

## Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

Give praise to the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

*Psalm*

'My Lord and my God.'

*Gospel*

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

*Gospel*

Heavenly Father and God of mercy,  
we no longer look for Jesus among the dead,  
for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.  
From the waters of death you raise us with him  
and renew your gift of life within us.

Increase in our minds and hearts  
the risen life we share with Christ  
and help us to grow as your people  
towards the fullness of eternal life with you.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:  
Acts 2: 42–47; Psalm 117 (118); 1 Peter 1: 3–9; John 20: 19–31

Hyatt Moore, 'Hands of Proof' © 2026 Hyatt Moore



'Unless I see his hands ...'

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

Benjamin West, 'The Incredulity of St. Thomas'



## PREGO LEAFLET

Second Sunday of Easter  
(Divine Mercy Sunday)  
Year A, 12th April 2026

'Peace be with you!'

Full of the joy of the resurrection, the Sunday readings also stress the love and mercy the risen Lord has for all of his people.

In the **First Reading** we see the joy and enthusiasm of the young Church. The faithful are united in their belief, in their prayers and in the 'breaking of bread', as also in their care and attention to one another.

The Easter **Psalm** is in tune with the theme of Divine Mercy. It is a song of thanksgiving to God whose 'mercy endures forever'. It also recalls the suffering of our Saviour who was raised up on Easter Sunday.

The **Second Reading** is similarly a type of hymn. It celebrates the new life that comes from the risen Jesus. We are born again to a living hope. Even in the trials and anxieties of the times we are living through, faith will always be enough.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus invests the disciples with the Holy Spirit. Thomas, who was absent from Jesus's first appearance to them, is challenged to believe. Thomas now professes his faith with the wonderful words, 'My Lord and my God!'

This week, as we continue to rejoice in the Lord's resurrection, may we also reach out to others with compassion and understanding.



## Opening Prayer

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast  
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,  
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,  
that all may grasp and rightly understand  
in what font they have been washed,  
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,  
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.

### First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2: 42–47

The believers devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the Apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the Temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they shared their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

I make space in my mind and heart as I prepare to pray. I take a couple of deep breaths, and strive to empty my mind of all concerns. I breathe gently, aware of being in God's presence and sustained by his loving gaze.

When I'm ready, I slowly read the text a couple of times.

This is a description of the community of the young Church. What activities are the believers involved in? What strikes me particularly? Can I recognise some of them in my own community? Or is there something I would like to see renewed?

As I ponder this, I also think about the spirit and attitude of the people.

What do I notice? Devotion, joy, generosity ...?

These are ordinary families, young and old people, forming a community. Do I feel I belong to my community? How and in what way is that true or not?

How can I contribute to this sense of belonging?

I turn to the Lord and speak to him, maybe asking for his grace, peace and joy to fill my heart, my church, my community and the wider Church.

I close my prayer with a '*Glory be ...*'

### Gospel John 20: 19–31 (part)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive, the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you'. Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe'. Thomas answered him. 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

As I come to prayer, I may wish to light a candle, symbol of the risen Lord. I breathe gently, asking the Lord to fill me with his Spirit and his light as I pray.

In my imagination, I enter the room where the disciples are. When Jesus appears, can I receive his peace?

What does it feel like? I sit quietly and wait patiently.

Perhaps I can identify with Thomas, and share something of his doubt and confusion. In what way is this?

As I contemplate the risen Jesus and see the wounds in his hands and feet, what feelings arise within me? Joy, gratitude for his saving love, sorrow for all he endured for me ...?

I speak to the Lord from my heart, and end my prayer with that of Thomas, 'My Lord and my God'.