

## The Gospel & Homily ☩ el Evangelio y la Homilía

19 April 2020

Second Sunday of Easter - Segundo Domingo de Pascua

### Special Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

### Other announcements

- Happy Birthday to Flo on Wednesday
- Happy Birthday to Roz on Thursday
- Happy Birthday to Regina S. on Saturday
- Please watch your news outlets carefully during the next few weeks. Watch real news and disregard non-news political mouthpiece shows that are not fact-based. Let us plan carefully with health and safety as our concern. Please don't join the rush to return to societal functions, but remember that there is a serious lack of virus testing. You or I just cannot be sure we are not a carrier of the virus. Let us look at the month of May as a possibility and not a surety. I invite your comment by email to [michael@spcath.org](mailto:michael@spcath.org) . Church members will be contacted by phone, text or email regarding the next Mass date. Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>



In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.



### We pray

*Suscipe - St. Ignatius Loyola*

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty,  
my memory, my understanding and my whole will.

All that I am and all that I possess, You have given me:

I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.

Give me only Your love and Your grace;

with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.

† Amen

## Confiteor

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. And I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

My God, I am sorry for my sins because I have offended you. I know I should love you above all things. Help me to do penance, to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin. Amen.



## Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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## Gospel John 20:19-31

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.



## Homily

Let's talk about the message in the First Reading, The Acts of the Apostles, for just a minute.

This was the beginning of the Christian Church in the months and years after the Resurrection of Christ. People met in groups, broke bread and prayed. They worshiped God, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus had told Peter he was a rock... and "I will build my church upon you." Through the teaching of the church fathers we know that this made Peter the first Pope.



In last week's Gospel we discussed that the Last Supper was the ordination of the first priests of the Christian Church. In today's lesson Jesus gives them some of the words that ministers are likely to say often, even today – Peace be with you.

Then he said it again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." The meaning is very clear for them to go out into the world and proselytize. They would bring the Good News of the Triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They would forgive sins in the name of God. They would educate people that the Lord above was not a God of vengeance and wrath, but a God of love, mercy and forgiveness; and the promise of everlasting life in heaven.

Then the Gospel says, "he breathed on them." What does that mean? From Genesis... God breathed life into Adam...

*then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life...*

So Jesus breathed NEW LIFE into them, and he followed that with the statement... "Receive the Holy Spirit."

In the Christian churches of the world, we celebrate events described in the Bible. It has been established over many years to link a Sunday service to a particular event. We spend seven weeks in a period called Eastertide. It is a period of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. We concentrate on the great event of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in order to drive home this monumental message, on which our faith is based.

So... when we celebrate the events of Easter and Pentecost on separate Sundays, 50 days apart, we're celebrating two events that actually happened on the same day about twelve hours apart.

In the Gospel, the apostles were still in the Upper Room where they had shared the Last Supper with Christ. They were not out ministering and were fearful that angry Jews and Romans might harm them. They were very depressed too... their Lord was gone.

The Apostle Thomas was not there on this Sunday. He would later be called Doubting Thomas and this is the story that gave him that nickname.

As I said, Thomas was absent during this first meeting after Jesus rose from the dead. Perhaps Thomas was braver than the rest as he walked about the town. Perhaps he was looking for a job now that his savior was gone, thinking that he had no future in ministry. His hope died with Jesus and maybe he was just despondent and sulking somewhere. Remember that Thomas was the one who shamed the other apostles when he said, "Let us go die with Jesus." His faith made him believe that it would be better to die with Jesus than live without Him.

His fellow apostles told him that they had seen the resurrected Jesus. Thomas said, "Yeah, right, show me some proof."

So, they did. The next week, Jesus came to them again.

*Thomas, come here... put your fingers in here, and here... What do you think?*

Thomas touched the wounds on Jesus on his hands and on his side. Thomas was a believer then. The last one to believe the resurrection but the first to exclaim, “My Lord and my God.”

