

**Mount St. Mary's Seminary and Catholic Distance Learning Network  
Fall 2009**

**SCRIP 917: Book of Revelation: Exegetical Studies**  
Fr. Thomas Lane

Online class  
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**About Your Instructor**

Fr. Thomas Lane is a priest of Cloyne Diocese (County Cork), Ireland, and Assistant Professor in Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD. He was ordained a priest in 1990. He studied for his S.S.L. at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, 1989-1992, and for his S.T.D at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, 1992-1994. His doctoral dissertation on Luke-Acts, *Luke and the Gentile Mission: Gospel anticipates Acts* has been published by Peter Lang Press in the European University Studies Series. On completion of his studies in 1994 he returned to his diocese and served as parochial vicar in parishes until 2004 while also being responsible for adult religious education in his diocese. In this capacity Fr. Lane offered many lengthy Scripture courses in parishes throughout the diocese. Fr. Lane was adjunct Professor of Sacred Scripture in St. John's Seminary, Waterford, until its closure, and was also adjunct Professor at the Maryvale Institute, Birmingham, UK. In the Fall of 2004 Fr. Lane became Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture in Mount St. Mary's Seminary. He has taught four courses online for the Catholic Distance University and is excited to teach this course, his first online seminary course for Mount St. Mary's Seminary and the Catholic Distance Learning Network. In preparation for this, Fr. Lane graduated after an eight week course during the summer of 2008 as a certified online instructor by the NCEA.

**Course Description**

This two credit hour course is an exegetical reading of the Book of Revelation chapter by chapter in nine modules, reading the whole book from start to finish. The course will give some consideration to the four main interpretations of this book but devote most time to the spiritual interpretation (seeing the book relevant to Church today) and to the preterist interpretation (seeing the book fulfilled in the first century). The course is divided into nine modules, one module for each week. Each module commences on Wednesday a.m. and concludes on Tuesday p.m.

**Place in the M.Div./S.T.B./M.A. Curriculum**

This course contributes as an elective to the overall ordination/formation program and is not a requirement for the S.T.B. It may be selected as one of the elective courses required for the M.Div. program and the M.A. program. M.A. candidates may do a research project arising out of this course to fulfill part of the requirements of the M.A. program.

**Intended Audience**

The intended audience is seminarians who have already studied at least one full year of theology at the M.Div. level. Prior study of Biblical Greek would be an advantage but not essential. Prior study of Biblical Greek is essential for those taking this course for the M.A. program.

## **Required Texts**

### 1. Required Texts (abbreviated bibliographic information)

The Bible (Ignatius Press edition 2006, revised according to *Liturgiam Authenticam*)

Barber, Michael *Coming Soon: Unlocking the Book of Revelation and Applying Its Lessons Today* Steubenville, Emmaus Road Publishers, 2005.

Harrington, Wilfrid, J. *Revelation* (Sacra Pagina Series 16) Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1993.

Recommended Texts will be placed on Blackboard.

## **Course Goals**

1. Comprehend the main theological themes or key issues of Revelation.
2. Apply the Book of Revelation relevantly when preaching to a congregation.
3. Students will be confident in exegeting the Book of Revelation.
4. Students will become familiar with commentaries on the Book of Revelation and make a decision about suitable books to purchase for a Pastor's Bookshelf.

## **Course Objectives**

The seminarian will be able to:

1. demonstrate comprehension of the Book of Revelation in each module by identifying and explaining key issues or theological themes (either in the text of Revelation or the compulsory reading) chosen either by the student (posting submissions to the discussion of the theology of Book of Revelation in Blackboard) or by instructor (completing the online quizzes in certain modules).
2. demonstrate confidence applying the Book of Revelation when preaching to a congregation by posting brief weekly homily outlines in the homiletics discussion in Blackboard containing the following components:
  - a. Some situation or issue for parishioners needing to be addressed in the homily
  - b. The answer to this issue/situation in the theology of the Book of Revelation
  - c. Quotation(s) or reference(s) to specific verses of the Book of Revelation that can be utilized in part b above

## **Passwords**

Blackboard: username is your email address. Choose your own password after your initial login using the default password.

