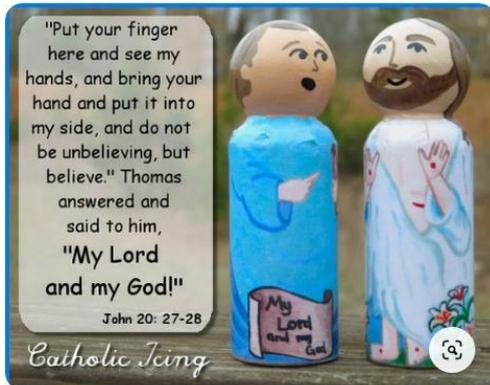


SUNDAY GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B JOHN 20:19-31

7-12 YRS OLD

LEADERS/PARENTS REFLECTION



<https://www.catholicicing.com/resurrection-set/>

It is noteworthy that a large portion of today's gospel (John 20:19-23) will be read on Pentecost in a few weeks' time. Just as in the beginning of John's Gospel where 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, Jesus with his resurrected body comes to stand among his followers.

The move from doubt to faith is one of transformation: fear, locked huddled in their upper room, transformed into peace and even joy by the greeting of Jesus and the giving of the Holy Spirit through his breath.

There is also the transformation of the doubt of Thomas into faith. Along with the transformation comes responsibility of being sent, just as Jesus was sent. There is an ancient tradition that Thomas went on to preach the gospel as far East as India. The first reading exhorts the early Christians in living their faith with renewed faith and joy, and strengthening them in the face of persecution.

In these days of Corona-19 virus, we fear the touch of others, and even cover our mouths in case of infection. But, we need never fear the breath or touch of Jesus and his gift of the Holy Spirit which fills us, inspires us and comforts us. While we are responsible and continue to follow hygienic guidelines, we can also be living examples of trust in Christ for others. By breathing words of joy and hope and faith that fill each other with comfort and strength, anointing each other's lives with gestures of love and inclusion.

PRAYER SPACE

In setting up a prayerful space together, a white or gold cloth will remind us of how our Church is decorated for Easter. Have a bible open at the Gospel reading and light a candle. Have a small dish of scented oil ready. A visual aid could be a simple cross with a white cloth draped on it, or a completed sample of the craft activity.

SETTING THE SCENE

As the children settle into the room, help the children know they are still part of the Mass with questions they can easily answer. Ask what colour Father is wearing (White and Gold for Easter) and what he said to them.

Remind the children that the Gospel begins on the first Sunday of Easter and continues today on the 2nd Sunday of Easter. Find it together on the Liturgical Calendar. Easter is a time when we have the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' death and resurrection.

GOSPEL:

As the reader goes to the Lectern, all sing:

Alleluia! *(If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord!
Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord!
As we listen to the story,
Let us praise him for his glory,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord!



Gospel: John 20:19-31.

(Read from the Children's Lectionary.)

https://youtu.be/ktoVG_NxYTg

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Sign of the Cross on the forehead (God be in my mind)

Sign of the Cross on the lips (God be in my words),

Sign of the Cross on the heart (God be in my heart)

At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Ask what words they heard and build up a list.

Summarise the Gospel using the words/reflection they have given.

REFLECTING ON THE READING

Ask the children: What did you hear? Let them respond in their own words and then build up a discussion from there. Some of these questions below may be helpful.

- What did Jesus do when he entered the room?
- Why were Jesus' friends together with the doors fastened? Who was missing?
- Why do you think Thomas did not believe that they really had seen Jesus?

- It was one whole week later that Jesus appeared to Thomas. How do you think he would have felt during that week?
- Do you think Thomas actually did put his fingers in Jesus' wounds when he saw him again?

- Some people say they do not believe in Jesus or in God because they have not seen God directly. There are lots of things we probably believe that we do not know directly. What are some of these things?
(e.g. Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world, oranges have vitamin C in them, the earth is round, that I am telling you the truth.)

- Jesus says that people who have not seen him but still believe in him are happy. Why does believing in Jesus make us happy?
- How can we remind each other of Jesus' love for everyone!

RESPONSE

Thomas' powerful act of faith was:

"My Lord and my God."

Invite everyone to repeat this statement and then extend their hands.

Sign a small cross on their palms with the oil and say:

"May Jesus bring you peace."

The children may say "Amen."



WE BELIEVE

In our creed, we say what we believe. Invite your children to think about what they are saying when they say the creed. Ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, "I do":

- Do you believe in God, the Father, who sent his Son to us?
- Do you believe in Jesus the Messiah, who brought a new peace to the world?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who is given to us so we can love the world as Christ does?

WE PRAY

Again, try to relate the prayers of the faithful to the reading by saying,

'Jesus brings us the Good News of God's Kingdom, and we bring our needs to him...'

| Respond to each prayer with: We Pray to the Lord.

All. Lord, hear our prayer.

