

# St. Joseph's Family Activities



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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### Jesus Christ is risen, Alleluia!

This is the Easter season and it is a really joyful time. The Easter season is longer than Lent and it's a great time to grow in faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ and relive the early days of the Church with the Apostles in the *Acts of the Apostles*.

This is Divine mercy Sunday, which is to help us deeply realise that Jesus' Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension is because of His most pure and divine mercy. More about this day below.

Our picture top right is from the sacristy in Santa Croce, Florence. Note the "Palm Sunday" procession on the left, then Christ's crucifixion is central and His Resurrection on the right. Above is His Ascension.

We are still hoping that you send in pictures of your Easter gardens and/or decorated eggs. See one submission so far at the end of the pages.

As ever, if you wish to see past copies of these sheets please go to <https://www.stjosephsmalvern.org/j/> and then click on the dropdown box for past editions.

***There are Four Dimensions of the Faith making sure that Jesus Christ is the centre of everything we do***

# Alleluia! Jesus is Risen



Photo credit © Carol Ann Hamnett

*The family is the "domestic Church" and if we are not able to gather in person with the parish, it's a good idea to set aside special times to pray with the family, even if it is just 10 mins two or three times a week. These are graced moments. Light a candle and have a few moments' silence and remind everyone that they are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These times are very precious and even if it is just a few minutes after a meal, it can be a fruitful time. Don't bite off more than you can chew! Start with just a few moments and build up the scope and variety of prayers slowly. Give everyone the opportunity to voice their own prayers as well as reciting traditional prayers.*

**Speaking/Learning the faith  
(which the Church calls  
"professing the faith")**

**Living it (in Christ) – i.e. the  
choices we make in  
everyday life**

**Celebrating it in the liturgy  
and the sacraments**

**Christian prayer.**

## Gospel for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April: John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord: R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

## Family discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

**Q: When did Jesus appear to the disciples?** (A: The evening of the first day of the week).

**Q: What day of the week is this?** (A: Sunday. Note: *Saturday was the seventh day of the week when God "rested" after creation. The Jews also rested on that day (and practicing Jews still do). Jesus rose early in the morning on the first day of the week, which we in English call Sunday.*)

**Q: What did Jesus say to the disciples?** (A: Peace be with you....).

**Q: Why do you think that He said that?** (A: They were afraid and thought that He was a ghost).

**Q: What did Jesus say as He breathed on His disciples?** (A: "Receive the Holy Spirit,..." and referred to them being able to forgive sins. Note: this is a kind of ordination; the disciples/Apostles are given authority to forgive sins in Jesus' name. This is why priests can forgive our sins, as their authority comes from Jesus through the Apostles. Note also that they receive the Holy Spirit here before Pentecost – it's a bit like we all receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptised as babies but then we are strengthened in that same Spirit when we are confirmed.)

**Q: Why did Jesus give the Apostles the Holy Spirit?** (A: So that they could forgive other people their sins/ have the courage to go out and tell everyone about Jesus).

**Q: Can you remember what any Jesus' last word were on the Cross?** (A: "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing" [Lk. 23:24] *There are others, but this is what to focus on.*)

**Q: How does Jesus show us His mercy today?** (A: In the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession /at Mass in the "I confess"/ reception of Holy Communion).

Finish with a time of silent prayer asking Jesus to forgive us for something that we have done that hurt another person.



## Divine Mercy Sunday

Since 2000, the second Sunday of Easter has also been known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Here are some extracts from a sermon given by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of Sister Faustina Kowalska (who inspired this devotion to the divine mercy of Christ) on 30 April 2000.

Sr Faustina Kowalska was a Polish nun, and between the First and Second World Wars Jesus gave this message of mercy to her when He said, "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy."

This is not a new message, but it can help us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely, to offer it as a ray of light to people of our time. The readings on the second Sunday of Easter (one week after Easter Sunday) show the path of mercy which each of us need to take: they show us that our relationship with God can be reset and also that our relationships with other people can be healed. Having received God's mercy, we can be merciful to other people. In other words, because we are so completely loved by God, we can love others in the same way.

Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave his life on the Cross for each one; to everyone the Father gives his Spirit and offers intimacy. To them the gentle face of Christ in this image is offered; those rays from his heart touch them and shine upon them, warm them, show them the way and fill them with hope. And we can all pray, "Jesus, I trust in you,"

**Say the Divine mercy chaplet on your rosary beads:**

**'First say one 'Our Father', 'Hail Mary', and 'I believe'.**

On each of the large beads say:

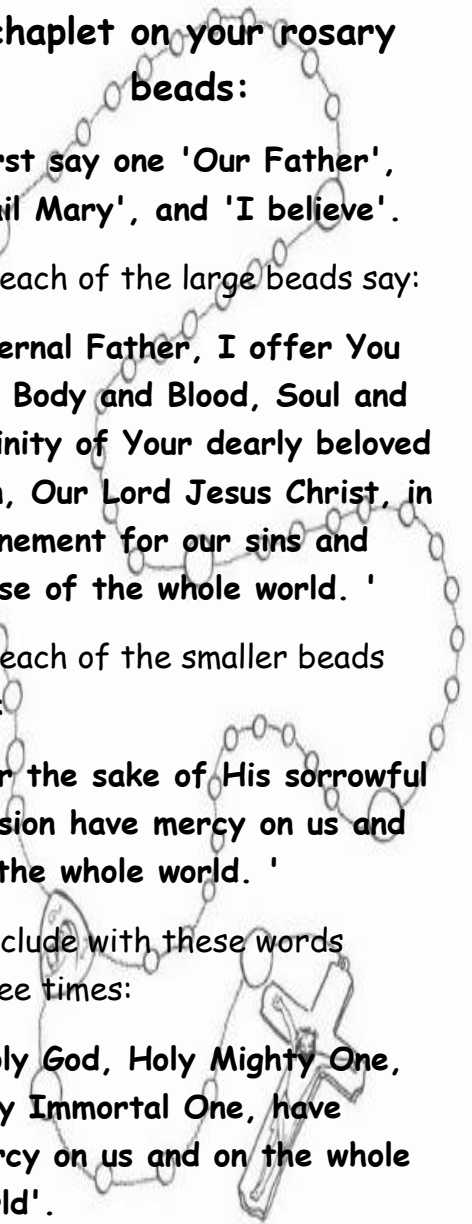
**'Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. '**

On each of the smaller beads say:

**'For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world. '**

Conclude with these words three times:

**'Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world'.**



## The Acts of the Apostles

This is a wonderful “adventure story” which older children and adults can read straight through. On the weekdays of the Easter season almost the whole book is read bit by bit and on Sundays we hear key extracts. The book is about how the Holy Spirit led and inspired early Church after Pentecost. It is full of exciting adventures; the Apostles being captured and miraculously released, amazing conversions, shipwrecks, and even humour!

It is worth following the daily readings of this book – you can access the readings at [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

Here some of the extracts for this week (direct quotes are in italics) and some suggested follow up activities and prayers you can consider doing:

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April Acts 4:23-31

Peter and John have been released by the authorities (who tried to stop them from preaching about Jesus). Back with the others they praised God and *“As they prayed, the house where they were assembled rocked; they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim the word of God boldly.”*

#### Suggested activity:

Every single one of us, through our Baptism is responsible for telling other people about Jesus. May be make a poster about Jesus’s Resurrection to put in the window of your home.

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April: Acts 4:32-37

*“The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common... None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.”*

#### Suggested actions:

Who do you know might be in need? What can you give them? (this might include time – does a neighbour need their lawn mowing or help with weeding?)

