

## St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

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## 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

### FAITH AND CREDULITY

Credulity, the dictionary tells us, is the readiness to believe on insufficient evidence. After the explosion of the first atom bomb, a certain gentleman of Long Beach, California, claimed that he had caught the atomic rays in a box and that he could cure most of the world's troubles with them. Coach trips soon had to be organised to take the number of people who wanted to go and see him.

Credulity takes many forms. Superstition is a widely practised form of it. There are those who will accept the most astonishing events on the flimsiest of evidence. On the other hand, there are others who refuse to believe anything which is not based on the evidence of the senses. They must see or feel for themselves. For such people the supernatural is a fantasy.

Christ tells Thomas in today's Gospel that they are blessed who have not seen but believed. Why is a Christian not guilty of credulity? Why is faith in the unseen not a form of it? The reason is that faith is a vision inspired by Christ. The Christ of the Gospels is one who can neither deceive nor be disbelieved. His teaching rings true. His personality is compelling. His appeal calls for a response from human nature. There is no one else to whom a person can go to find more truth than in Christ's words – truth not only for the intellect but for the whole personal being. It is not easy to explain to an unbeliever the certainty that faith imparts. For faith, though it has a basis of reason is, in the end, a gift from Christ. It is a spiritual vision which cannot be expressed adequately in words. A Christian has not seen the glorified wounds of Christ but has believed in them and in the wonderful love that opened them out. We see the risen Christ at every Eucharistic celebration with the vision of faith – that gift which enables us to see without seeing, to touch without feeling.

Masses and Prayers: Dorothy Samuelson (ann.1/4), Imelda Ryan (ann.9/4), Mary Grace Liptak (ann.5/4), Shirley Smith (ann.16/4), Katherine Mullaly (ann.16/4), Jean Curlisa (ann.13/4)

# Sunday Mass

12 April 2020

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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

### **Penitential Act**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
Christ, have mercy.	<b>Christ, have mercy.</b>
Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>

### **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

### **Collect**

Let us pray.

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,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD** (See Bulletin Liturgy Sheet)

#### **Profession of Faith**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
*At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting. Amen.

Amen.

### **General Intercessions**

#### **UNIVERSAL PRAYER FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the name of Jesus, the Living One, let us intercede for those who share with us the sufferings and the glory of the gospel, and for the needs of all the world.*

1. That signs and wonders born of faith and love may be worked among all peoples through believers who bear testimony to Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That the peace of our risen Lord may spread through our world today. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That we all pull together as a community to defeat the Covid 19 pandemic. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That all Christians may come to know the power of the Risen Lord and always rejoice in the Divine Mercy of God manifest in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That the sick of our community and any who are troubled in spirit may find healing in the name of Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That we, who have not seen the risen Lord and yet have come to believe, may share the forgiveness we have received. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. That the dead, who acknowledged Jesus as their Lord and their God, may rejoice forever with the Living One. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
8. That we may rejoice with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven, that the Lord is risen indeed. **HAIL MARY.**

*Almighty Father, you have given us your only begotten Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in sincerity of living and truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

## **Pope Francis Prayer for protection from Coronavirus**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you. Health of the sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, our Salvation, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the Joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

## **Our Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come and untie myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be *etc.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

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.

May Almighty God bless us all, the name of the Father, and of Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

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