Turnitin.com upload information: class ID 2324973

password: 7seven7 (case sensitive)

## Grading Policy

This course follows the grading schema of Mount St. Mary's Grading Schema which is as follows:

Grade	Grade point	Grade range	Description
A	4.00	96-100	Exceptional performance
A-	3.67	93-95	Excellent work
B+	3.33	89-92	Very good work
B	3.00	83-88	Good work
B-	2.67	80-82	Acceptable work
C+	2.33	77-79	Below average for graduate work
C	2.00	74-76	Poor work for a graduate degree
C-	1.67	70-73	Deficient work for a graduate degree
F	0.00	Less than 70	Failure

## Assignments

This course has five kinds of assignment:

**1. Class participation:** critical thinking of the material being studied will accrue toward ones' class participation grade. More detailed information follows in the grading rubrics.

## 2. Online Weekly Discussion

Online weekly discussions must be posted by midnight PST each Tuesday, for example the posting for week 1 is due by midnight September 1 PST. The week for each module runs from Wednesday a.m. until Tuesday p.m. In most weeks you are expected to contribute to one online discussion. Postings should be the equivalent to one page double-spaced typed.

<b>Assessment rubric for Online Discussions (x 10 times for maximum of 1000 points)</b>				
Category	Failure to Deficient (Less than 77)	Below average to Acceptable (77-82)	Good to Very Good (83-92)	Excellent (93-100)
Posting	Does not post or is late	Posts but is marginal to the efforts of the class	Interacts freely in the group, often submitting a post that becomes central to a discussion	Consistently submitting creative reflections which prompt further discussion
Interpretation of text or issue under discussion	Fails to give reasons for interpretation of the text or decision on issue	Unclear connection between interpretation or conclusion and reasons given	Occasional lack of connection between interpretation or conclusion and reasons given	Always justifies interpretation of the text or conclusion with plausible reasons
Relevance of Posts and Assimilation of Assigned Reading	Does not show evidence of having read the assigned readings, posts are irrelevant and off-topic	Little evidence of having read the assigned reading, rarely offers further insight, is off-topic sometimes	Makes connections with the assigned readings and occasionally offers further insight	Strong evidence of having read the assigned reading and consistently offers further insight or gives evidence of additional reading
Grammar, style, spelling	Poor grammar and sloppy style, many spelling errors	Poor grammar, some spelling errors, careless style	Good readable text, but with some grammatical and spelling errors indicating no re-reading of the text before submission	Flawless grammar, excellent style and spelling

### 3. Homily Outline

Homily outlines must be posted by midnight PST each Tuesday, for example the posting for week 1 is due by midnight September 1. Postings should be the equivalent to one page double-spaced typed. Homily outlines should follow the guidelines given on page 2 (Second Course Objective).

<b>Assessment rubric for Homily outline (x 9 times for maximum of 900 points)</b>				
Category	Failure to Deficient (Less than 77)	Below average to Acceptable (77-82)	Good to Very Good (83-92)	Excellent (93-100)
Relevance	Does not raise or address any situation in the lives of parishioners.	Raises a situation/issue for parishioners but does not address it properly	Raises a situation/issue for parishioners and addresses it but not seriously	Extremely relevant to the needs of congregation by seriously addressing a situation/issue in their lives
Scripture Use	Did not quote or allude to relevant text of the Book of Revelation.	Referred to the Book of Revelation only in a general way	Alluded to the relevant text of the Book of Revelation	Quoted the relevant text of the Book of Revelation
Exegesis	Did not offer exegesis of the passage from the Book of Revelation	Poor attempt at offering exegesis of the passage	Good attempt at offering exegesis of the Book of Revelation	Offered excellent exegesis of the passage from the Book of Revelation
Coherence and thesis	Homily does not have one main message but wanders all over the place	Homily does have one main message but is poorly constructed	Homily has one main message but needs further refinement	Main message of homily very obvious; everything very relevant to the thesis of the homily
Grammar, style, spelling	Poor grammar and sloppy style, many spelling errors	Poor grammar, some spelling errors, careless style	Good readable text, but with some grammatical and spelling errors indicating no re-reading of the text before submission	Flawless grammar, excellent style and spelling

### 4. Online Quiz

This quiz takes place at the end of second week and should be completed by midnight PST.

<b>Assessment for online Quiz in Module 2 (for a maximum of 100 points)</b>
When you complete the quiz, up to a maximum of 100 points is automatically added to your online grade book on Blackboard.

