



Sunday 7th April 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

Parish Pastoral Associates: Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088

Parish: 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening
Mass

Parish School Principal

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**
principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Gina Murphy **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**
principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au

St. Thomas the Apostle

251 Diamond Creek Road,
Greensborough Nth 3088

Parish: 9434 7373

Email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

Secretary: Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

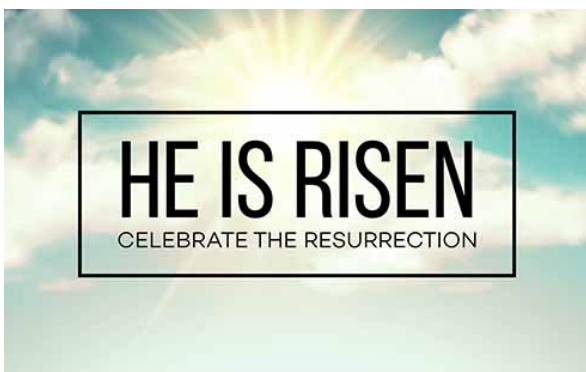
Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Jo Nolen **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

Please send any bulletin contributions to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:

CHRIST, OUR HOPE, IS RISEN! ALLELUIA

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.

(Divine Mercy Sunday – 7 April 2024) Year B.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/easter-sunday-second-sunday-year-b-2024>

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au

St Mary's Facebook page

facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/



Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH COMMUNION (SUNDAYS) &
LITURGY OF THE WORD WITHOUT COMMUNION (WEEKDAYS)**

With now only two priests across our three parishes there may be occasions when the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word will have to replace Mass. For **Sundays and Saturday evenings** there is normally a supply priest engaged to replace one or the other of us when either is on vacation. However, it may happen that a supply priest fails to turn up for a variety of reasons. On these occasions a trained member of the parish will lead a **Liturgy of the Word with communion** being distributed as part of the ceremony. On **weekdays**, when one or other of us is away on vacation, there will be the celebration of the **Liturgy of the Word without communion** being distributed.

Some have asked why there is no distribution of communion at weekday celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, when at the end of the ceremony, some ministers of communion to the sick may well take hosts from the tabernacle to distribute communion to parishioners in their homes and Aged Accommodation places. We have also had people saying that if we did have Communion at these celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, they might come to these celebrations. I would like to outline some important theological and liturgical principles about the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word when a priest is not available to celebrate Mass.

A Communion service can never substitute for Mass. If there is no Mass that can be reasonably attended by the faithful, then there is no Mass obligation. In the absence of Mass, the community is invited by the Church to pray the Liturgy of the Word or the Liturgy of the Hours. This is led by a member of the parish trained to lead these celebrations, who will also possibly read a reflection on the readings to assist those who gather to contemplate them more deeply. It is possible that the leader of these celebrations may open it to others who are gathered, to share some personal faith reflections on the readings. It is important that if this is done, it is not to be used as an opportunity by any of those who gather for prayer to engage in theological debates, but as opportunities for faith sharing.

Although the Church does foresee a Liturgy of the Word with Communion (i.e., a Communion service) as a possibility on a Sunday, the Church asks that such liturgies be rarely permitted on weekdays. The Church sees Communion services during the week when there is no priest as an extraordinary exception rather than the norm. The 2003 Vatican Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, in considering the integral nature of Communion to the Celebration of the Eucharist (Mass), states: *"It is necessary to avoid any sort of confusion between this type of gathering [i.e. a Sunday Celebration of the Word with Holy Communion] and the celebration of the Eucharist. The diocesan Bishops, therefore, should prudently discern whether Holy Communion ought to be distributed in these gatherings..."* [165.]

Even on Sundays, the Code of Canon Law recommends a simple Liturgy of the Word rather than a Communion service: *"If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church or other sacred place according to the prescripts of the diocesan bishop or that they devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family, or, as the occasion permits, in groups of families".* (canon 1248 §2)

We see here how important it is to protect our understanding of the centrality of the Celebration of the Eucharist. Imagine how easy it would be for people to encourage a distorted understanding of Eucharist if we are to introduce the reception of Communion outside of Mass as a norm. *"Likewise, especially if Holy Communion is distributed during such celebrations [i.e. Sunday Celebrations of the Word], the diocesan Bishop, to whose exclusive competence this matter pertains, must not easily grant permission for such celebrations to be held on weekdays, especially in places where it was possible or would be possible to have the celebration of Mass on the preceding or the following Sunday. Priests are therefore earnestly requested to celebrate Mass daily for the people in one of the churches entrusted to their care."* [166.]

