

Weekly Scripture

Sunday, April 19

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47

Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 Pet 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Monday, April 20

Easter Weekday

Acts 4:23-31

Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9

Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday, April 21

Easter Weekday

*Saint Anselm, Bishop & Doctor
of the Church*

Acts 4:32-37

Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5

Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday, April 22

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:17-26

Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Jn 3:16-21

Thursday, April 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:27-33

Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20

Jn 3:31-36

Friday, April 24

Easter Weekday

*Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen,
Priest and Martyr*

Acts 5:34-42

Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14

Jn 6:1-15

Saturday, April 25

Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b-14

Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17

Mk 16:15-20



Thomas Believes Because He Sees Jesus

Gospel Reflection based on John 20:19-31

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

Sunday Connection: Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle A. Loyola Press: A Jesuit Ministry, Chicago-Detroit Province of the Society of Jesus, 2020, www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/second-sunday-of-easter-cycle-a-sunday-connection.

The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering **ABC**:

- A Ask for His Mercy.** God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.
- B Be merciful.** God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.
- C Completely trust in Jesus.** God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message and devotional practices proposed in the Diary of Saint Faustina and set forth in [the Divine Mercy] web site and other publications of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception are completely in accordance with the teachings of Church and are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they will help us grow as genuine followers of Christ.

Spend time to learn more about the mercy of God, learn to trust in Jesus, and live your life as merciful to others, as Christ is merciful to you.

The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion. thedivinemercy.org, <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message> (accessed April 9, 2020)



Since 1941, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary have been the official promoters of the authentic Divine Mercy message. Their website offers a rich collection of history, inspiration and resources about Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and the Divine Mercy message, as well as background on the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and how to say this beautiful devotional prayer.

www.thedivinemercy.org

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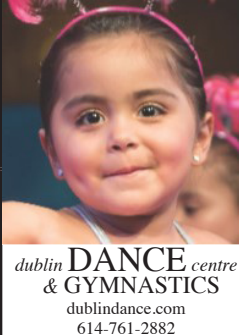


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