

PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 2nd Sunday of Easter (A), 16th APRIL 2023



My Lord and my God!

In today's Gospel, we hear, over and over, the word "see". The disciples rejoiced when they *saw* the Lord. They tell Thomas: "We have *seen* the Lord". But the Gospel does not describe *how* they saw him; it does not describe the risen Jesus. It simply mentions one detail: "He showed them his hands and his side". It is as if the Gospel wants to tell us that *that* is how the disciples recognized Jesus: through his wounds. The same thing happened to Thomas. He too wanted to *see* "the mark of the nails in his hands", and after *seeing*, he believed.

Despite his lack of faith, we should be grateful to Thomas, because he was not content to hear from others that Jesus was alive, or merely to see him in the flesh. He wanted to *see inside*, to touch with his hand the Lord's wounds, the signs of his love. The Gospel calls Thomas *Didymus*, meaning *the Twin*, and in this he is truly our twin brother. Because for us too, it isn't enough to know that God exists. A God who is risen but remains distant does not fill our lives; an aloof God does not attract us, however just and holy he may be. No, we too need to "see God", to touch him with our hands and to know that he is risen, and risen for us.

How can we see him? Like the disciples: through his wounds. Gazing upon those wounds, the disciples understood

the depth of his love. They understood that he had forgiven them, even though some had denied him and abandoned him. To enter into Jesus' wounds is to contemplate the boundless love flowing from his heart. This is the way. It is to realize that his heart beats for me, for you, for each one of us. Dear brothers and sisters, we can consider ourselves Christians, call ourselves Christians and speak about the many beautiful values of faith, but, like the disciples, we need to see Jesus *by touching his love*. Only thus can we go to the heart of the faith and, like the disciples, find peace and joy beyond all doubt.

Thomas, after seeing the Lord's wounds, cried out: "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). I would like to reflect on the adjective that Thomas repeats: *my*. It is a possessive adjective. When we think about it, it might seem inappropriate to use it of God. How can God be *mine*? How can I make the Almighty *mine*? The truth is, by saying *my*, we do not profane God, but honour his mercy. Because God wished to "become ours". As in a love story, we tell him: "You became man *for me*, you died and rose *for me* and thus you are not only God; you are *my God*, you are *my life*. In you I have found the love that I was looking for, and much more than I could ever have imagined". (...)

From Pope Francis's homily at the Divine Mercy Sunday (2018)

NOTICES

COLLECTIONS

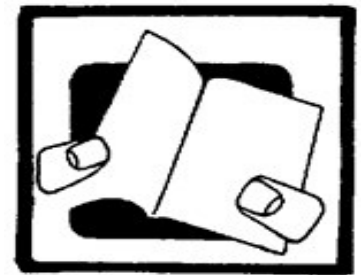
Offertory: €4775 (Easter Dues)
Envelope: €94

VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION

will be taken up after each mass today.

SUNDAY WORD GROUP

A meeting for anyone interested in reflecting on next Sunday's Readings for Mass will be held in the Large Parlour of the Priory this **Wednesday, 19th April, starting at 8.00pm**. The meeting will be led by a member of the Parish Team and will end at 9.00pm. All are welcome.



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Jean Ennis** (Newton Park) and **Annamarie Mc Keown-Carmona** (Dublin, formerly of Caracas, Venezuela) whose funerals were from this Church during the week.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



ST. MARY'S PRIORY, TALLAGHT
SUNDAY, 16th APRIL at 3.00pm

Celebrant: Fr Philip McShane OP

- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Holy Mass
- Reading from st. Faustina's Diary
- Veneration of Divine Mercy Image
- Individual Blessing with st. Faustina's Relic

No confession available on the Sunday

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