

Dear everyone

Happy Sunday

I have included the gospel reading and a reflection from Father Simon plus the link for worship provided by Father Paul in Menorca

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life:
As the gift of this new day unfolds,
open our hearts and minds to you,
that we may see you clearly and follow where you lead;
to you, risen Saviour, we offer praise,
now and always. Amen.

Almighty Father,
you have given your only 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 pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

John 20:19 - end

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt 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 come to believe.'

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection from Canon Father Stephens - our locum chaplain at St.Andrew's Puerto Pollensa

It has been a 'roller-coaster' of a week for the Disciples! First of all, Mary Magdalene broke the news to them of her meeting with the Risen Christ in the garden. The Emmaus disciples recall that the Hidden Christ revealed

himself to them in the breaking of bread at an evening meal ; and last, but not least, many of the disciples while fishing for their supper on the Sea of Galilee had met the Hidden Christ walking across the water to their fishing boat. And again in the breaking of bread, their eyes had been opened and they met the Risen Lord. This may not have been the age of the Internet, but wonderful news travels fast and there were some members of the Apostolic Company who felt, just perhaps, that they had been denied the joy of seeing the Risen Christ with their own eyes. Perhaps, there was just a touch of very understandable, jealousy!

Once again, on the first day of the week, the Disciples had retreated to the safety and security of possibly, the Upper Room. The doors were locked and barred because Jerusalem's rabbinical community were incensed and angry with the rumour swirling through the city, that the Man from Galilee, whom they had crucified, had indeed risen from the dead.

What nonsense! What an impossibility! And then the tense silence of the Upper Room is shattered, as was the silence outside the Garden Tomb, with the words." Peace be with you!" That blessing from the Risen Christ echoes across the milleniums and thrills us today here in Pollenca, in a divided and shattered world, so very much in need of peace. Then Jesus breathes over them, empowering them with the Holy Spirit for the Apostolic Mission.

This is a 'roller-coaster'!

Now we all love Thomas, called Didymus. Perhaps we love him so much, because we see our own weaknesses and failings in him. But what is not in doubt is his frustration, when the other disciples greet him with the chorus "We have seen the Lord". He was angry! Very angry! And before slamming the door and returning to the street, he shouts out, " I will not believe!" "Until I see the nail marks in his hands!" We all understand his anger and disappointment!

Then just a week later, all the disciples, including Thomas are hidden in a 'safe house" ; and the Risen Christ greets the disciples. He then turns to Thomas, we can feel the strength of his gaze and we share Thomas's embarrassment. He is hesitant to touch the Risen Lord. Thomas stutters, "My Lord and my God", but Jesus chides him gently " Because you have seen me, you have believed, but blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe"!

This is why we love Thomas and we may call him 'Doubting Thomas', but we do so because so often we stand in his shoes

; and especially so during these dark and challenging Pandemic days. In faith, we put our hands out into the darkness, and we ask for the strength of faith to believe with all certainty, that the strong hands of the Man from Galilee, will grasp ours and lead us safely to wherever, he would have us be. And of course, that is our prayer for everybody at this time ; and especially for the sick and the bereaved and those who care for them.

Jesus said "Peace be with you"!

Father Simon

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us;

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
now and for ever. Amen.

And to follow the worship from Menorca this morning please click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiZlVgGDySw#action=share>

Have a blessed Sunday
Vicky