

Second Sunday of Easter

Year B

We gather today like the first group of believers, united in heart and soul, testifying to the Resurrection and filled with the peace which Jesus brings us. The image below is from the Catacombs of Priscilla, Rome's oldest Christian cemetery. It appears to depict a meal being shared by women and men of an early Christian community.



The members of the early Christian communities who had money, land or houses shared what they had with those in the community who were in need. They held everything in common and the basis for this was love – love of God and love for others. We can learn from the actions of the early church. Do we share what we have with others – not just money, but gifts, time, energy and presence?



Today's Gospel offers us several points for reflection.

The disciples were hiding from the Jews because they were frightened.

What causes you to hide away and be fearful?

Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you". The disciples were filled with joy, and he said to them again, "Peace be with you".

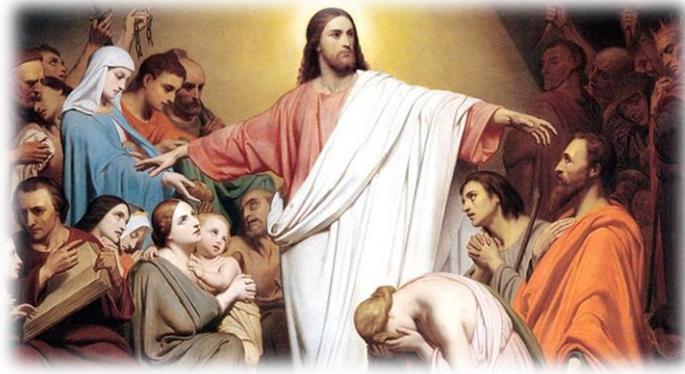
Are you filled with joy when you meet Jesus in prayer, in the Sacraments, in other people?

Do you hear the words, "Peace be with you"?

Jesus said to them, "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you". He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit".

Do you believe that you have been called by Jesus and sent into the world in his name?

Are you receptive to the Holy Spirit, allowing her gifts to transform your life?



Thomas was not there initially and didn't believe the other disciples.

Do you want proof that God is present in your life or do you believe even when God seems to be absent?

When Jesus appeared to the disciples a second time, Thomas was there and was told by Jesus to "Doubt no longer but believe". Thomas then made his profession of faith, "My Lord and my God". Jesus replied, "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe".

How do you profess your faith in Jesus?

This time last year, we were not able to gather as the Christian community of The Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead. How blessed we are now that we can come together, albeit with restrictions, to profess our faith in Christ Jesus, to share Eucharist and to sing Alleluia in our hearts.

There is a tradition that despite the Gospels placing Mary of Magdala as the first witness of the Resurrection, that Jesus appeared first to his mother. The Church does not proclaim this to be right or wrong – it is a matter for each individual to believe.



Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.