## 5. Collaborative Project in Paired Groups

You will collaborate with a classmate to prepare a presentation which you will offer to all your classmates on the Book of Revelation. Pair up with a classmate online. There will be a maximum of two classmates in each group unless three are required in one group due to uneven number of classmates. Your finished “product” should be a presentation on various commentaries on the Book of Revelation. Choose commentaries that are in a well-known series. Briefly examine each, seeing the differences between each commentary. The purpose of this presentation is to become familiar with the different styles of commentary series so that can make a decision about gradually building up a small library of New Testament commentaries on various books of the New Testament. Possible commentary series that you may want to consider are the following: Sacra Pagina, Word Biblical Commentary, Anchor Bible, New International Greek Testament Commentary, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Interpretation Series, Baker Exegetical Commentary Series. Full bibliographic information on the relevant volume on the Book of Revelation can be found in the bibliography at the end of this syllabus. Please choose at least five commentaries to compare. When you present online *you will not be penalized for lack of technical expertise* so therefore although narrated PowerPoint accompanied by a class handout would be ideal you may opt for a PowerPoint with notes for each slide, or a simple Word document or PDF. After you pair up with a classmate by email you should collaborate with your classmate on this project in the Paired Groups section in Blackboard (one forum per pair of classmates). The deadline for submission of your online presentation is the end of November. If submitting Word or PDF please submit it first to turnitin.com using the class ID and password on page 2.

<b>Assessment Rubric for Collaborative Assignment (for a maximum of 500 points)</b>				
Category	Failure to Deficient (Less than 385)	Below average to Acceptable (385-414)	Good to Very Good (415-464)	Excellent (465-400)
Quality and organization of the Presentation	Did not present or was deficient	Poor effort	Good effort	Excellent presentation
Familiarity with different commentary styles	Unclear and deficient explanation of the different commentary styles	Poor explanation of different commentary styles	Good explanation of different commentary styles	Excellent explanation of different commentary styles
Ability to demonstrate which commentary series would be useful on a Pastor’s Bookshelf	Unable to demonstrate which commentary series would be useful on a Pastor’s Bookshelf	Only moderate ability to demonstrate which commentary series would be useful on a Pastor’s Bookshelf	Ability to demonstrate which commentary series would be useful on a Pastor’s Bookshelf	Excelling in ability to demonstrate which commentary series would be useful on a Pastor’s Bookshelf

Ability of the Presentation to arouse interest in a commentary series	Failed to arouse interest in a commentary series	Moderate at arousing interest in a commentary series	Good at arousing interest in a commentary series	Excellent in arousing interest in a commentary series
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**Important Dates;**

Week 7 (mid October) pair up with a classmate to begin collaboration.  
 Week 9 (early November) submit a précis on the issues of your presentation.  
 Before end of November post your project in Blackboard for sharing with the entire class.

## Computation of Your Course Grade

Your Grand Total (a possible maximum of 2500 points) is earned as follows:

10 online discussions @ 100 points per discussion for a maximum of 1000 points

9 Homily outlines @ 100 points per homily outline for a maximum of 900 points

1 online quiz for a maximum of 100 points

1 collaborative assignment for a maximum of 500 points

Your total will then be divided by 25 to compute your final grade to comply with the Mount St. Mary's Grading Schema which is as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade point</b>	<b>Grade range</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	4.00	96-100	Exceptional performance
A-	3.67	93-95	Excellent work
B+	3.33	89-92	Very good work
B	3.00	83-88	Good work
B-	2.67	80-82	Acceptable work
C+	2.33	77-79	Below average for graduate work
C	2.00	74-76	Poor work for a graduate degree
C-	1.67	70-73	Deficient work for a graduate degree
F	0.00	Less than 70	Failure

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1 - Module 1: Ice-Breaker, Introduction to Book of Revelation; Rev 1

#### Module Objectives

1. In the Weekly Discussion area on Blackboard post your opinions on the literary genre of the Book of Revelation or John's use of the Lord's Day in 1:10.
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed above:

Rev 1:1-4; 2:1-5

Rev 1:5-8

Rev 1:9-13, 17-19

Week 33 Year 2 Monday

Solemnity of Christ King Year B

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C

**Viewing:** Narrated Video in the Narrated Videos section of Blackboard.

**Reading:** Barber *Coming Soon* 1-28 on authorship, dating and introduction to the Book of Revelation.

Harrington *Revelation* 1-33 on authorship, dating and introduction to the Book of Revelation.

Barber *Coming Soon* 33-53 on Rev 1.

Harrington *Revelation* 43-53 on Rev 1.

