

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OF DIVINE MERCY) / C

24 APRIL 2022

MY LORD AND MY GOD. St Thomas was a great apostle who is believed to have preached the Good News as far afield as India. Later, he was martyred for his faith. May the risen Christ come to us, as he came to Thomas, and strengthen our faith. May we in turn express our faith by being ambassadors of mercy and reconciliation.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON ——— 1 Pet 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in

what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v. 1

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

1. 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.**

2. The stone which the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone. / 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.**

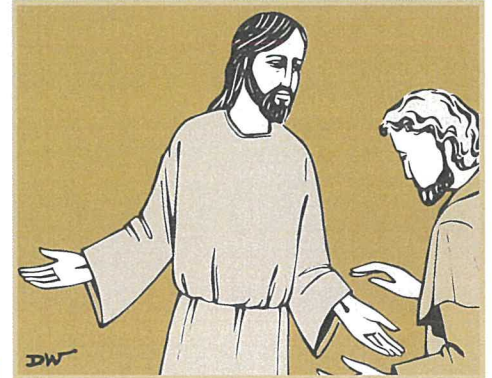
3. O Lord, grant us salvation / O Lord grant success. / Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. / We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light. **R.**

SECOND READING

Apoc 1:9-13,17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever. My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure.



I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 20:29

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

GOSPEL

Jn 20:19-31

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and those you have brought to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OF EASTER

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may

have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia!

R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

FAITH BRINGS PEACE

The journey of faith is one that has many moments and stages. At times all goes well, as in Acts, and we can rejoice in the fruitful results of our efforts. There can be other times when, like Thomas, we wrestle with doubt and unbelief. In the face of difficulties, we can run the risk of losing heart, like the Christians of Ephesus, and sorely need encouragement. Today's readings are particularly consoling because they show us that the life of faith has always been a journey with many such moments. Many people of faith feel that it would have been different in the early Church, that somehow they had more faith, vision, courage, and understanding. We can often be unduly hard on ourselves and perhaps overly idealistic about life in the early days of the Church.

It is always worth asking why the earliest Christians wrote as they did. If John's community had not had its moments of questioning, the episode of Thomas the apostle would probably not have been written down. If the Christian communities around Ephesus had not been discouraged and fearful in the face of persecution and opposition, it would not have been necessary to write the book of the Apocalypse. They needed to be reminded that the Risen One who holds the key to life and death, was walking among them still. Even the bright picture painted in Acts was probably written with a view to encouraging the Christians of Luke's time.

The Risen One walks amongst us still. Mindful of our journey of faith, he calls us to faith and to know his peace.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S—DONCASTER

Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

Email: Doncaster@cam.org.au

Follow us on: @StGregsDonny

www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster

Website: www.stgregs.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Parish Secretary: Mon & Tue :Nadia Bolzonello

Wed-Fri: Vera Arief

Mon: Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Anzac Day Mass Monday 9am

Friday: 9:00 am

MASS OPEN TO ALL; MASKS / DISTANCING BE SENSIBLE & CARING / ALWAYS SANITISE;

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27–32, 40–41; Apo 5:11–14; Jh 21:1–19

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9am

BAPTISMS: Please ring the Parish Office for future bookings

ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY

SCHOOL: Principal: Michelle Verna

Tel: (03) 9848 4483

Email: principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Contact Margaret O'Donnell at DoncasterRE@cam.org.au

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP: has restarted!

Wednesdays at 9.45 am in the church meeting room.

Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384.

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: (on hold)

First Friday of the month from 7pm-9pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: (has restarted)

Hopefully monthly on a Friday from 7pm—9.30pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: Third Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Church meeting room

ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB: Membership enquiries:

Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

Please pray for:

Those who are **sick** at this time including Chee Choong Seng, Chee Mee Lian, Chianna Sacco, Roy Dos Santos, Judith Morton, Lilia Go, Theresa Yong, Maria Stone, Eliseo Pardillo, Siat Lin, Iris Henson Chan, Vincent Aloï, Margaret Dobran, Andrew Wilson, Fr Matthew Abraham CSsR, Wang Wei Qiao, Paul Materazzo, Ian Angus, Bernadette Sheridon, Eliasari, Dennis Clarke, Veronica, Maria, Veronica, Luz, Carolina, Andrea, Marisa, Rodolfo, Angel, Gustavo, Margaret Hansen, Fati, Patricia McLeod, Angelique Giacomini

And Those who died recently and for the repose of the souls of **Elena Toh**, and all those whose anniversaries occur at about this time.

