



'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

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

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# The Living Word

Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

19 April 2020

## First Reading Acts 2:42-47

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 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.)
- I was thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord was my helper.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.  
There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. (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 Pt 1:3-9

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

## 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

*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.'



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Community: Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Suspended indefinitely. Check website for streamed Masses.

WEEKDAY MASS: Suspended indefinitely. Check website for streamed Masses.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter (A) Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35.

## Fr Stan writes ...

I'm sure that most of us can relate to Thomas's response to the news that the disciples had seen Jesus. We want to see for ourselves too, but we grow in faith, trusting the experience and knowledge of others.

The Gospel story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen. Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen. Alleluia!

On this Second Sunday of Easter, we also celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

Let us pray together: "You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of **mercy** opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable **Divine Mercy**, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. Amen.



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Devotions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Divine Mercy Chaplet; Reflection; Act of Consecration to Divine Mercy; Divine Praises on this Divine Mercy Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, will be live streamed from our parish at 3:00pm.

**THANK YOU** to those who have donated online through our parish website [www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au) and to those that have dropped off their contribution at the parish office. You can well imagine that running expenses occur every day as well the ongoing upkeep of our priests, regardless of whether the faithful come to Mass or not. So, again, **THANK YOU!**



St. Alphonsus Liguori's  
*Act of Spiritual Communion*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil, may God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly*

*host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

## Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal

Online donations are encouraged this year rather than handing in Project Compassion boxes directly to parishes. Visit [www.lent.caritas.org.au](http://www.lent.caritas.org.au) or send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001

**ANZAC DAY – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April – let us remember to pray for all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy today. Lest we forget!**

## The Flame Café

is open for take away – 6:30am to 3:00pm

Free home delivery for orders of \$25 +

Phone 9888 5286



## PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Georg Hägler recently deceased in Germany.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Maria & Nino Rossi, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Vincenzo Surace, Antonio & Angelina Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Denis Wonderley, Marie & Jim Hyde, Santo Russo, John Kooyman and the deceased members of the Zammit and Zahra families.