To reinforce the centrality of Eucharist and the Sunday Celebration; the Lord's Day as the principle celebration for the community, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Guidelines stress the importance of only having Communion with Celebrations of Liturgy of the Word in the Absence of a Priest, on a Sunday and only when necessary. Sunday, or its vigil, is the day on which the community of faith gathers. Weekday Masses are the privilege we have because we still have enough priests. That has not always been the case, especially in generations past in Australia and it is certainly still the case in many countries. We don't have a *right* to the Eucharist. It is a gift. We come to the Eucharist in humility, to remember, to give thanks, to become the body of Christ and to be sent into the world with God's mission.

Finally, it is foreseen that at the end of the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, ministers of communion to the sick may take hosts from the tabernacle to distribute them to the sick and elderly who cannot participate in the liturgy in the church. The purpose of the tabernacle is primarily for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament for devotion and prayer in the church, but equally important is that the reserved Blessed Sacrament be available for distribution of communion to the sick and elderly at any time.

It is the commitment of the priests of the parish to celebrate the Mass on most weekdays, however that is not always possible. When a priest is not available, the community is asked to gather to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word without distribution of communion. Please come and join those who gather for our celebrations of Liturgy of the Word. Truly, Christ is present in his Word when we gather in prayer.

Fr. Steven Rigo (Parish Priest)

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS



Friday 3 May @ 7pm

Sacred Heart Parish Hall

📍 25 GIPSON STREET, DIAMOND CREEK

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN

ENJOY A TWO-COURSE MEAL AND AN EVENING OUT WITH FRIENDS
AND OUR INSPIRATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER **LINDA PETROVSKI**

World Transplant Games Gold Medalist & Owner of Infinity 360 Health & Fitness, Diamond Creek, Linda's empowering story is one of resilience and gratitude as a kidney donor recipient and Fit for Life Ambassador for Transplant Australia.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE MOTIVATED AND UPLIFTED!

👥 INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP BOOKINGS (MAX 10 PER TABLE) WELCOME

💰 \$35 PER HEAD

🔗 www.trybooking.com/CQICQ



🎁 RAFFLE DONATIONS AND OFFERS OF HELP ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

☎ Direct Bookings & Enquiries

PATRICIA 0418 992 488 OR TONINA 0419 154 524



JAMES **Discerning**

ZOOM course

7 Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm

April 23, 30

May 7, 14, 21, 28

June 4



The objective of the "James" course is to take a journey through the Letter of James, learning how to discern our own lives in the light of the Word of God.

It is not a comprehensive course on discernment, but rather an introduction, with some criteria in approaching the art of discerning.

Book before April 22 at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CQKNK>

Booking fee \$35, Concession \$25,

Overseas participant code: OVASEA



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



Diamond Creek

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: we pray for Dahlia, Fiadh, Kaia, Lianah and Lenny and who will be welcomed into our community in April.

THANKSGIVING CREDIT CARD DONORS: The Archdiocese recently advised the parish that we have a large number of consistently declined credit card transactions. The affected cards are mostly due to banks blocking cards because of unusual transaction activity. Please contact the Parish Office if you have a new card number, or if you would like to discuss details.

DIAMOND CREEK CARE COMMUNITY: Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join the Communion Roster for DCCC, Broad Gully Road Diamond Creek. We visit at 10.30am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Thank you

WOMEN'S DINNER: THANK YOU to those who have already booked and paid. Friday 3rd May @7pm in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Please see attached flyer.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: during 9am mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of school terms for children from preschool to grade 3. Volunteer leaders are welcome. Working with children card and safeguarding training is mandatory. Training provided. For information call Jasna Bruce 0403827350.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting Thursday 11th April. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 17th April 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.
Wednesday 1st May 12pm Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

HALL HIRE: Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or alisonpieper52@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 9th April B. & P. O'Regan

Sunday 14th April Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: B. Flynn

Commentator: A. Dsouza

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Beeby, G. Beeby

Next Mass at St Peter's Saturday 4th May 7.15pm

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.

Recently deceased: Frank Walsh (Funeral at Sacred Heart 11am Friday 12th April), Betty Luttick

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of April that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: *Frank Laffy, Gino Ongarello, Karen Ongarello, Frank Nihill, Grace Leonard, Freda Kennedy, Alan Ridsdale, Jane Coyle, Elaine Chapman.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

Vision Statement "To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world"



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 12.00pm-4pm.*

SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au or greensborough@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS: It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Weekend 20th/21st April in the gathering space after Masses. Many plants available.

Enquiries Phil/Judy Newell 9435 4506

Next meeting Wednesday 17th April at 10.15am in the gathering space. Enquiries: Maureen 9435

MASS OF ANOINTING: A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 30th May, followed by a light lunch.