Words from Fr Charles:

200, 80, 450, 400, 250, 450, 80!!!

Wow!!! Those were my estimates of attendance at the various celebrations of the three days of the Easter services (Last Supper, Stations of the Cross, The Passion, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday three Masses).

That means that about 1180 people participated in the celebration of the Resurrection on Saturday night or Sunday. Wow!!! I am impressed!!

I don't think the numbers are up to the level of attendance prior to Covid-19 but they are way up on recent attendance which would be about half that. Again, I am impressed!

Impressed because amidst all the uncertainties of today's life Jesus Christ comes first for you as he does for me.

There were some highlights beyond your presence and participation.

The twelve children who had their feet washed at the Last Supper Mass on Thursday: their willingness to be there, their attentiveness and involvement, their readiness to admit their nervousness and their sense of unworthiness of having 'Father' wash their feet (I wore gloves and poured water, they dried their own feet). I think, well I hope, they will remember that as Jesus moment.

The clarity and strength of proclamation of the Passion of Our Lord on Good Friday. We proclaimed in six parts. And everyone proclaimed strongly: the Passion came from their hearts.

The Vigil Mass where the church was (largely) lit only by the Paschal candle and all the small candles: 450 small candles makes for a lot of light!

The strength of affirmation of baptismal promises: this was true at the Vigil but even more within the relative the simplicity of the Sunday Masses. A real sense that when you said "I Do" to the Baptismal promises that "I Do" came from deep within—was truly a spiritual, physical, mental, emotional commitment.

I know you were enlivened because I heard it in your voices and saw it in your attitude of reverence and your smiles and felt it in your wishes after Mass. Please, take a moment to savour this Easter event: the remember it, store it away as under "special moments" and then work to keep the enthusiasm so that it can transform your smile and the way you welcome others each and every day.

Jesus Christ IS ALIVE! And we are his touch in the world. If we can seek to be observant of the work of Jesus in our lives then that knowledge of his personal intervention for us can help us to be intentional in how we engage with others: our families, our siblings, our friends, our enemies, those we serve, those who serve us.

JESUS IS ALIVE!!! ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!!!

PS: As we come further and further out of Covid-19 restrictions this past Friday it looks as though we will have no requirements for vaccination checking: so we will resume community events and tea/coffee after Mass as soon as practicable.

God bless, Father Charles

St Gregory's is committed to growing a Child Safety Culture with Love

THIS WEEK

Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 8.30am
 Sun 10.30am
 5.00pm

LECTORS

Noel McClelland, Catherine McClelland
 Tony Nimmo, Margaret Wallace
 Jenny Tyedin, Brian Tyedin
 Margaret Wheatley, Benedicta Wong

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Lorna Philip, Moira White
 Katica Puhaj, Brian Setter
 Pierre Tanzimat, Tony Ting
 Margaret O'Donnell, Nita Pereira
 Viviana Pereira, Francis Yim (Ctrs)

CARE OF THE CHURCH: (22Apr) Carole Tang, Clelia Tedesco**FLOWERS:** (Fri 22 Apr) Geraldina Donato**NEXT WEEK 30Apr-1 May LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Ashley Ng, Ashton Ng
 Sun 8.30am Queenie Wood, Amanda Chong
 Sun 10.30am Tony Ting, Paola Villanueva
 5.00pm Francis Yim

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Peter Whiting, Sharon Wilkinson
 Margaret Wallace, Joan Dinneen
 Maggie Yong, Sauro Antonelli
 Caterina Gioffre, Tina Paolino
 Sardana Family (Ctrs)

CARE OF THE CHURCH Dinah Sardana, Yvonne Tan**FLOWERS:** (Fri 29 Apr) Geraldina Donato**FACE COVERINGS / DISTANCING: be sensible and respect others and the need for still being careful.**

Morning Masses this week: No Mass on Wednesday 9am (Fr Charles will be at the St Greg's school staff retreat).
 There will be Mass on Anzac Day at 9am at St. Gregory's, Doncaster. It is good to come to pray in thanksgiving for all who have served to protect us in time of war and those who have been deployed in peacekeeping and community building roles here and overseas. We remember in prayer those whose lives have been lost and those whose lives were changed by their experience.

