church Clonmel on 16th April 2023 @ 2.30pm. Mass by Fr. Billy Meehan PP. 1st Class Relic, St. Faustina. Everyone Welcome. Jesus I trust in You.
- St. Mary's Parish Church, Dungarvan beginning at 2.30pm. Celebrant: Fr Patrick Cahill. Adoration | Divine Mercy Devotions Holy Mass | Confessions

FAMILY DAY: Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Sunday 14th May, 10am – 3pm. Prayer, Talk, Mass, Music, Fun and Games for all the Family! Bring a packed lunch! Booking is essential: email info@holymission.ie

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- Faith@Home / Let's Dive In Newsletters (faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie) WEEKLY
- To the Heights Youth Newsletter (youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie) WEEKLY
- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin (events@waterfordlismore.ie) FORTNIGHTLY