For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.

SACRISTANS URGENTLY NEEDED to set up the altar, offertory gifts and church before Mass and pack up after Mass. A number of our Sacristans are currently unavailable, and others are often attending two Masses each week to provide this service for our priests and our parish. If you can help, please contact Marian mariantacey@optusnet.com.au

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS: Because of a copyright issue affecting all parishes we can no longer embed music into our slides on the data projector (until further notice). So you will notice that at some of our Masses there will be no music at all. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers who can play an instrument together with anyone who could lead the congregation in song at the 8am Mass or two Sundays at the 10am Mass. Please contact Megan via email mamitchem@gmail.com for further information.

HOLY ROSARY is recited every Thursday morning after 9.15am Mass.

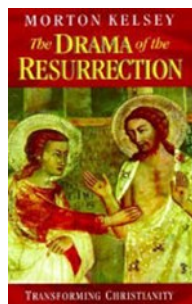
THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

Len Bainbridge's Birthday

"Len Bainbridge turns 99 on April 13th. Len and his family have been pioneering parishioners, having moved into the parish in 1959. It is here that he and Noani raised 12 children. For over 20 years he has been responsible for organising the counting teams and liaised with the Finance committee and the Parish office. He is also one of the founding members of the Library committee. We are indebted for his valuable contribution to the life and vitality of our parish community and congratulate him on his anniversary of birth and pray that God continues to bless him with good health and peace in the coming years."

There will be a morning tea after the 9.15am Mass on Friday the 12th of April.

Be informed, inspired and entertained



This week the book display at the Library includes some books about the Resurrection as well as other books and DVDs about the life of Jesus.

Look for other books about Jesus' life and teachings on the shelf at 232 ... or search the online catalogue for **Jesus Christ** in Subject in the Folders tab at: cloud.collectorz.com/247780



St Mary's Parish Library

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptisms:

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr

Recently Deceased: Betty Luttick

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Mrs. Gilligan, Tom Kilmartin, Rose Gomes, Florence Williams, Jean Miles, Ashley O'Leary, Robert Ward, W & M Wycherley, Vicki Nihill, Mary Lane, John McCaig, Laurie May, R. Burns, Rosina Chiodo, Audray Sykes, Luke Nolan, Gregoio Colaci, Rosa Chiodo, Alesandro Cabacungan, Ray Trembath, John Hardy (Senior), Coral Rutter, Hugh Clark, Leopoldine Schuster, Janice Crockford, Jim McKay, John Malone, Gisele Lepierre, Pope John Paul II, Carmillo Rech, Maurice Kelly, Antonio Silipo, Amy Phillips, Vic Ormes, Anna Maria Comito, Shirley Douglas, Jessie Tellis, Joe Poireas, Gil Lundberg, Arthur Lee, Donna Hagan, Elizabeth Kavenagh, John Walshe, Anna-Maria Comito, Catalina Neri, Sixto Maceda, Jr, Colleen Singleton, Ossie Dwyer, Erzsebet Varga, Fr. Des Byrne, John Toohey, Ernest Leahy, Lorna Sivies, John Dickinson, Fr John Hamilton Smith SJ, Fr. Jim Kierce, Lucy Beard, Josephine Silvapulle, Kath Darby, Martin Brennan, Margaret Duncan, Jack Fregon, Joseph Micallef

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

TOGETHER COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION: at St John's Anglican Church Diamond Creek 19th – 28th April at 12 noon until 4pm.

TOGETHER 2024 is inviting local artists to display their work in the welcoming space of St John's.

All mediums welcome. Art has the power to transcend words, fostering connections that go beyond the ordinary.

TOGETHER aims to be a space where community members connect, resonate, and find common ground through the language of art.

Free Entry. www.stjohnsdc.org.au/together

AUDIO DIVINA: Audio-divina is a form of prayer, what you might call "sacred listening." It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. TheRightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, and Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/>

The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

HEART OF LIFE: Meditation and Mindfulness

Join Rowland Ashby, author of A Faith to Live By: Conversations about faith with twenty-five of the world's leading spiritual teachers (Anglican Media/Mosaic Press 2012) and former Director of Anglican Media Melbourne and editor of The Melbourne Anglican as he leads this special meditation series at Heart of Life in Croydon this Autumn. This practice can be profoundly healing and life-giving. Starting on 8 April and running for 8 weeks, you can tap into a deep spring of love, joy, peace and compassion at the centre of our being. Jesus called it Living Water, with which we will never thirst. Cultivate a transforming, healing awareness of the Divine presence, and learn how to mediate.

