My Dear Parishioners,

How wonderful it was to be able to celebrate Easter this year in our Church. I was moved by the response of the congregation on Good Friday during the reading of the Passion of Christ, when they responded to the parts of the Passion. It was over twelve months since we have had so many in our Church.

Hopefully as you celebrated Easter Sunday with you family or friends you were able to enjoy the delightful autumn day and appreciate how fortunate we are to live in this wonderful land of Australia. Similarly the love of God for us was expressed in the love you shared with each other over the days of Easter.

In the Gospel for this Sunday we hear of Jesus appearing with his friends when they were not expecting him to do so, and were filled with joy. Are we not filled with joy when someone who is special to us comes to visit? We see this in the response of children when, for example a grandparent or close relative comes to visit.

Contained within this is also a special message for us. Jesus brings ‘peace’ to those he visited, as hopefully we do so also. As well we hear Jesus offering us an important message:

*The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him:*

*‘You believe because you can see me.*

*Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’*

Not only does Jesus offer peace, he reminds us in those final words to Thomas:

*‘Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’*

Yes there is for each one of us like Thomas, a time to say ‘My Lord and my God’. I remember so clearly when I was in Year 2 and preparing for my First Holy Communion, Sr Coleman teaching us to say, ‘My Lord and my God’, when we receive Holy Communion. Yes an act of faith and belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ in that host. When I was ordained I started to say those words as I elevated the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ after the words of Consecration, as my act of faith in the gift of our God to each one of us.

Another thought is expressed in the Psalm for this Sunday which is so relevant today as it was thousands of years ago:

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.*

*The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.*

*This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.*

*This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.*

Yes may we all give thanks for the gift of life we have been given and may we offer a prayer of thanks for this special gift and our capacity to bring peace into our families and the lives of those we meet along the way.

Please know that each time I celebrate Mass you are in my prayers.

The Mass links for the 2nd Sunday of Easter are:

Saturday 6.00 pm:  <https://forms.gle/NPH2MxDWdpQY4Q8x9>

Sunday 8.30 am:   <https://forms.gle/t3msn4DRuynGd1Cs5>

Sunday 10.30 am:  <https://forms.gle/8zneVbe642Kg5Ys96>

Attached also are the Scripture readings and children’s worksheets.

May the risen Lord bring you his peace and love,

Peter