Today there are many in the world who could be called Doubting Thomas. How do you come to believe proof of Jesus Christ the Savior... living and dying for you; returning from death to proclaim the love of God?

In our lives we go through periods of belief or doubt about many things. On that Sunday, Christ forgave the apostles for their doubt of Friday. He forgave Thomas for his loss of hope and desertion from the team.

We cannot hear the teaching and the words Jesus spoke; but we can read them in our Bible.

You and I have only a concept of what eternity in heaven can be; but we have faith in the teaching that we will be together again with those who have departed our world.

You and I cannot put our hands on the wounds of Jesus; but we can feel such things through the Holy Spirit of millions of people and thousands of years of belief in the truth.

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Our Father is generous with forgiveness and second chances. Tell him your sins, ask forgiveness, promise to do your best and not disobey.



## Evangelio Juan 20:19-31

Al llegar la noche de aquel mismo día, el primero de la semana, los discípulos se habían reunido con las puertas cerradas por miedo a las autoridades judías. Jesús entró y, poniéndose en medio de los discípulos, los saludó diciendo: —¡Paz a ustedes!

Dicho esto, les mostró las manos y el costado. Y ellos se alegraron de ver al Señor. Luego Jesús les dijo otra vez: —¡Paz a ustedes! Como el Padre me envió a mí, así yo los envío a ustedes.

Y sopló sobre ellos, y les dijo: —Reciban el Espíritu Santo. A quienes ustedes perdonen los pecados, les quedarán perdonados; y a quienes no se los perdonen, les quedarán sin perdonar.

Tomás, uno de los doce discípulos, al que llamaban el Gemelo, no estaba con ellos cuando llegó Jesús. Después los otros discípulos le dijeron: —Hemos visto al Señor.

Pero Tomás les contestó: —Si no veo en sus manos las heridas de los clavos, y si no meto mi dedo en ellas y mi mano en su costado, no lo podré creer.

Ocho días después, los discípulos se habían reunido de nuevo en una casa, y esta vez Tomás estaba también. Tenían las puertas cerradas, pero Jesús entró, se puso en medio de ellos y los saludó, diciendo: —¡Paz a ustedes!

Luego dijo a Tomás: —Mete aquí tu dedo, y mira mis manos; y trae tu mano y métela en mi costado. No seas incrédulo; ¡cree!

Tomás entonces exclamó: —¡Mi Señor y mi Dios!

Jesús le dijo: —¿Crees porque me has visto? ¡Dichosos los que creen sin haber visto!

Jesús hizo muchas otras señales milagrosas delante de sus discípulos, las cuales no están escritas en este libro. Pero éstas se han escrito para que ustedes crean que Jesús es el Mesías, el Hijo de Dios, y para que creyendo tengan vida por medio de él.



## Homilía

Hablemos del mensaje en la primera lectura, Los Hechos de los Apóstoles, por solo un minuto.

Este fue el comienzo de la Iglesia cristiana en los meses y años posteriores a la Resurrección de Cristo. La gente se reunió en grupos, partió el pan y rezó. Adoraban a Dios, al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo. Jesús le había dicho a Pedro que era una roca ... y "edificaré mi iglesia sobre ti". A través de las enseñanzas de los padres de la iglesia, sabemos que esto convirtió a Pedro en el primer Papa.

En el Evangelio de la semana pasada discutimos que la Última Cena fue la ordenación de los primeros sacerdotes de la Iglesia Cristiana. En la lección de hoy, Jesús les da algunas de las palabras que los ministros suelen decir con frecuencia, incluso hoy: la paz sea con ustedes.

Luego lo dijo de nuevo: "La paz sea contigo. Como el Padre me ha enviado, yo también te envío a ti. El significado es muy claro para ellos salir al mundo y hacer proselitismo. Traerían las Buenas Nuevas del Dios Triuno, el Padre, el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo. Perdonarían los pecados en nombre de Dios. Educarían a las personas de que el Señor de arriba no era un Dios de venganza e ira, sino un Dios de amor, misericordia y perdón; y la promesa de la vida eterna en el cielo.

