

**2nd of Easter
1st May 2011**

Year A

- **John 20:19- 29** is often cited as teaching about the nature of faith and doubt.
- Yet the details of the story tell us in story form about the nature of resurrection without using complex philosophical language, but we need to study the details to get this material
- Let's consider two details which tell us of the nature of the Risen Christ, and Resurrection
- First, John mentions twice that he appears in rooms where the door is locked.
- The repetition is significant.
- This tells us that resurrection is not "this body back again", but rather a kind of life which is set free from the usual boundaries and limits of this life.
- Second, the Risen Christ still bears the marks of this life in his Risen form (the marks of his suffering)
- What do these two points tell us?
- The first, the locked doors, remind us that God makes Himself present to us wherever we may find ourselves. We may try to hide from God, or others may try to separate us from Him, but the Risen Christ will overcome all such boundaries to be with us. This was an important statement to the first generations of Christians who might literally have been separated from God by imprisonment.
- Fr Chris Bullock reminded me (after the 9:00 am service) that this includes the boundaries of our hearts.
- The second reminds us of the importance of what we learn in this life- and that the new life in Christ does not mean that this is wiped out or deleted, but retained, transformed and healed.

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