

## **Gospel of John #02**

My name is Gail Finn. This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Easter. I will sign the Gospel of John:

On Sunday evening, the same day the women had been to the tomb of Jesus, the disciples were gathered in a room upstairs. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus.

Then Jesus came and stood in the room and said, "Peace be with you!"

He showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. Jesus said again, "Peace be with you!"

Then he breathed on the disciples and said to them,

"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven.

If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas was not there with other disciples when Jesus came.

So, later they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "I'll never believe it until I see the marks made by the nails in his hands and touch the wound in his side."

One week later, the disciples were in the same room again. This time, Thomas was with them.

Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Here, touch the marks on my hands and feel the wound in my side. Doubt no longer, but believe."

Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus said to Thomas, "You believe now because you see me. How blessed are people who have not seen me and still believe."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## Reflection of the Gospel of John #02

Hi again, I am signing the words from our chaplain, Fr. Wayne Edwards and his reflection of this Sunday's Gospel of John:

John's story is about Thomas and his doubts. We feel somewhat the same because of the current situation around the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The doors are closed where Jesus' disciples have isolated; because of fear of the unknown after Jesus' death; they do not believe that Jesus has risen as He had said.

We also find ourselves isolated, fearful and unsure or unable to see or believe how the coronavirus crisis will be solved and we must accept what Government are telling us, and hearing so many different opinions about it.

As people of faith we are called to trust in the one risen Lord. Many people have come to know the Lord once they faced their own suffering and failures.

In our situation now do we continue to rely and trust and believe in the risen Jesus?

Jesus entered the closed room; He calmed the fears of His followers; and His appearance made their faith strong. When He appeared again to His followers and specifically Thomas He did not condemn; He understood. Thomas is merely the same as all of humanity that cry out for help.

Thomas had to touch Jesus in order to be healed. Jesus was able to see the suffering of Thomas.

The Lord's words help us to recognise our own suffering, and to find healing. Jesus' followers were isolated, fearful, and uncertain about their future and what would become of them because Jesus was dead. His coming among them after His resurrection gave them hope.

Given the uncertainty of today's experience there is maybe a bigger challenge for us. His followers saw Him and believed. Jesus says 'blessed are the people who have not seen but believe'. In this time of uncertainty and our own doubts let us allow ourselves to be carried.

In allowing ourselves to be carried we can help to support others by keeping in contact with each other via the phone and the internet or if we have to go out to buy essentials: food, cleaning things, other things, then we can do so for others as well.

Jesus' followers relied on each other. It is only with the help of the community that we can push aside our doubts and continue our strong faith. The first Christians supported one another by praying and worshipping together, and by a loving service of one another.

Today we must think of creative ways for how we keep in touch but we need to try and not to give up.

Jesus not only spoke about love, He showed love. Let us pray we have the faith, courage and hope in the risen Lord to continue through these difficult times.

I pray that the lord bless you and keep you and free you from all harm.

God bless you from Fr Wayne ●