Entonces el Evangelio dice: "él respiró sobre ellos". Qué significa eso? Desde Génesis ... Dios dio vida a Adán ...

entonces el SEÑOR Dios formó al hombre del polvo de la tierra y sopló en su nariz el aliento de vida ...

Entonces Jesús les dio VIDA NUEVA, y lo siguió con la declaración ... "Recibe el Espíritu Santo".

En las iglesias cristianas del mundo, celebramos los eventos descritos en la Biblia. Se ha establecido durante muchos años para vincular un servicio dominical a un evento en particular. Pasamos siete semanas en un período llamado Eastertide. Es un período de cincuenta días desde el domingo de Pascua hasta el domingo de Pentecostés. Nos concentramos en el gran evento de la Resurrección de Jesucristo para llevar a casa este mensaje monumental, en el que se basa nuestra fe.

Entonces ... cuando celebramos los eventos de Pascua y Pentecostés en domingos separados, con 50 días de diferencia, estamos celebrando dos eventos que realmente ocurrieron el mismo día con aproximadamente doce horas de diferencia.

En el Evangelio, los apóstoles todavía estaban en el aposento alto donde habían compartido la Última Cena con Cristo. No estaban ministrando y temían que judíos y romanos enojados pudieran dañarlos. También estaban muy deprimidos ... su Señor se había ido.

El apóstol Tomás no estuvo allí este domingo. Más tarde se llamaría Doubting Thomas y esta es la historia que le dio ese apodo.

Como dije, Thomas estuvo ausente durante esta primera reunión después de que Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos. Quizás Thomas era más valiente que el resto mientras caminaba por la ciudad. Quizás estaba buscando trabajo ahora que su salvador se había ido pensando que no tenía futuro en el ministerio. Su esperanza murió con Jesús y tal vez solo estaba abatido y de mal humor en alguna parte. Recuerda que Tomás fue quien avergonzó a los otros apóstoles cuando dijo: "Vamos a morir con Jesús". Su fe le hizo creer que sería mejor morir con Jesús que vivir sin él.



Sus compañeros apóstoles le dijeron que habían visto al Jesús resucitado. Thomas dijo: "Sí, claro, muéstrame alguna prueba".

Entonces lo hicieron. La semana siguiente, Jesús vino a ellos nuevamente.

Thomas, ven aquí ... pon tus dedos aquí y aquí ... ¿Qué piensas?

Tomás tocó las heridas de Jesús en sus manos y en su costado. Thomas era un creyente entonces. El último en creer la resurrección, pero el primero en exclamar: "Mi Señor y mi Dios".

Hoy en día hay muchos en el mundo que podrían llamarse Doubting Thomas. ¿Cómo llegas a creer la prueba de Jesucristo el Salvador ... viviendo y muriendo por ti? volviendo de la muerte para proclamar el amor de Dios?



En nuestras vidas pasamos por períodos de creencia o duda sobre muchas cosas. Ese domingo, Cristo perdonó a los apóstoles por su duda del viernes. Perdonó a Thomas por su pérdida de esperanza y deserción del equipo.

No podemos escuchar la enseñanza y las palabras que Jesús habló; pero podemos leerlos en nuestra Biblia.

Tú y yo solo tenemos un concepto de lo que puede ser la eternidad en el cielo; pero tenemos fe en la enseñanza de que volveremos a estar juntos con aquellos que se han ido de nuestro mundo.

Tú y yo no podemos poner nuestras manos sobre las heridas de Jesús; pero podemos sentir tales cosas a través del Espíritu Santo de millones de personas y miles de años de creencia en la verdad.

Jesús dijo: "Bienaventurados los que no vieron y creyeron".

Nuestro Padre es generoso con el perdón y las segundas oportunidades. Dile tus pecados, pide perdón, promete dar lo mejor de ti y no desobedecer.

