

Homily Divine Mercy Sunday 2026

'God, never lets us down!'

I don't know about you, but The Artemis II space mission to the moon has gripped me. Four astronauts living together, of one mind and one heart and sharing everything in common, thanking and praising God for his creation. They appear so calm and relaxed even though at times hurtling through space at speeds of 24,000 miles an hour (translunar injection and re-entry to earth) Despite the passing of 57 years, since Neil Armstrong and then Buzz Aldrin set foot on lunar soil and the corresponding advances in technology, I was more nervous and even doubtful that our modern technology would deliver.

The Artemis II crew remind me of the Early Christian Community described in Acts 2, today's First Reading, St Luke writes, 'Awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done and all were together and had all things in common.' The awe and wonder of the earth far behind the astronauts and the moon in front of them are a sign of God's presence in our world today. Sometimes we can take the wonders of the universe and the beauty of God's creation for granted. However, don't the images being beamed back to earth from the Orion capsule and Integrity jolt us into acknowledging the beauty and mystery of the cosmos despite our planet's many problems.

St Peter in today's Second Reading acknowledges the trials and tribulations facing the world but reminds us, 'Through his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. In this you must rejoice..' In other words God in his divine mercy and majesty, despite the problems we face, will never let us down. The vast beauty of space reminds us of the power and majesty of God, his infinite mercy and unconditional love.

According to the Gospel of John today, Thomas is not present when Jesus appears to the despondent disciples on the day of the Resurrection. Thomas refuses to take the testimony of the other apostles; the evidence of a group transformed by The Holy Spirit; the miracles of Jesus and finally The Resurrection. Despite all this evidence Thomas doubted. It's only when Jesus appears again 8 days later and Thomas can put his fingers into the wounds on Jesus' hands and his hand in his pierced side that he falls on his knees and humbly cries out, ' My Lord and My God!'

We too have compelling evidence before us: humans made in 'the image and likeness of God, who have the God given intelligence enabling them to voyage to the moon; the wonders of God's love in Creation; the majesty of our vast beautiful universe; the 'diamond' earth in the sky seen by the crew of Artemis II from over a quarter of a million miles away and finally and crucially, the eye witness testimony of St John of Christ's Resurrection. We too, like Thomas, should fall on our knees and proclaim, 'My Lord and My God!' Jesus' reply to Thomas was 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Blessed are we then, if we accept the compelling evidence of God before us. How stunningly beautiful is that?