

Second Sunday of Easter

11th April 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (white – the colour for Easter)

Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)
<https://fivefoldministryireland.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/jesus-reminds-them-of-prophecies.jpg>

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we hear that Jesus came to visit his disciples, eight days after he died.

Opening prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask you to help us believe in you, even in the times when it may be hard to have faith. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (20:19-29).

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he was not with the other when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!"

Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the video together

Jesus appears to Thomas https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_QcGnwilXI

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why the disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders ...
I wonder why Jesus appeared in the middle of the group...
I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me" ...
I wonder what the disciples were thinking...
I wonder how Thomas was feeling when the disciples told him that they saw Jesus...
I wonder how Thomas when he saw Jesus...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

Apostle's Creed Song - by Adam Zarn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTG2hLu6ZcA> (2.35 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(*We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders: they will use their power to care and lead for those they are serving.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for more people to turn their hearts to see Jesus.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray that our Church will continue to see the needs of those who are hungry, thirst and are sick that our Church will help where it can.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and or are suffering at this time. May they find their resting place with Jesus.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: God, our creator, you raised up Jesus as King of all creation. Hear our prayers and help us to be ready for the day when Jesus comes again. Amen.

(Liturgy Help Public Prayer © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd 2019)

Closing song: *Whoa, I Have Life* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3S0k7ow03I> (2:45 mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).
- **Create a 'Feel bag'**

Thomas needed to touch Jesus' scars to believe it was him. Discuss how the sense of touch can help us to find if something is real. Take a non-see-through bag and fill with different small objects then get the kids to feel and guess what it is. <https://www.jesus-without-language.net/thomas-john-20-play/>

- **Hole in Your Hand Trick**

Thomas needed to see that Jesus had scars in his hands and feet. Our gift of sight is something that is important which helps us believe. Discuss this. See this link to try the Hole in your hand trick:

<https://www.aao.org/museum-eye-openers/experiment-hole-in-your-hand>