



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC and then set the table for our Parish meal.



- **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.

As we celebrate this Easter Season let us define the occasion by naming things on our table that bring us joy and which we can share with others in our community.

- **Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal**



Let us set our meal for this day. And give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship. Making it pleasing to our eye.

Like Thomas, we can't go it alone. Central to our faith is community and while we are apart at this time, it is our faith without seeing that keeps us together in spirit.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed." Let's reflect on the fact that like Thomas we are called to believe yet have not seen, and secondly, let us consider what has kept our faith alive in these uncertain times when we are called to believe without any physical connection with the body of Christ today (which is his church).

- **opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.**

Be still and silent.

Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you.

Pray:



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

Here, and throughout the world,

**We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.

Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

- **Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,
Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 14a**



^{14a} But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,²² "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with

deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know - ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

[NRSV Acts 2:14a, 22-32]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God:

for in you have I taken refuge.

I have said to the Lord, you are my lord:

and all my good depends on you.

As for those who are held holy on the earth:

the other gods in whom people delight,

Though the idols are many that they run after:

their offerings of blood I will not offer,

nor take their name upon my lips.

The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:

you hold my lot in your hands.

The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:

and a fair land is my possession.

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:

at night also he has instructed my heart.

I have set the Lord always before me:

he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.

Therefore, my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:

my flesh also shall rest secure.

For you will not give me over to the power of death:

nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life:

in your presence is the fullness of joy,

and from your right-hand flow delights for evermore.



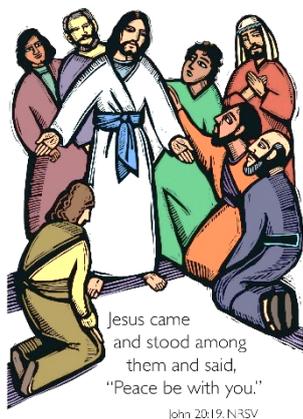
A reading from the First letter of Peter, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1 to Verse 12

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance.....

(please continue reading the rest of Peter's letter from your own bible)

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,
Chapter 20 beginning at verse 19**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.



¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."

²⁶ 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." ²⁷

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."

²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ 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. [NRSV John 20:19-31]



This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

• eating reflectively and responding to the passage



Let us now begin some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

Let us remember that like Thomas, we can't go it alone.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed." We can also reflect on the fact that like Thomas we are called to believe yet have not seen, called to believe without any physical connection with the body of Christ today (which is his church).

• prayer-time

Let's now offer our prayer for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.

Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer ; Ron & Ann ; Les ; Tristan; Kathy; Mitchell; David ; Pat ;Izabelle ; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha & Noah; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon, Fr Peter, Fr Percy & Betty, Bp David, Jill, Bill, David H, Petra, Miriam & family, Marjorie; Joyce; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Kathy; Carolyn; Allison; Angela; Susie; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Lyn; Ted & Joyce ; Irene; Linda; Jenny P's mother; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Trish; Carole and family, and any others we wish to say either silently or aloud.



We give thanks for the life, work and witness of Margaret Walden, wife of our former Bishop Graham Walden and for John Brett husband to Carole from the St Nicholas Congregation, Pray for their family and friends. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt:
may we, who have not seen, have faith and
receive the fullness of Christ's blessing;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.



***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be amongst us and remain with us always.
Amen.***

***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia***

• intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn't have family, or a friend,

Let God guide you to the person or people with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....' Or What did you think of..... in songs of praise etc

