

Gospel John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



A Poem for Easter

The silver trumpets rang across the Dome:
The people knelt upon the ground with awe:
And borne upon the necks of men I saw,
Like some great God, the Holy Lord of Rome.
Priest-like, he wore a robe more white than foam,
And, king-like, swathed himself in royal red,
Three crowns of gold rose high upon his head:
In splendor and in light the Pope passed home."

Oscar Wilde

Thoughts of Pope Francis Divine Mercy

On the feast of Divine Mercy some years ago, Pope Francis urged Christians to open themselves to Christ's mercy, which He grants through peace, forgiveness, and His wounds. In turn, they are asked to share this mercy with others.

"Let us be renewed by the peace, forgiveness, and wounds of the merciful Jesus. Let us ask for the grace to become witnesses of mercy. Only in this way will our faith be alive and our lives unified. Only in this way will we proclaim the Gospel of God, which is the Gospel of mercy." This is the exhortation that Pope Francis offered in his homily at Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, which is celebrated today the second Sunday of Easter.

"For if love is only about us, faith becomes arid, barren and sentimental. Without others, faith becomes disembodied. Without works of mercy, it dies," the Pope said when he celebrated the Mass at the 16th century Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia, close to the Vatican, which St. Pope John Paul II designated as the official Divine Mercy Church in Rome in 1994.

Forgiveness through Holy Spirit

Another way Jesus shows mercy, the Pope said, is by bestowing the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins. By ourselves, he said, we cannot remove sin and its guilt.

"Only God takes it away, only He by His mercy can make us emerge from the depths of our misery." Hence, "we need to let ourselves be forgiven."

"Forgiveness in the Holy Spirit is the Easter gift that enables our interior resurrection," the Pope said, urging Christians to ask for the grace to "embrace the Sacrament of forgiveness." "Confession," he said, "is not about ourselves and our sins, but about God and His mercy." "Confession is the Sacrament of resurrection, pure mercy," the Pope said, urging all those who hear confessions to convey the sweetness of mercy

Monday, 25th April.
8.00am Rita Bunce (A)
10.00am: James Smith (A)

Tuesday, 26th April.
8.00am: Winifred McDonagh (A)
10.00am: Michael Nolan (A)

Wednesday, 27th April. St. Asicus
8.00am: Winnie McDonagh (A)
10.00am: James Harley (A)

Thursday, 28th April. St. Peter Chanel
8.00am: No Intention
10.00am: Baby Warren John Stokes and baby Angel (A)
7.30pm: Curry No Intention

Friday, 29th April. St. Catherine of Siena
8.00am: No Intention
10.00am: Tommy Carrig (A)

Saturday, 30th April. St. Pius V, Pope
8.00am: No Intention
10.00am Patsy Phipps - Farrell (A)

Sunday, 1st May. Third Sunday of Easter
7.30pm: (Vigil) Anthony, Gerry, Mary and Eva Carberry and DFM
8.00am: No Intention
10.00am: Frank & Bridget Farrell also Marcella & Jurgen Piesker (A)
11.30am: *Shared:* Catherine O'Connor (Month's Mind)
1pm: Bridget (Bridgie) Kane - Kerr (1st A)
6pm: John Coughlan (A)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. The amount received in the Offertory Collection for last weekend was €6,410.00.

EASTER DUES COLLECTION for the support of the Priests of the parish are due at this time. Please use the Dues envelopes in your box or put your contribution in an ordinary envelope with your name and address and return it to the Cathedral.

REST IN PEACE: Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the soul of Patricia Gannon (née Keegan), Foynes Court, whose funeral took place during the week. May her soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.

BAPTISM: With joy, we welcomed Logan Henry Brennan, Arlo Patrick Morrissey and Cyndianna Philomena Whelan into the Christian Community last weekend.

TRÓCAIRE: We encourage families to return their Trócaire box as soon as possible.

CLUB 89 is a club for older people. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th April at 3pm in the Library. Members will discuss further meetings in the Family Centre (behind the Cathedral) on Tuesday's from 2 - 4pm, as before Covid. Any older person interested in crafts, cards, painting, bingo, outings or just a chat and a cup of tea are welcome to join us.

VIRTUAL ALZHEIMER CAFÉ: The Longford branch of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, will hold their Monthly Virtual Alzheimer Café next Wed 27th April at 7.30pm. Guest speaker on the night is Geraldine Jolley and her topic is '*Nursing Home Supports and The Fair Deal*' For further info contact Eileen on 085 8724475 . The Website is: www.alzheimer.ie

CEMETERY SUNDAY 2022 will take place on Sunday 26th June at 1pm.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY will take place in St Mel's College on Saturday 14th May from 9am to 4pm. Working together we hope to be able to develop a diocesan initiative for the future of our diocese with lay and religious sharing and working together to build our Church. We acknowledge and appreciate the commitment of our delegates and express our gratitude for all that has been achieved so far.