

2nd Sunday of Easter – 27th April 2025

Headings	Gospel (John 20:19 -31)	1st Reading (Acts of the Apostles 5:12 - 16)	2nd Reading (Revelation 1:9 – 13, 17 - 19)
Context	In this passage Jesus appears to a group of his disciples. He shows them the marks of his suffering, assuring them that he was the same Jesus they had known before his crucifixion. He gave them the power to forgive sins. Hence it is appropriately called Divine Mercy Sunday.	Acts shows that the apostles continued the mission of Jesus after his Ascension. They preached in the Temple, they healed many people but were opposed by the authorities. Through their ministry the church grew in numbers very quickly.	The Book of Revelation was written in the context of the persecution of believers by the Roman Empire. It also shows the challenge to the faith of believers by the claims of the secular world. It offers the hope of an eternal reward to those who are faithful.
Key verse	“You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe”.	“People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick ... and all of them were cured”.	“I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God’s word and witnessed for Jesus”.
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The greeting of Jesus was “Peace be with you” – not a worldly peace, which rulers may try to achieve by force. It is a sense of inner calm, independent of circumstances. • At first Thomas was sceptical. When he encountered Jesus, he was transformed. See his amazing proclamation of faith. • Jesus tells his disciples that they can forgive sins. His ministry of mercy will continue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke tells how God was working in the ministry of the apostles, as he had in the ministry of Jesus. • The authorities tried to prevent their work but could not. The apostles were acting in the power of God. • The gospel was spreading in spite of opposition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The early Church attributed this book to the apostle John. He uses images drawn from the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel. • Jesus is described in both human and divine terms. The author falls prostrate and worships the exalted Lord. • He is asked to write down what he sees – both the present state of the Churches and what is to unfold in the future.
Questions/ application to our lives	<p>Have you ever locked the doors of your heart against the outside world out of fear? How does Jesus’ greeting of “Peace” help in coping with the fear?</p> <p>When do the apostles carry out Jesus’ mission of reconciling sinners?</p> <p>Are you able to proclaim “My Lord and my God” along with Thomas? How might that prayer become more than a mere formula? What was John’s purpose in writing his gospel?</p>	<p>Have you encountered opposition because of your religious beliefs? Did your attitude resemble that of the apostles?</p> <p>How can people today be convinced of the truth of the gospel?</p> <p>Pope Francis invites us all to be Missionary Disciples. How can we answer this call?</p> <p>In our parish, how can we make people feel welcome in the Church and in Church activities?</p>	<p>John says “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day”. With the help of the Spirit what did John ‘see’ in this vision?</p> <p>The reading says ‘It was the Lord’s day and the Spirit possessed me’. Most likely, this happened during prayer. Do you take time for personal prayer regularly? If you do, what effect does it have on your relationship with God?</p>
Further reading	Catechism 575, 645, 659, 788, 858, 2839	Catechism 699, 865, 1288, 2157	Catechism 612, 625, 633, 635, 2854