Masses with congregations: QR Code check-in is no longer required. Still we must hand sanitise. Parish staff & volunteers within the Parish setting and its outreach are still required to be up to date with their vaccination.

Facebook: It is getting more difficult to live-stream as we have many Masses where children are a direct part of the celebration of the Mass. I will continue to live-stream when possible (9:15 am from St Kevin's Tu/Th; Sunday morning 10:00 St Kevin's or 10:30 St Gregory's).

Invite a friend: Invite someone you know who is wondering about coming back to Mass. Invite someone you know who is toying with the idea of faith. Spend a little time with them, see if you can help – not forcing but offering to journey with them.

ALPHA AT ST PIUS X

Free 8 week course -
 Wednesday's 27th Apr 15th Jun 22
 St Pius X hall @ 7.00pm.



Alpha is a course for those seeking to find out more about CHRISTIANITY, THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY COME TO FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST and THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING A RENEWAL OF THEIR FAITH. Call 94575794 or email stpiousvic@bigpond.com to register your interest.



Easter Offering Envelopes: are in the Stewardship sets or on the pews or the tables in the Church foyer. In addition to your regular giving, the Easter offering directly supports the clergy as follows: 5% to the Archbishop, 12.5% to support priests in poorer parishes, 12.5% to support the retired and sick priests, the remainder supports the lease and running expenses of the priest's car, plus the running and hospitality of the presbytery and your parish priest, who thanks you very much.

Meditation on Jesus For Healing and Wellbeing of Body & Soul

(Through gentle postures and breathing exercises)

John 15:4; "Abide in me and I in you".

Saturday 30th April, 2022, From 11am – 4pm.

Guided by Fr. Gilbert Carlo SVD, At: Janssen Spirituality Centre, 22 Woodvale Road, Boronia, Victoria 3155.

RSVP Tel: 03 9762 6625 or

Email: enquiries@janssencentre.org or gilbertcarlo@gmail.com

Welcome to the families of **Lucas Jacob Barrera** who will be baptised at St Gregory's Church this Sunday



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Project Compassion during Lent through the envelopes or with credit cards. Those of you who have Project Compassion boxes, we ask you to change the coins into notes and to put them in the two big boxes in the foyer. Thank you very much for supporting the people in the various developing countries.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School - Open Days In 2022

Tue 3rd May, Tue 17th May & Tue 8th Nov from 9am—1pm. Register at www.sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au/events

Parish Facilities: The Tennis Club Room and Courts and the Hall and the Parish Room are becoming available. Room bookings can be made: st.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com and Jess will get back to you.
 Tennis club use for tennis playing: contact Gianna on 0438 410 506.
 Thinking of a gathering? Think of us.

Piety Stall : Marketing/Sales Skills? We've had a few people offer help but still need more. We still need the marketing side: please, a one-off provision of advice. Contact Mary Wilson on 0433682285".

The ACU Centre for Liturgy is offering a new online training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Classes start April 27. For further information see our website <http://www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training> or call (02)9701 4751 or CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au

**Catholic Theological College**

Series of short sessions: online via Zoom

Engaging Your Faith

Choose one, choose all, choose what interests you and all for just \$25 per session, running 3 to 28 May 2022. Booking, payment & more information: ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

**Do you hunger for something more?**

Re-Generation is excited to announce its next event:

'Be Filled: A night of food, faith and fellowship'.

Our culture promises love and happiness but often leaves us feeling empty and alone. We invite **young adults** to come and taste the food that truly satisfies: the eternal love of God. Be inspired by sound teaching, uplifting music and meaningful connections. An evening not to be missed!

Saturday April 30, 7pm-9pm Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, (entrance off Barkly Street) East Brunswick

Register now: www.trybooking.com/BYONZ