#### Assignments:

1. Ice-breaker: Introduce yourself to your classmates in the Ice-breaker section on Blackboard (top left). Tell us about yourself, your family, your seminary, your hobbies, your vocation story. Upload a recent photograph. We want to form an online community over the course of the next nine weeks. Let's break the ice to begin forming this online community!
2. In the Weekly Discussion area on Blackboard post a submission outlining how you would explain one of the following:
  - a. the literary genre of the Book of Revelation
  - b. the Lord's Day in Rev 1:10
3. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed in page 2 (Second Course Objective):

Rev 1:1-4; 2:1-5

Rev 1:5-8

Rev 1:9-13, 17-19

Week 33 Year 2 Monday

Solemnity of Christ King Year B

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C

Feel free to offer feedback to each other and help improve each other's homily ideas by collaboration.



**Week 3 - Module 3: Vision of Heavenly Liturgy, Lamb, Scroll, Seven Seals Opened;  
Rev 4:1-8:1**

**Module Objectives**

1. Demonstrate comprehension by explaining the teaching John wants to convey in Rev 4:1-8:1 by posting a submission in the Weekly Discussion section in Blackboard.
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed above:

Rev 4:1-11	Week 33 Year 2 Wednesday
Rev 5:1-10	Week 33 Year 2 Thursday
Rev 5:11-14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 7:2-4, 9-14	Solemnity of All Saints
Rev 7:9, 14-17	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C

**Viewing:** Narrated Video in the Narrated Videos section of Blackboard.

**Reading:** Barber *Coming Soon* 81-119 on Rev 4:1-8:1.

Harrington *Revelation* 78-103 on Rev 4:1-8:1

**Assignments:**

1. In the Weekly Discussion area on Blackboard post a submission explaining what you think is the main teaching of John in Rev 4:1-8:1 and its significance for us now.
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed in page 2 (Second Course Objective):

Rev 4:1-11	Week 33 Year 2 Wednesday
Rev 5:1-10	Week 33 Year 2 Thursday
Rev 5:11-14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 7:2-4, 9-14	Solemnity of All Saints
Rev 7:9, 14-17	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C



## **Week 5 - Module 5: The Woman and the Dragon, the two beasts; Rev 11:19-14:20**

### **Module Objectives**

1. Demonstrate comprehension by explaining the significance of the following key issues or theological themes by posting a submission in the Weekly Discussion section in Blackboard on one of the following:
  - a. the teaching John wants to convey in this section of the Book of Revelation
  - b. Appropriateness of a Mariological interpretation of Rev 12.
  - c. Forty-two months; 1260 days; a time and times and half a time.
  - d. The number 666
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed above:

Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10	August 15 <sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady
Rev 14:1-3, 4b-5	Week 34 Year 2 Monday
Rev 14:13	Funeral Mass in Easter Season
Rev 14:14-19	Week 34 Year 2 Tuesday

**Viewing:** Narrated Video in the Narrated Videos section of Blackboard.

**Reading:** Barber *Coming Soon* 147-187 on Rev 11:19-14:20.

Harrington *Revelation* 128-157 on Rev 11:19-14:20

Readings posted on Blackboard on the Marian interpretation of Rev 12 and on the number 666.

### **Assignments:**

1. In the Weekly Discussion area on Blackboard post a submission explaining one of the following:
  - a. the teaching John wants to convey in this section of the Book of Revelation
  - b. Appropriateness of a Mariological interpretation of Rev 12.
  - c. Forty-two months; 1260 days; a time and times and half a time.
  - d. The number 666
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed in page 2 (Second Course Objective):

Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10	August 15 <sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady
Rev 14:1-3, 4b-5	Week 34 Year 2 Monday
Rev 14:13	Funeral Mass in Easter Season
Rev 14:14-19	Week 34 Year 2 Tuesday

Feel free to offer feedback to each other and help improve each other's homily ideas by collaboration.



## Week 7 - Module 7: Fall of Babylon, Beast's Defeat; Rev 17-19

### Module Objectives

1. Demonstrate comprehension by explaining the teaching John wants to convey in Rev 17-19 by posting a submission in the Weekly Discussion section in Blackboard. Include the following in your submission:
  - a. The Great Whore
  - b. Her beast
  - c. Fall of Babylon
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on the following lectionary reading ensuring that you include the necessary components listed above:  
Rev 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a      Week 34 Year 2 Thursday

**Viewing:** Narrated Video in the Narrated Videos section of Blackboard.

**Reading:** Barber *Coming Soon* 209-238 on Rev 17-19.

Harrington *Revelation* 170-195 on Rev 15-16

### Assignments:

1. In the Weekly Discussion area on Blackboard post a submission explaining what you think is the main teaching of John in Rev 17-19 and its significance for us now. Include explanations of the following in your post:
  - a. The Great Whore
  - b. Her beast
  - c. Fall of Babylon
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on the following lectionary reading ensuring that you include the necessary components listed in page 2 (Second Course Objective):  
Rev 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a      Week 34 Year 2 Thursday  
Feel free to offer feedback to each other and help improve each other's homily ideas by collaboration.
3. Begin collaborative work with a classmate to prepare a presentation which you will offer to your classmates on commentaries on the Book of Revelation. See page 6.

