



Dear Parishioners,

**This Sunday, the Octave Day of Easter, is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday.** Not only that, but the Gospel reading at Mass on this Second Sunday of Easter is always the passage from the Gospel of John that tells the story of "doubting" Thomas – the apostle who refused to accept the testimony of the other disciples who had seen the risen Lord, and insisted that he would not believe unless he touched the nail marks in the Lord's body. When the Lord appeared to them again a week later with Thomas present, Thomas proclaimed "My Lord and my God! " But Jesus remarked, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

**We are all a little bit like Thomas these days.** Thomas was not present with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them on the evening of the first day of the week. And we have not been present with one another in the gathering of believers in the church community on Sunday, the Lord's day, the first day of the week. **Thomas, because he was not present, was filled with doubts. We too may be full of doubts these days and questioning many things.** Our faith is strengthened when we gather together in the assembly of the Church and profess our faith together. I hope that none of us will allow our doubts to overcome us during this uncertain time when we are not able to reinforce our faith in this communal way. Rather we must be strong in faith, and find other ways to reinforce our faith, remembering what Jesus told Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." **Today, let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.** Even in these uncertain times, with our minds preoccupied and our thoughts and worries about the future weighing on us, still, let us tell Him, "Jesus, I trust in You!"

**I want to remind you that the Vatican has granted an Emergency Plenary Indulgence in this time of pandemic, to anyone who, with the will to fulfill the usual conditions of sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions as soon as possible, recites the Divine Mercy Chaplet with the intention to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself.** Please note that since it is currently not practically possible to actually receive sacramental confession and Holy Communion, it suffices to have the intention of doing so as soon as may be practically possible, in order to obtain the indulgence.

**Dear friends, let us persevere in faith and trust in the Lord at all times.** Let us pray for one another.

Your Pastor,  
Msgr. Stephan Moloney