

# FAITH @Home

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

*Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!*



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Year B 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts 2:42-47

Responsorial Psalm:

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

Second Reading:

1 John 5:1-6

Gospel:

John 20:19-31

*'My Lord and  
my God!'*



Jean-Léon Gérôme, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## 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.

# FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

## Loyola Press Sunday Connection

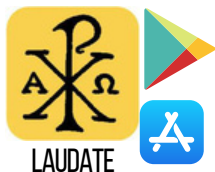
Check this out



CATHOLIC BIBLE



#BIBLE - VERSE OF THE DAY



LAUDATE



MAGNIFICAT



LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY



Check out the following Catholic Bible Apps available for download!



## 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

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



## 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

**Youth 2000 Munster Retreat:** 5th - 7th April: De La Salle College Waterford. Donation only. (16-35) [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

**"Rooted in Christ" - Cherished Catholic Women's Ministry Retreat:** Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary E91H584. April 26th - 28th. Cost: €220 Join us for our third annual Cherished Retreat as we discover our dignity as women of God, rooted in Christ! Mass | Adoration | Rosary | Healing Service Confession | Testimonies | Creative Workshops | Fellowship | Tea & Chats! For more info: Shauna (087) 1378364. To book: [info@holyfamilymission.ie](mailto:info@holyfamilymission.ie) or call 052 6133181 (Age 18+)

**ARISE Catholic Family Festival:** May Bank Holiday Weekend in Tramore, Co. Waterford. Great speakers, workshops, games, catechesis and activities for all the family. More info on [www.arisefamilyfestival.ie](http://www.arisefamilyfestival.ie)

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