

2nd Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)

April 12h, 2026

Faith @ Home

2nd Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47
Resp. Psalm: Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20:19-31

[Full Readings can be found here!](#)

1. HEAR

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking [HERE](#).
(Bishop O'Connell's Gospel Reflection page.)

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can watch a short video with the proclamation for adults by clicking [HERE](#).
(YouTube, Discover Jesus channel, 3:52 min)

Children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking [HERE](#). *(YouTube, TheBigbyShow 5:07 min.)*

2. PRAY

Create a prayer space in the room where all are gathered. Invite all to a moment of prayer by sharing the following:

"Peace be with you." said Jesus to his disciples. Jesus desires us to experience the same peace which he gives his disciples. He wants us to be at peace. Jesus wants us to have peace within ourselves, peace with one another, and he desires peace all over our World. Pray with these words, seeking the Holy Spirit's assistance to be at peace as you go forward in this Easter season.

May today there be peace within you.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you....

May you be content knowing you are a child of God...

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

(This prayer is attributed to St. Therese of Lisieux.)

3. TALK

Gather with your family or a friend in your home. One of the adults can lead the conversation by reading the following:

In this Sunday's gospel we hear that Jesus made a surprise appearance in the upper room as the doors were locked to his scared disciples. They

had heard Jesus had risen from the dead after his crucifixion, but they did not understand how that happened. When Jesus appeared to them, Jesus said, "Peace be with You." They were filled with both joy at seeing the Lord and also fear and shame for abandoning Him in his time of distress. Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with You." In saying this, Jesus comforted them, taking away their fear and removed their shame. His words were reassuring and filled them with God's love and mercy.

He breathed on them and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit". He wanted to give his disciples a helper to do the work he has asked them to do but Jesus does not ask his disciples or us to do this work on our own. He gave them the precious gift of His Love, the Holy Spirit, to help them. We too have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us from the time of our baptism. The Spirit gives us gentle guidance in our lives, especially when we call on the Holy Spirit in prayer. What love and mercy Jesus shows us, what peace we receive when we have the Holy Spirit's presence guiding us.

Ask all who are gathered to take a moment to reflect on the questions provided below. Indicate that there will be 2 or 3 minutes of silent reflection to ponder the questions.

- What would you have thought and how would you have felt if you were in the upper room with the disciples when Jesus came to you?*
- Imagine Jesus standing before you. What would you want to say to him? And have Jesus say to you?*
- Why do we need the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives?*

Once all had time to reflect, initiate a conversation around one or two or all three questions, by asking each person to share their reflections. *(If you have small children, ask them to draw what they liked in the gospel story and have them share their artwork with all who are gathered.)*