## Week 8 - Module 8: The Millennium; Rev 20

### Module Objectives

1. Demonstrate comprehension by explaining the teaching John wants to convey in Rev 20 by posting a submission in the Weekly Discussion section in Blackboard. Include in your submission an explanation of the three main interpretations of Rev 20.
2. Explain your reasons for your opinion on authorship and dating.
3. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed above:

Rev 20:1-4, 11-21:2

Week 34 Year 2 Friday

Rev 20:11-21:1

Funeral Mass in Easter Season

**Viewing:** Narrated Video in the Narrated Videos section of Blackboard.

**Reading:** Barber *Coming Soon* 243-253 on Rev 20.

Harrington *Revelation* 195-206 on Rev 20

Readings on Blackboard.

### Assignments:

1. In the Weekly Discussion area on Blackboard post a submission explaining what you think is the main teaching of John in Rev 20 and its significance for us now. Include in your submission an explanation of the three main interpretations of Rev 20.
2. In a separate section in Weekly Discussion area on Blackboard post a submission explaining your ideas on the authorship and dating of the Book of Revelation.
3. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed in page 2 (Second Course Objective):

Rev 20:1-4, 11-21:2

Week 34 Year 2 Friday

Rev 20:11-21:1

Funeral Mass in Easter Season

Feel free to offer feedback to each other and help improve each other's homily ideas by collaboration.

## **Week 9 - Module 9: New Heaven and New Earth, New Jerusalem, Epilogue; Rev 21-22**

### **Module Objectives**

1. Demonstrate comprehension by explaining the teaching John wants to convey in John 21-22 by posting a submission in the Weekly Discussion section in Blackboard.
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed above:

Rev 21:1-5	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 21:1-5a, 6b-7	Funeral Mass in Easter Season
Rev 21:10-14, 22-23	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 22:1-7	Week 34 Year 2 Saturday
Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
3. Share initial thoughts on your project on commentaries on the Book of Revelation with your classmates.

**Viewing:** Narrated Video in the Narrated Videos section of Blackboard.

**Reading:** Barber *Coming Soon* 257-287 on Rev 21-22.

Harrington *Revelation* 206-235 on Rev 21-22

### **Assignments:**

1. In the Weekly Discussion area on Blackboard post a submission explaining what you think is the main teaching of John in Rev 21-22 and its significance for us now.
2. Post a brief homily outline in the Homily Outlines section in Blackboard on one of the following lectionary readings ensuring that you include the necessary components listed in page 2 (Second Course Objective):

Rev 21:1-5	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 21:1-5a, 6b-7	Funeral Mass in Easter Season
Rev 21:10-14, 22-23	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 22:1-7	Week 34 Year 2 Saturday
Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C

Feel free to offer feedback to each other and help improve each other's homily ideas by collaboration.
3. submit a précis on the issues of your collaborative project. See page 6.

## **BOOK OF REVELATION IN THE LECTIONARY**

Rev 1:1-4; 2:1-5	Week 33 Year 2 Monday
Rev 1:5-8	Solemnity of Christ King Year B
Rev 1:9-13, 17-19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 3:1-6, 14-22	Week 33 Year 2 Tuesday
Rev 4:1-11	Week 33 Year 2 Wednesday
Rev 5:1-10	Week 33 Year 2 Thursday
Rev 5:11-14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 7:2-4, 9-14	Solemnity of All Saints
Rev 7:9, 14-17	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 10:8-11	Week 33 Year 2 Friday
Rev 11:4-12	Week 33 Year 2 Saturday
Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10	August 15 <sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady
Rev 14:1-3, 4b-5	Week 34 Year 2 Monday
Rev 14:14-19	Week 34 Year 2 Tuesday
Rev 15:1-4	Week 34 Year 2 Wednesday
Rev 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a	Week 34 Year 2 Thursday
Rev 20:1-4, 11-12:2	Week 34 Year 2 Friday
Rev 21:1-5	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 21:10-14, 22-23	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C
Rev 22:1-7	Week 34 Year 2 Saturday
Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C

### Select Bibliography

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