

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9746 1140. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2020. No 1821. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY / A

19 APRIL 2020

STILL BEARING THE WOUNDS OF LOVE

Thomas is one of the most clearly defined characters in the Gospels. Born loser, realist, pessimist, he has missed out on the Easter night appearance of Jesus. He won't believe that Jesus has been raised simply on the other disciples' claim: 'We have seen the Lord'. He insists on seeing, touching, hearing for himself.

Eight days later, with divine 'courtesy', Jesus meets Thomas' conditions exactly. But, at the sight of his risen Lord, Thomas abandons these conditions. He, the late-comer, the obtuse one, goes on to make the most exalted act of faith contained in the gospel: 'My Lord and my God!' It is Thomas, the hesitant, the doubter, who brings out the full identity of Jesus.

Moreover, Thomas' demand to see and touch the wounds shows that the risen Lord continues to bear these badges of vulnerable love. Presumably that is why Pope John Paul II chose this Second Sunday after Easter as 'Divine Mercy' Sunday: Jesus is someone to whom we can go and find understanding and mercy in a divine degree.

Jesus adds a comment that brings us into the picture too: 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Succeeding generations of believers will not have the privilege of seeing the risen Lord. We have to believe simply the testimony handed down in the Church: 'We have seen the Lord'. We are not at a disadvantage. We are in fact 'blessed' because from us a faith greater than that of Thomas' will be drawn. And it is faith that lets God's power into the world.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his 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. 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.

3. 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 Pet 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

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 had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a 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 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Maunsell

Deacon: Eddie Ho

36 Hillview Rd (PO Box 234) Eastwood NSW 2122

P 9874 2533 F 9874 5739 W www.stkevinseastwood.org.au

E parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 10:00am-3:00pm

Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Weekend Masses: Vigil Sat 5:30pm,

Sun 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12noon (Chinese) & 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

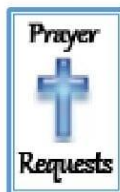
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thurs 7:00pm

(Holy Family Chapel)

2nd Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday 19th April 2020



Our Deceased: Geoff Clarke, Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Soo Woog Jin, Maria Hur, Felix Beins, Cecile Beins, Jan Brayan, Mary Duck, Ces Regan, Roy & Bessie Landon and deceased members of Landon, Pigott, Stewart families, John & Bonnie Bowdern, Leslie & Isobel Johnson; Alan & Molly McNamara, Bill & Eileen Taylor, Amy Murry, Katherine Corbett, Win Tranor, Fr John Haseler, Sandra Walsh, Jim Grainger, Fr John Lyne, James Bertoldo, Mike Crestani, Gregory Smallhorn, Bill Fullilove, Paul Houston; Ces Allman & Pamela Croaker.

Our Sick: Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan and Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy & Nur Gouw and Henry Rheinberger

Upcoming Feast Day: St Mark the Evangelist, 25th of April

Parish News:

- **Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.** When St Faustina was canonized by Pope John Paul II, he announced to the world, "It is important that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday'."
- **Thank you to all the parishioners who are still able to support the parish financially to meet standard costs like insurance, electricity and rates. Your continued support is important for the parish to continue operating.** Also, we have received enquiries from parishioners who were donating by weekly envelopes and/or cash. Since the church is temporarily closed, cash collection has ceased. We can accept online donations by credit card. This can be done by clicking on the SUPPORT US button or by copying this link: <https://www.bpoin.com.au/payments/eastwoodparish> on your browser. For Biller Code, choose from: **Planned Giving/Envelopes** (your Planned Giving Number is your Envelope Number); **2nd Collection/General Donation** or **1st Collection**. Thank you.
- **First Rite of Reconciliation can be arranged privately with Fr Martin. To book please call Fr Martin at 0414 841 928.**
- **Thank you to those who have sent their family photos to be displayed in the Church pews for Fr Martin.** In this small way, we'll be with him as he prays for us all. Our pews are filling up! It's not too late! Send your photos to: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au
- **On ANZAC day, remember & pray for those who have died in service of our country.**
- **For those who have Project Compassion Boxes, pls donate online: lent.caritas.org.au.**

CatholicCare Volunteer Program: The Archdiocese of Sydney is working alongside our social welfare agency CatholicCare to roll out a volunteer program to help the needy access groceries, cooked meals & other necessities at this difficult time. Together, we can support the most vulnerable & isolated in our communities. Info E: laura.rahill@sydneycatholic.org.

Second Sunday of Easter, John 20: 19-31 (Gospel commentary provided by Liturgy Brisbane (www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/))

The importance of today's gospel story is shown by the fact that it led to the original conclusion of John's gospel. The story proper falls into two parts: the appearance of the risen Lord to the assembled disciples on the first Easter Day & his appearance before Thomas a week later. John presents Jesus' resurrection, his giving the Spirit and the commissioning of the disciples in a single unified sequence. By contrast, the gospel-writer Luke introduces a timespan of forty days before Jesus' ascension, and fifty days before the outpouring of the Spirit. Each is communicating the same profound truth within a different theological framework. The text for today can be subdivided into four parts. In part one, Jesus appears to the fear-filled disciples and greets them with peace. This twofold greeting should be given strong emphasis. Part two consists of Jesus' commissioning the disciples and breathing out his Spirit upon them. Part three relates the encounter between the risen Lord and the apostle Thomas, culminating in words that implicate us: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe". The reading comes to a climax with the final summary of the gospel's purpose: "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name".

Each part should be heard by the congregation as a distinct unit. The reading as a whole is a wonderful invitation to renew our faith in Jesus & to live in the peace and joy of his Spirit.

LETTING GO!

Ivern Ball (1926-1992) was an amateur American writer who was gifted in writing *aphorisms*. Perhaps the best description of this word is that it is a statement or *an* aspect of life or truth that is often presented in a concise and witty way. Some of her best-known aphorisms include the following: "Knowledge is power but it's enthusiasm that so often then turns on the power switch!" "Most people can forgive and forget but rarely do they allow the person forgiven to forget!"

During this octave season of Easter, we need to remember that after Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead his relationship with his followers changed significantly to a different dimension. I recently read in a scripture commentary it is estimated that in the 40 days after he rose from the dead up to 500 people possibly saw him. We need to remember now that the risen wounded Jesus was not confined to any worldly space so this reality would have shaped the relationship that people had with him. We can detect this reality when he firmly yet gently said to Mary Magdalene who saw his risen presence before anyone else; "Do not cling to me because I have not yet ascended to the Father." (John 20 verse 17).

Another Ivern Ball aphorism that sums up what I have spoken about is; "That what you cannot let go of in life you really don't possess it possesses you." Food for thought! Fr Martin R Maunsell