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/meditation-mindfulness-in-the-christian-tradition/>

Walking the Land in Autumn

This experience on 6 April is an opportunity to walk the land along the Darebin Creek and parklands in Alphington, enjoying their wonder in autumn and being enriched by the spirituality of the earth. The day will invite you into a deeper sense of connection to the abiding mystery of the land to which we belong. The process of the day will include personal reflection and creative time. Cost of \$60 includes journaling and art material. (BYO Lunch)

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/walking-the-land-in-autumn/>

Meaning-making Awareness & Reflection

This reflective event on 20 April, offers a sacred space to reflect upon your life using a tree as a metaphor. Between 10 am – 2 pm, join our facilitator Nicole, a counsellor trained in Narrative Therapy to walk with you through this contemplative space.

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/meaning-making-awareness-reflection/>

Or email info@heartoflife.melbourne

Learn more about Heart of Life: www.heartoflife.melbourne

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm*

Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's**)

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: Please keep in your prayers Olivia, Jude and Harvey who are being baptised later this month.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS St Thomas PPC. StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au

Roster for Weekend 13th & 14th April

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: J. Bohan

Commentator: T. Holland

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Leahy, S. Bishop

Set Up: Volunteer

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Bosco

Commentator: S. Millar

Eucharistic Ministers: C. O'Brien, A. Kerr

Set Up: S. Dossa

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle.

Please contact Lisa or Tim at: stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.



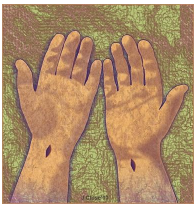
St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

We pray for those who have died recently including Andelko Korculanin Antun Kolar and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of April that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Mary Cho Nguyen, Prisca Rosario, Osvaldo Porcaro, Lina Betuna, Margaret Mc Carthy, Dino Bianchin, Bill Schultz, Brian Brown, Alessandro Sacchetta, Reg Cummins, Pat Hart, Iris Hartley, Joy Joseph, Roy Kilkenny, Anastasis Rendina, Sylvester Ellul, Rod Nettleton, Kathleen Jordan, Maria de Bartolo, Elaine Chapman, Shirley Bourke, Maria del Popolo, Rosa Alvaro, Dragan Zilic, Kaye Dixon, Therese Micallef



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close When Jesus appears to the disciples, in the reading from John, he meets them where they are – in material reality. The experience of the divine is mediated through the familiar things of this world: Jesus shows them the marks of crucifixion on his body and he breathes the Holy Spirit into them. This is a sensual experience. Thomas, however, is being too concrete and at first he refuses to move beyond the sensual so Jesus allows him a visual and tactile experience, but a leap of intuitive faith is expected of Thomas in the end.

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

7 April 2024

First Reading Acts 4:32-35

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

or

(R.) Alleluia.

- Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
- The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the
Lord,
but not doomed to die. (R.)
- 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. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Jn 5:1-6

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

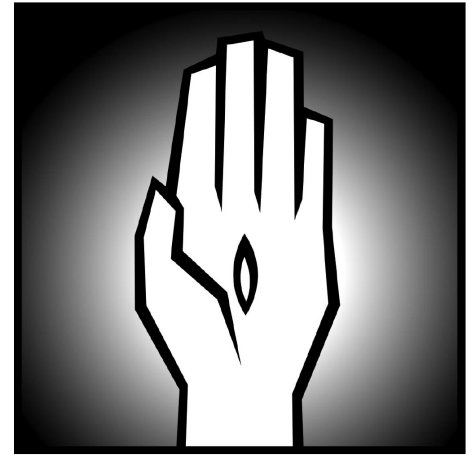
In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'
After saying this he breathed on them and said:
'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. 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.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The true believers in the Risen Christ kept Thomas the Doubter within their circle, rather than expelling him. This gave him a further opportunity to experience the very Real Presence of the Risen Lord and his gift of peace. Companionable patience is our best response to those struggling with belief in even fundamental tenets of the faith.

Thomas saw that the wounds of Christ were still present, not obliterated. Does this suggest that our redeemed bodies will bear the marks of the wounds unjustly inflicted on us? However, they will not be disabling to our personality because they will be incorporated into the resurrection life of Christ. Incredibly, our self-inflicted wounds, i.e. our sins, will be obliterated in the mercy of God.

Pope Francis emphasises that it was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: 'My Lord and my God'. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith.

We could take a moment to pray for the strength to touch the wounds of Christ in others, 'the least'. And we could pray that, wounded as we may be by the vagaries and injustices of life, we may be liberated from their evil effects as the Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own.

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the **Lectionary for the Mass** ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, ©1983 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the **Jerusalem Bible**, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.