

Second Sunday of Easter 16th of April 2023
Discussion & Reflection Questions

Read: John 20.19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. How do you think the disciples would have been feeling locked in the room on that first Easter Day? What sort of emotions would they have experienced?
2. How do you think Thomas would have felt having missed out on the first appearance of Jesus to the group?
3. Do you think Thomas is doubting or not believing or do you think he just wants his own encounter with the Risen Jesus?
4. What do you think Jesus means when he says "Peace be with you"?
5. Jesus then says: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you". What sort of things would be running through the disciples head at that statement.
6. How significant is it that Jesus is resurrected but with the wounds still visible?
7. What are your questions about the resurrection?

8. What are some of the overwhelming encounters with Jesus in your life?
What gets in the way of having them or having more?

Prayer

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life
of all who put their trust in him:
raise us, we pray, from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness;
that we may ever seek the things which are above,
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**