



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

THIS SUNDAY April 19 & BEYOND

Our Twin Brother



On the Second Sunday of Easter, just after Easter week is over, the reading from the Gospel according to St. John brings us the events taking place just after Jesus was raised from the dead. The focus is now on Jesus' closest followers.

What were they doing and what was their general feeling just after He was placed in the tomb? What are their reactions to Jesus' glorious reappearance? How do these words addressed to His closest followers affect us after more than 20 centuries?

The first thing that the Gospel reading shows us is that the disciples were afraid. They did not want to be pointed out as Jesus' disciples by the Jewish authorities. They did not want to partake in His fate. They feared for their own lives. And yet, there was still a sense of belonging that kept them united. They were gathered in the same place, but behind closed doors.

They had heard strange and disquieting rumors. Some of them had seen the empty tomb. Then, they heard Mary Magdalene's and other women's stories and later, the

story told by the two disciples coming from Emmaus. Something must have stirred some curiosity in them. If only that could be true. Their beloved Master come to life again! But no...that was just a vain hope...

And all of a sudden He appears in the midst of them. Closed doors could not prevent Him from piercing and shattering their fear, their doubts. Love conquers all that. His unbounded love brought them the true Peace that surpasses all common human understanding. Twice he greeted them with that Peace.

But He did much more than that. He totally recreated these disciples' lives. He blew the Father's Holy Spirit, which is also His, over them. And the Spirit is the life-giver. He was hovering over the waters of chaos at the beginning of time, creating all that is, infusing God's will through His word. And now this same Spirit turned these fearful, doubting disciples into faithful followers - into the sent ones - into the forgiving ones - into the ones that would become the core cell of those who would spread His wonderful words and deeds of unconditional love to all nations, through all times.

The story about Thomas, which is a sort of parenthesis here, has led many to point this character out as the epitome of disbelief or doubt. But he was no greater disbeliever than the rest. The rest also believed because they saw. He was perhaps more honest and explicit about his doubts. And it is clear that he was the first to call Jesus "my God". No reference to the reason why he was called "twin" is ever made in the gospels. Actually the name Thomas means 'twin'. Could John the Evangelist be implying that he is actually our twin brother?

We are all like Thomas in many ways. We are full of doubts and feelings of uncertainty. Fortunately, when Jesus' loving presence becomes a reality in our lives, we can also be as passionate and radical in our acceptance of His divine guidance.

The times we are living, like never before, make us wonder and doubt where God's presence might be in the midst of our anguish. Even so, the reality we are experiencing has also made many of us come to the realization that life is valuable, that community is essential, that love is the greatest of treasures, and that the grievances that we may have against another are insignificant in the face of a pandemic that endangers us all and can only come to an end by a global and communal effort.

The Church is the living body of the Risen Christ. We are the sent ones. We have been re-created by the Holy Ghost to spread the wonderful news of life-giving love all around the world. Even if in times of uncertainty we are like doubting Thomas, let us also remember to be like him in single-heartedness, unrelenting passion and determination, and total acceptance of God's guidance in our lives. By becoming Thomas's twin brother, we also become Jesus' twin brother, as he himself did.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 118:19-24 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-24

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Second Sunday of Easter

All Saints' Sunday 9am Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/282264110>

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY Noon Service

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/680613536>

FRIDAY Christian Formation Study at noon

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/857993476>

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY The Third Sunday of Easter

All Saints' Sunday 9am Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/282264110>

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

NOTE: To activate Zoom you need to click on the link and zoom will download and put you in the meeting. If you have a camera and microphone they can interact in the meeting. The meeting is setup to not auto turn on your camera. You will need to make that decision. Otherwise it will be like a Facebook video and you can listen and watch.

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org