



**AMDG**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF**  
**EASTER**  
**YEAR A**  
**23 APRIL 2017**



**My Lord and my God!**

**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.

In this time of Spring – ‘nature is never spent. There lives the dearest freshness deep down things...The Holy Ghost over the bent world’ (G. M. Hopkins SJ). This is reflected in this prayer. With quiet confidence I deliberately place myself before my loving and merciful God.

May I be attentive to the Spirit praying within me; to be more aware in my daily life of his renewing presence and power. I ask the Spirit to show me where in my life I need an awareness and gratitude of all that God gives me each day.

I invite the Spirit to help me pray for that inner freedom which will urge me to say (with St Thomas) ‘You truly are my Lord and my God – I want and I choose whatever will allow you to deepen your life in me.’

I speak to the Lord from my heart as Thomas did.

## SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1: 3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

I take time to come to quiet. I place God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, at the centre of my ponderings and yearnings. I read, slowly, this great letter of encouragement. What words or phrases strike me particularly? I might like to focus on God's mercy towards me.

Can I ever become truly aware that I can neither earn nor be deserving of such loving generosity? There may have been times when my faith has faced trials and has been tested. Perhaps, on occasions, it has been found wanting. Maybe I have felt afraid of the demands such belief might make of me? Do I worry what others might think of me? I talk to the Lord freely about these things.

I might like to end this period of prayer by asking for the grace to focus more on the strength of God's faith in me rather than on the weakness of my faith in God.

## GOSPEL: JOHN 20: 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 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. So the other disciples said to him, 'We have seen the Lord,' but he answered, 'Unless I can 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.

'Unless I can see...I refuse to believe'. This is understandable, but it often comes locked in the fear of what will follow if do I believe. I read this scene as if for the first time. I let Jesus stand before me (wherever I am now). I hear him say to me: 'Peace be with you...Put your finger here...doubt no longer...but believe.' How do I reply? I try to place all my trust and hope in Jesus.

**Here's a text if you've only got a minute...**

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. *First Reading, Acts 2: 42–47*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. *Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 117*

You may have life through his name. *Second Reading, Peter 1: 3–9*

His love has no end. *Gospel Acclamation*

'My Lord and my God!' *Gospel, John 20: 19–31*



How does this image help me meditate on the events of Eastertide?

**REFLECTIONS**

What does the week hold for me and how do I feel God may be calling me?

And so, what do I want to ask of God for myself and for others?

Based on Prego by St Beuno's  
Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham



**LDS**