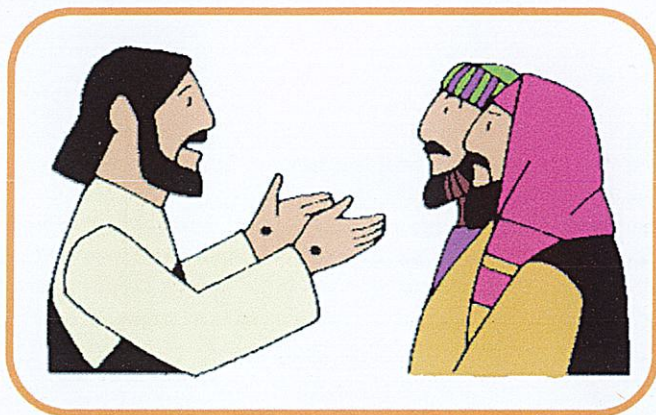


Our Faith on Sunday

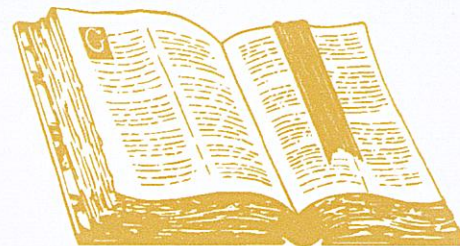
GOSPEL REFLECTION



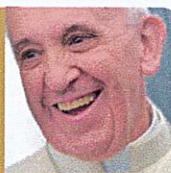
We can all understand the reaction of Thomas when the other disciples told him they had seen Jesus. When you hear something that seems incredible your first reaction often is: "I will believe it when I see it". And yet in this Sunday's gospel reading we hear Jesus saying: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed". This does not mean that belief takes place

in a vacuum. Belief is not an irrational act. There is always a reason to believe something. I believe I have two kidneys even though I have never seen them, because I accept the findings of centuries of medical science. I have never seen the Risen Lord, not even in a spiritual vision, and yet I believe he is risen. What is the "reason" for my belief? In the first letter of Peter, we read: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope" (1 Pt 3:15). So why do you believe that Christ is risen? Throughout the centuries of Christian belief, the mystics have always been the ones to

indicate that belief in what is narrated in the gospels is never just an assent to a set of doctrines. It is not just a mechanical repetition of the words of the Creed we recite every Sunday. It is an inner experience of being transformed by an inpouring into the heart of divine love. St Catherine of Siena wrote: "The soul in love with God is transformed into God by love". I can truly believe in the Risen Lord when it is no longer I who live but the Risen Lord who lives in me.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

279. We Christians ask that, in those countries where we are a minority, we be guaranteed freedom, even as we ourselves promote that freedom for non-Christians in places where they are a minority. One fundamental human right must not be forgotten in the journey towards fraternity and peace. It is religious freedom for believers of all religions. That freedom proclaims that we can "build harmony and understanding between different cultures and religions. It also testifies to the fact that, since the important things we share are so many, it is possible to find a means of serene, ordered and peaceful coexistence, accepting our differences and rejoicing that, as children of the one God, we are all brothers and sisters".²⁷⁵

275. Address to the Civil Authorities, Bethlehem, Palestine (25 May 2014): Insegnamenti II, 1 (2014), 597.

St. Faustina Diary

O Most Holy Trinity! As many times as I breathe, as many times as my heart beats, as many times as my blood pulsates through my body, so many thousand times do I want to glorify Your mercy. I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection, O Lord. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbour. Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbours' souls and come to their rescue. Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbours' needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moanings. Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbour, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

1 Pt 2: 2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

COLLECT

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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts 2:42-47

The believers devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the Apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the Temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they shared their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 118(117):2-4. 13-15b. 22-24. R. 1

**R. Give praise to the LORD, for he is good,
his mercy endures for ever.**

or: **Alleluia.**

Let the house of Israel say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let the house of Aaron say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let those who fear the LORD say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'

R.

They pushed me, pushed me hard to knock me down,
but the LORD was my helper.
The LORD is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and salvation
in the tents of the righteous.

R.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.

R.**SECOND READING**

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter. 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

John 20:29

**You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord.
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord'. But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

R. The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the oblations of your people
(and of those you have brought to new birth),
that, renewed by confession of your name
and by Baptism,
they may attain unending happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 20:27

**Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that our reception of this paschal Sacrament
may have a continuing effect
in our minds and hearts.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**