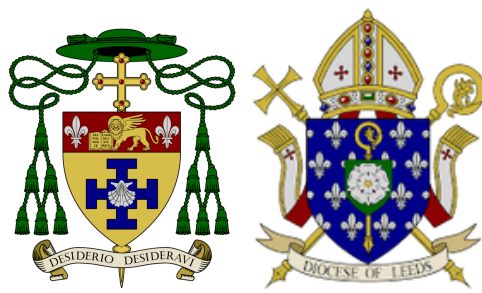


Tomb to Mission

A journey from Easter to Pentecost



DIVINE MERCY

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. John 20:29

The Sunday readings of the Church's year move in a three-year cycle, Years A, B, and C. Yet this Gospel on the Second Sunday of Easter never changes. Unlike the Easter Sunday accounts of the Resurrection, which come from the synoptic writers Matthew, Mark, and Luke, today's Gospel always comes from John, the great mystic of the early Church. And over the coming weeks, we will hear much more from John as he leads us deeper into the mystery of Christ.

The word *mystic* can sound like it belongs to someone else, someone especially holy or set apart. We rarely think of ourselves in that way. But a mystic is simply someone who seeks to be "at one with God." Through our Baptism, each of us is drawn into this very mystery. We become one with God because we enter into the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Every Sunday we profess this truth in the Creed:

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God...
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God...*

This profound understanding of who Jesus is comes to us largely through John. And it is John who helps us grasp not only the identity of Christ, but also our own calling as His disciples. Today Jesus speaks directly to us - those who believe without seeing: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." The disciples in the upper room, including Thomas, received the extraordinary grace of seeing the Risen Lord with their own eyes. We, however, are given the gift of faith, which allows us to recognise His presence in one another, to encounter Him in prayer, and to meet Him most intimately in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

In the Eucharist we come face-to-face with both the wounds and the glory of Christ. In a real sense, we fulfil Thomas's longing to see the marks of the nails and to touch the Body once broken for us. At every Mass, the sacrifice of Calvary is made present again - the mercy of God poured out, and the new life of the Resurrection offered to us.

#GospelReflection