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April: Acts 5:17-26

Once again, the apostles were arrested for talking about Jesus and were put in gaol. *“But at night the angel of the Lord opened the prison gates and said as he led them out, ‘Go and stand in the Temple, and tell the people all about this new Life.’ They did as they were told; they went into the Temple at dawn and began to preach.”* In the morning it was discovered that *“the gaol was securely locked and the warders on duty at the gates, but when (they) unlocked the door (they) found no one inside.”* Then they learned that Peter and the Apostles were once again in the Temple *“preaching to the people!”*

#### Suggested activities:

Draw this out as a series of pictures:

1. The Apostles preaching
2. Being arrested and put in prison
3. An angel leading them out
4. Them preaching again in the Temple

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April: Acts 5:27-33**

The high priest was very cross with Peter and the apostles for continuing to teach about Jesus, but Peter replied, that they had to obey God before they obey people. Then He accused the chief priest of putting Jesus to death, but that Jesus has risen from the dead and He has sent the Holy Spirit to them all so that they can tell others about Jesus.

(This was very brave of St. Peter as he was speaking to the same people who had killed Jesus.)

**Suggested activities:**

Write out what St Peter could have said to the high priest about Jesus. (you could look at the last edition of these sheets as to why Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to get some ideas.)

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April: Acts 5:34-42**

A member of the ruling council advised the others to leave the Apostles alone as he said, *“If this movement of theirs, is of human origin it will break up of its own accord; but if it does in fact come from God you will not only be unable to destroy them, but you might find yourselves fighting against God.”* This is what happened, the Apostles were flogged (beaten) but were allowed to carry on preaching about Jesus.

**Suggested activities:**

In many countries of the world people are not allowed to teach about Jesus or go to church. Write or say a prayer for people who cannot go to Mass/cannot talk about Jesus.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April: Acts 6:1-7**

The Church is growing and now we see that they need to begin to organise how they are going to support the people in need. It was realised that the apostles needed to continue to focus on preaching so it was agreed to elect others to serve as deacons whose role would be to make sure that no one was needy or had not food. Seven men were chosen who were “presented to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them”.

**Suggested activities:**

We see here the beginning of the diaconate (ordained men who help in the parish). Some parishes have permanent deacons who are married men with families who serve their parish. Say a prayer for all priests and deacons. Pray that men will hear God inviting them to this privileged role in the Church.

Do continue to read the Acts of the Apostles next week and every week this Easter season.

## Easter Activities:

Can you unscramble these Easter related words or phrases? (answers at the bottom of the page)

trin eco surer \_\_\_\_\_

sir see us jins \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

swis net \_\_\_\_\_

more gaster nin \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

yamm drag laene \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

lea all ui \_\_\_\_\_

my mob pett \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

sure toad moam \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

### Suggestions for the Holidays

**Make an Easter garden:** In a shallow tray put some sand or garden soil. Gather some stones to make a kind of "cave" and put one offset to be the stone that is rolled away. Put moss and any tiny flowers you can gather around. Nearly place a cross made out of two sticks tied or stuck together (or a palm cross). Some people like to put three empty crosses together to indicate the two thieves who also were crucified with Jesus.

If you are very creative, may be add figures of the women who came to the tomb and the angel. Use small dolls or may be figures made out of some twigs or even clay or plasticine, which you have wrapped in cloth. But these are not necessary - it's more important to create something really beautiful to reflect the joy of new life in Jesus Christ.



**Decorate eggs:** Blown eggs can keep for years and can be used again and again for Easter decorations. Otherwise, hard boil some eggs and use vegetable dyes or food colouring to decorate them, or stick coloured paper on them. You can either create patterns, or if you have a very still hand, you can paint pictures of the Easter story on the eggs.

Send in photos of your Easter gardens or decorated eggs. All submissions will receive a certificate and the best in each age category (3-7 yrs, 8-12 yrs) 12-17 yrs, adult) will win a first prize certificate!

Email photos to [stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com](mailto:stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com) Note: By sending in photos, you agree that they can be used in future editions of these pages, credited or not as you wish.

Here is one picture submitted so far.