



## **Children's liturgy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Welcome:** Today we hear about how Jesus appeared again to the disciples and shared peace with them. Let's think some more about peace today.

**Opening prayer:** God of peace, watch over those who face violence in their daily lives. Help us to be forgiving and to do what we can to bring peace to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **Gospel: John 20:19-31**

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then stretch out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from the reading today?

The disciples are frightened and lonely and so they have locked themselves away.

Who suddenly appears in the room?

The disciples were filled with joy that Jesus had risen from the dead and was with them again.

Thomas wasn't there with the rest of the disciples when Jesus appeared. He refused to believe Jesus had been there until he saw for himself.

We all have times when we can be a bit like Thomas. When we find it hard to believe in God and his love for us. Times when we are not really sure if God really is here with us.

But God is always with us, even though we can't see him.

Can you remember what Jesus says to his disciples when he first appears?

Jesus says: "Peace be with you." How did the disciples feel when they heard this? Why?

Peace can mean different things to different people. CAFOD asked some children around the world what peace meant to them, here are some of their answers:

Lucky in Kenya said, "Peace is very important and it makes us be united."

Maria lives in a part of El Salvador where there is a lot of fighting. She said: "I have learned that, if we get on well, we can live in peace and be far away from the violence."

Sebastian in Colombia said that "peace is forgiveness" and that "peace is very beautiful".

What does peace mean to you?

You might have heard about the war in Ukraine at the moment. There has been bombing and fighting across the country. At least 3 million people have had to leave their homes. Many have fled to other countries.

Let us remember in our prayers this week everyone who is affected by war, and all the people who are working to support them. We pray that God will give them courage, strength and hope at this difficult time.

We also pray for world leaders to make the right decisions which will help to bring peace.

We can also try to bring peace in our own lives. We can help those who need our help. We can try to make things right when we have argued with a friend or a family member. We can try to talk to people calmly when something upsets us or makes us angry rather than shouting or stamping or being violent.

So, this week let's try to be more confident in our faith, sure of God's love for us and for everyone throughout the world.

Will you pray and work for peace in our world in the coming week? What will you do?

### **Activity**

Write or draw what peace means to you in the banner on the accompanying illustration. On the back you could write a prayer for peace.

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about in today's liturgy with the people at home. If you have written a prayer, say it with your family during the week. Try to spread the message of peace throughout the week – making up if you've fallen out with anyone, not arguing, trying to be kind and generous etc.

Second Sunday of Easter  
Gospel: John 20:19-31

# Peace is...



