

Homilies from last Sunday

Homily for Second Sunday of Easter – Year B

Readings Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31



Fr Michael says:

We live the message of Easter for the coming 50 days, to the climax of Pentecost! The first message is about the Community which should flow from this earth-shattering event: a total sharing of faith and possessions. We discover what our calling is, through John's letter – that of love; through faith in Jesus we are children of God, which is seen in how we respond to His Commandments – Christ's victory over death ensures we can do this in service to others. This Mission is given to us all, through what He did for us on Calvary and with the gift of peace – through the Spirit we are called to live the life of the Spirit in sharing the forgiveness won for us by Jesus with those around us – the affirmation of Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" is the climax and the end of the original version of John's gospel.

As human beings we have a tendency to have people near us when we are happy and when in pain, we want to be alone – an understandable feeling, but one which is not helpful to us. Healing can only happen if they can be seen and touched.

We look at Thomas, who is the central figure in today's Gospel. He had fled, like the other Apostles, when Jesus died and so missed the first appearance of Jesus after His Resurrection, but was at His second one and we look at how Jesus treated him. He shows His wounds, there was no need to hide them away as they are signs of His love for us and them. He invites Thomas to touch them. It is Thomas who is the wounded one, with his grief, loneliness, doubt and despair. He wanted to be alone, with his invisible wounds, but Jesus sees them. So through the touch of Thomas he brought healing and peace, so by touching and being touched his is fully well and all his wounds are healed. It is the same for us – our healing can only come through contact with others, who understand where we are and from where we are coming.

Our world is full of Doubting Thomas', they can only comprehend belief through experience, like Thomas' initial reaction. However this can only happen, if He is seen to be alive in His followers.

To finish, let us reflect on the message Aristides, a pagan lawyer, gave to the Emperor Hadrian, who died in 135AD about his experience of Christians and take heart from it: "These Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If a man has something, he gives freely to the one who has nothing. If they see a stranger, Christians take them into their homes and treat him as a brother. If they hear that one of them is in jail or persecuted for professing the name of their redeemer, they all give him what he needs. If it is possible, they bail him out. If one of them is poor and there isn't enough food to go round, they fast several days to give him the food he needs. We are dealing with a new type of person – there is something divine in them."

Reflection for last Sunday

Fr. Tom says:



Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Easter B 2015

We do well to reflect and meditate on these words of Pope Francis to us this Easter:

“The Church throughout the world echoes the angel’s message to the women: “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised.... This is the culmination of the Gospel, it is the Good News par excellence: Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! This event is the basis of our faith and our hope. If Christ were not raised, Christianity would lose its very meaning; the whole mission of the Church would lose its impulse, for this is the point from which it first set out and continues to set out ever anew. The message which Christians bring to the world is this: Jesus, Love incarnate, died on the cross for our sins, but God the Father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death.

That is why we tell everyone: “*Come and see!*” In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a *testimony to unconditional and faithful love*: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life’s troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast... “*Come and see!*”: love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness.

With this joyful certainty in our hearts, today we turn to you, risen Lord!

Help us to seek you and to find you, to realize that we have a Father and are not orphans; that we can love and adore you.

Help us to overcome the scourge of hunger, aggravated by conflicts and by the immense wastefulness for which we are often responsible.

Enable us to protect the vulnerable, especially children, women and the elderly, who are at times exploited and abandoned.

Comfort all those who cannot celebrate this Easter with their loved ones

Comfort those who have left their own lands to migrate to places offering hope for a better future and the possibility of living their lives in dignity and, not infrequently, of freely professing their faith.

We ask you, Lord Jesus, to put an end to all war and every conflict, whether great or small, ancient or recent.

We pray in a particular way that all those suffering the effects of conflict receive needed humanitarian aid and negotiate the peace long awaited and long overdue!

By your resurrection, which this year we celebrate together with the Churches that follow the Julian calendar, we ask you to enlighten and inspire the initiatives that promote peace . . . so that all those involved, with the support of the international community, will make every effort to prevent violence and, in a spirit of unity and dialogue, chart a path for the country’s future. On this day, may they be able to proclaim, as brothers and sisters, that Christ is risen, *Khrystos voskres!*

Lord, we pray to you for all the peoples of the earth: you who have conquered death, grant us your life, grant us your peace!

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!”

