

**April 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A – John 20:19 – 31**

<sup>19</sup>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.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>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.' <sup>26</sup>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.' <sup>27</sup>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.' <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup>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.' <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).</li> </ul>
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In this week's gospel we see that having doubt is nothing to be ashamed of. Jesus understood the doubt of Thomas and gently invited him to "Put your fingers 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." Our journey of faith is one of doubting at times and daring to look for a deeper and more profound meaning to the problems of life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How do we as believers in Jesus carry the light of Faith to all people?

**Prayer:**

**Thank you Lord** for all those people who challenge us as Jesus challenged Thomas and invite us to experience the blessedness of believing without seeing.

**Forgive us Lord** for wanting to help those in need without taking time to share their pain. We look for their resurrection but do not take time to see their wounds.

**Lord help us** to let our lives be a sign to all, that believing Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we will have life and peace through His name as he promised us many times "My peace be with you".