



Second Sunday of Easter: Doubting Thomas

All the content below is for you to make your own, please do read through it, pick what would work best for your children and would best engage them.

Rest assured of my prayers for your family and you.

Kathryn Rosa

What happens in the Gospel story today

St John writes all about the disciples meeting Jesus again after he has risen from the dead. Some of them had already seen him and the others were having to trust them that something so surprising and miraculous was actually true; that Jesus was alive again!

In this story, Jesus meets most of them but Thomas isn't there. When the other disciples told him all about it, he didn't believe them and said that he needed proof – to actually see and touch Jesus. Thomas believed Jesus had risen only when he had seen and touched him.

Jesus asks all of us to believe that he rose from the dead even though we weren't there to see and touch him. This is what we call faith. Jesus gives the disciples the Gift of the Holy Spirit to help them spread the Good News. Jesus shares the Holy Spirit with all of us too!

The prayers and responses in this sheet are based on the children's liturgy pages of the Catholic Diocese of Westminster

<https://rcdow.org.uk/att/files/faith/year%20a%2c%202nd%20sunday%20of%20easter%2c%20april%2019%2c%202020.pdf>

We Say Sorry

Prayer: You search for us when we lose our way, Lord have mercy.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

Prayer: You have hopes for us even when we are hope-less, Lord have mercy.

Response : Christ, have mercy.

Prayer: You love us even when we lose our faith, Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.



The Gospel

There are some choices about how to read the Gospel together.

- You can watch the video of Kathryn reading the story
- One person can read the whole story on the sheet or from your own bible or missal
- You can take turns reading bits of the story – depending on how many people are in your house to join in, maybe someone can be the narrator, someone the disciples, someone Jesus and someone else Thomas.

Before you start reading or listening, say, sing or shout

ALLELUIA!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John (chapter 20, verses 19-31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them ‘peace be with you,’ and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

‘Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.’

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

‘Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

For those whose sins you retain,

They are retained.’

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, ‘We have seen the Lord,’ he answered, ‘Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes that they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you,’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘put your finger 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!’

Jesus said to him:

‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



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sharing that love with each other and with the world.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Responding to the Gospel story

Talk together about the story. What did you hear? Is there a particular bit that you liked, that confused you, or that you want to know more about? See if you can talk together about all these different bits.

Instead of saying 'hello', Jesus said to his disciples 'Peace be with you.' Can you remember when in the Mass we all say 'peace be with you' to each other? How does Jesus want us to spread his peace? What can we do at the moment to spread peace

It can be really hard to believe some things when we haven't seen them. We are always discovering new things and before we had proof we just had to believe, trust, have faith. Before we could travel round the Earth or take photos from space, people thought the Earth was flat and no one believed the first people who said it was round. Until we could take pictures with computers, no one knew how our brains or hearts worked. Can you think of anything that you know but you haven't seen?

Jesus says that people who believe in him, even though they haven't seen him are happy. Why does believing in Jesus make us happy. What signs do we have that Jesus is real and alive in our lives?

We pray

You can also look on the Parish website at the list of people and situations we are asked to pray for this week

Prayer: We pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Richard, Fr Chris and Fr Graham and all bishops, priests and deacons, that, like the first disciples, they may be faithful leaders. Lord, in your mercy,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Prayer: We pray for the politicians and scientists who are having to make really hard decisions that keep people safe. Lord, in your mercy,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Prayer: We pray for all people who are ill. Lord, in your mercy,

Response: Hear our prayer.



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Prayer: We pray for anyone in our parish family who is on their own or not able to be part of Mass online. Help them to know they are in our thoughts. Show us how to reach out to them. Lord in your mercy,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Prayer: Lord, help us to be like your first followers in spreading joy and peace to others.

We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord. **Response:** Amen.

Activities

- Jesus sends the disciples out to spread the Good News. Draw a map starting with your house and include your nursery or school, friends and families' houses, church, other places local to you. Think together about how your family can spread the Good News now and once we can all go out and about again. Right now we can pray, and we can send pictures or even letters to friends and family telling them we are praying with them and for them! When we can go out again, we might want to donate to the foodbank regularly, help out with children's liturgy as a family, or volunteer to plant bulbs in the church garden. So many ways to spread the Good News and peace of Jesus.
- A 'doubting Thomas' worksheet to print can be found here <http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/worksheets/a-easter-02.PDF>
- Surprise each other today by saying 'peace be with you' when you see each other instead of 'hello'. Think about what this really means and know that Christians all over the world will be saying it to each other
- Make a 'peace be with you' poster using handprints. You could make it rainbow colours to show hope too! Here's one idea I found...
- Watch the video to make a prayer chain for your home
You'll need:
 - Strips of paper, different colours if you have them
 - Pens
 - Glue stick or sellotape





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- There are lots of craft, baking and discussion ideas on the website below.
<https://www.catholicicing.com/doubting-thomas-story-crafts-and-activities-for-kids/>

Some Easter themed songs and videos for you to watch and listen to together

Happy Day – Jesus is Alive <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ixN8BuqVmQ>

What a Beautiful Name, the name of Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE>

We believe – you can learn the signs and sing along for this one
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKS2sYOzODA>