



**11<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.**

**Second Sunday of Easter, B.**

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

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Charity registration number - SC002876

### **Mass Times for the Week**

Wednesday: 10.00a.m.

Thursday: 10.00a.m.

Friday: 10.00a.m.

Saturday: 6.00p.m. Vigil

Sunday: 9.00a.m. and 11.00a.m.

### **Introduction to the Scripture Readings**

*Acts 4:32-35* — For the whole season of Easter, the first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles; today's segment describes how the first disciples interpreted the Christian ideals.

*1 John 5:1-6* — Believing Jesus is the Christ is what marks out a Christian. This faith becomes visible in love.

*John 20:19-31* — Contains the story of Thomas coming to terms with Jesus' resurrection.

Today, the second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**. During the course of His revelations to Saint Faustina, Jesus asked for a Feast of His Divine Mercy to be celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter. The Feast was made universal by Saint John Paul II when he canonised Sr. Faustina in the great Jubilee Year of 2000.

Pope Francis has challenged us to reach out to the margins where the light of Christ is needed most. He reminds us how Jesus wants everyone to feel included in His mercy and for our parishes to become centres of mission to the homes and everyday lives of everyone, inviting all without exception to participate in our joyful community. Everyone has a cross to carry but we make our crosses lighter by helping each other to carry them.

Today faith breaks through closed doors: hearts closed through fear, minds closed through persistent doubt. To the fearful disciples the risen Jesus says, "Peace!" and to doubting Thomas, "Give me your hand!" In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke ideally depicts the whole group of believers as "one in heart and soul".

### Reflection:

"While Jesus was alive Thomas was as strong as an oak. But when Jesus was put to death, he became a reed shaking in the winds of doubt. The truth was, though he didn't realise it at the time, it was the Master who was the oak. Thomas was a mere sapling growing in his shade. When the oak fell he was defenceless. All of us are shaken by the winds of doubt. We need to look at the Lord's wounds, and hear his gentle voice saying to us: 'Cease doubting and believe'. Then with Thomas we shall make bold to say: 'My Lord and my God'. (Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB).

### An Easter Prayer

"God of my life, I welcome this new day, it is Your gift to me, a new creation, a promise of resurrection. I thank You for the grace of being alive this morning. I thank You for the sleep that has refreshed me. I thank You for this chance to make a new beginning. This day Lord is full of promise and opportunity, let me waste none of it. This day is full of mystery and the unknown, help me to face it without fear or anxiety. This day is blessed with beauty and adventure, make me fully alive to it all. During this day keep me thoughtful, prayerful and kind and may I be courteous and helpful to others and not turned in on myself. Keep me from any word or deed that would hurt, belittle or destroy and may the thoughts in my mind be pleasing to in Your sight. When night comes again, may I look back on this day with no grievance or bitterness in my heart and may no one be unhappy because of anything I have done or failed to do"