



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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THE EASTER GOSPEL

This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like.

Thomas is part of the apostolic group, but also a distinct, independent self. He cannot be loyal to the group while being disloyal to his own inner self. For Thomas honesty is more important than loyalty. So he refuses to become part of this company of believers, for it is not enough for him to shelter in a faith that he cannot credit for himself. For Thomas it is important what he is asked to believe in, more important than belonging to the company of believers.

The Parish Newsletter

For most parishes, the weekly newsletter is an important tool of communication. It contains the notices for the coming week and keeps people in the loop about what is going on. Many parishes print these notices on one side of a page with the Sunday readings printed on the reverse side. Therefore the Word of God is taken home by the people into their homes where it can be pondered again throughout the day and even seen by other family members who did not, for whatever reason, come to Mass.

The parish newsletter is also a powerful symbol of mission and outreach. By giving one to the sick, the housebound and those in nursing homes, we are keeping them connected to the faith community and reminding them that they have not been forgotten.

Parish Charity for Lent

During Lent we supported Trócaire. To date we have collected €5,340. We ask people who have taken boxes to consider returning them. Another way of supporting Trócaire is the sale of spiritual books. This has proved very successful for different charities. If people have any spiritual books they would like to donate for the cause, drop them in at the Sacristy or the Mass Office. Don't just put them on the table for sale.

We have not forgotten the people of Gaza. We have been assured by Trocaire that they have a way of getting assistance into Gaza and so we are forwarding separately to them €1,000 which amounts to specific donations from members deposited at the back of the church. So in total, our contribution to the work of Trocaire is a generous amount of €6,340. Well done!

Children's Room in the Church

We have installed a new television in Room 11 beside the sacristy which enable parents with young children to view the Mass on weekends. If parents feel their children might be causing a disturbance in the church, we encourage them to make use of this facility.

Hurley's Chess Club

This week we wanted to highlight the fantastic Hurley's Chess Club that occasionally meet in our parish centre.

The club meet weekly for chess lessons in their school and attend tournaments around Cork and further afield.

Starting as online lessons during the pandemic, the club has grown substantially over the years. Beginning with 5 children, it now has over 150 members.

The club is an inclusive and growing community for children of all backgrounds and abilities to make friends and learn a new skill through the game of chess. Some children have even gone on to play in national and European chess championships. Hurley's chess club are taking part in a chess tournament that is being held Saturday 27th April in the SMA Parish Centre. We want to wish them the best of luck in the event!

Found at the back of the Church - Interesting!!

5 things Jesus did not say.

1. Follow your heart - Jesus said "Follow me."
2. Be true to yourself - Jesus said "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny himself."
3. Believe in yourself - Jesus said "Believe in me."
4. Live your truth - Jesus said "I am the truth."
5. As long as you are happy - Jesus said "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul."

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, ...

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of everlasting mercy, who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. *Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....*

FIRST READING Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Divine Mercy Sunday)

Thomas is one who doubted for a while that the Lord was risen. Jesus accepted his doubts and his unbelief and through that experience, which most people go through at some time in their lives, he found the Lord in a deeper way.

7th April 2024

power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 117

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end, or Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **(R)**

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. **(R)**

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R)**

SECOND READING 1 John 5:1 - 6

A reading from the first letter of St. John.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith.

Who can overcome the world? only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said; 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20: 19 - 31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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 am I 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 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

✠ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ✠

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and of those you have brought to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts.

Through Christ our Lord.

