

# Good News

## We Celebrate the Joy of Jesus' Resurrection



### SUNDAY GOSPEL

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-9\*

### The Empty Tomb

**Storyteller:** Early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. It was still dark.

**Mary Magdalene:** Someone has rolled the stone away from the entrance to Jesus' tomb. Jesus' body is gone!

**Storyteller:** Mary ran back to Jerusalem.

**Mary Magdalene:** Peter, John! Someone has taken Jesus from the tomb. We don't know where they put him.

**Storyteller:** Peter and John ran back to the tomb with Mary. John was



faster than Peter and got there first. He looked in the tomb but didn't go inside.

**John:** I see the cloths that were wrapped around Jesus.

**Storyteller:** When Peter got there, he went into the tomb.

**Peter:** I see the cloth that covered Jesus' head. It is rolled up and in a different place than the other cloths. But Jesus is not here.

**Storyteller:** Then John went into the tomb with Peter.

**John:** I believe that Jesus is risen!



# Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

*\*The Easter Sunday Gospel is John 20:1–9. We have added Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene (John 20:10–18) here.*

**Storyteller:** Peter and John went back to Jerusalem, but Mary stayed in the garden. She was crying. She looked into the tomb again. This time, she saw two angels sitting in the tomb where Jesus' body had been.

**Angels:** Why are you crying?

**Mary Magdalene:** They have taken Jesus away. I don't know where they put him.

**Storyteller:** Mary turned and saw Jesus, but she thought he was the gardener.

**Jesus:** Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?

**Mary Magdalene:** Sir, if you took Jesus' body away, tell me where you put him. I will go and get him.

**Jesus:** Mary!

**Storyteller:** When Jesus called Mary by name, she knew that he was Jesus.

**Mary:** Teacher!

**Jesus:** Go and tell my followers that I am returning to my Father.

**Storyteller:** Mary ran to Jerusalem and told the disciples:

**Mary:** I have seen Jesus! He wants you to know that he is returning to the Father.



## KNOW

- 1 What do the disciples think happened to Jesus?
- 2 How does Mary Magdalene recognize Jesus?
- 3 What helped Thomas believe that Jesus is risen?



Connecting **GOSPEL**  
and **DOCTRINE**

## From Belief to Action

**W**e believe that Jesus rose to new life after his Death on the Cross. The Resurrection of Jesus is the most important truth of our Catholic faith. That makes **Easter** the Church's most important celebration.

As Jesus' disciples, we share our belief in his Resurrection by our words and actions. We show God our love by caring for his people. Some of the ways we care for God's people are called the Works of Mercy.

Go to pages 11 and 45 of your Catechism handbook to learn about the Resurrection and Works of Mercy.





# SUNDAY GOSPEL

2nd Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

## Jesus Appears to His Disciples

**Storyteller:** Later that same day, Jesus' disciples were together in a room. They had locked the door. They were afraid that the people who killed Jesus would want to hurt them. Suddenly, Jesus was there with them.



**Jesus:** Peace be with you. Look at my hands and my side.

**Followers:** It's really you, Jesus! You're alive!

**Jesus:** Peace be with you. I am sending you just as my Father sent me.

**Storyteller:** He breathed on them and said:

**Jesus:** Receive the Holy Spirit.

**Storyteller:** Thomas was not there when Jesus

came. They told Thomas what had happened.

**Mary Magdalene:** Thomas, we have seen Jesus!

**Thomas:** I don't believe it. I must put my fingers where the nails went into his hands. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. Then I will believe.

**Storyteller:** A week later, Jesus' disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but suddenly Jesus was there.

**Jesus:** Peace be with you. Thomas, come here. See my hands. Put your fingers where the nails were. Put your hand into my side. Believe that I am here.

**Thomas:** Jesus, I do believe!



Jesus



Mary Magdalene



Thomas or Peter



John

Cut out the characters. Retell the Easter story in small groups.

## The Easter Candle Is a Sign of Jesus

Every Easter, a new candle is decorated and lit. This happens at the start of the Easter Vigil Mass. The priest traces the symbols on the candle and reads these prayers. **Read the prayers and do the actions the priest does.**

### Christ yesterday and today

(trace the vertical arm of the cross)

### the Beginning and the End

(trace the horizontal arm of the cross)

### the Alpha

(trace the letter above the cross)

### and the Omega

(trace the letter below the cross)

### All time belongs to him

(trace first number in the year)

### and all the ages

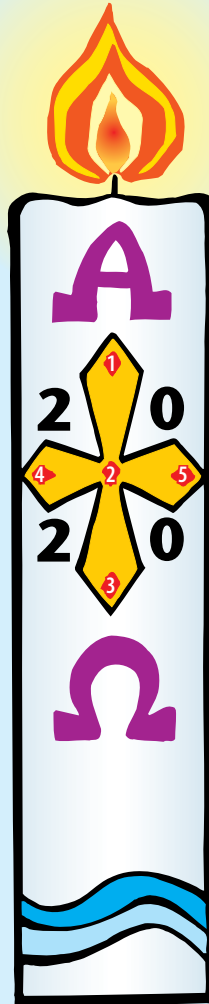
(trace second number)

### To him be glory and power

(trace third number)

### through every age and for ever. Amen.

(trace fourth number)



Then the priest puts five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross and says:

**By his holy** (1st grain)  
**and glorious wounds,** (2)  
**may Christ our Lord** (3)  
**guard us** (4)  
**and protect us. Amen.** (5)

The priest lights the candle from the new fire. The candle is carried into the dark church. The people light small candles from the flame of the Easter candle.

We light the Easter candle at every Mass and sacrament during the Easter season. It is also lit during Baptisms and funerals all year.



## Catholic Faith Word

**Easter** Easter is the day when the Church celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It is the high point of the Church Year.

➤ For **free** at-home activities, visit [@gospelweeklies.com/seasonal](https://gospelweeklies.com/seasonal)

### Family Corner

Scan here for parent resources. ➔



### Question of the Week

How do you share the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection with others?

### Family Prayer

Alleluia! We are filled with joy that Jesus has been raised from the dead. Help us, God, to share our joy with others. Amen.