



EASTERTIME

2nd Sunday of Easter

Year A

23rd April 2017

Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Michael Lupton, John Clarke,
Pauline Wills, Kevin James Easterbrook.
- **Anniversaries:**
Bob Scholte, Dorn Schumacher,
Fr. Robert (Bob) McNeil,
Susana Alejaga, Cresencio Alejaga,
Pascual Alejaga, Visitacion Alejaga,
Cyril Knight, Genevieve Knight.
- **And the sick:**
Kevin Houghton, John Allen,
Margaret Davin, Maryanne Diorio,
Audrey Barsendich, Maureen Cowsls,
Kath Hardy, Chev Shengi, Beryl Allen,
Colleen Giles, John Purser,
Grace Willins, Lola de Souza,
Pat Burgmann, Mary Scarf,
Gwen Strickson, Jorge Villasanti,
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,
Anne Singleton, Cathrine Spratt,
Pat Fitzgerald.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

Undoubtable Wounds

There is something attractive about Thomas the Doubter – something about his obstinate integrity in not too readily accepting the other disciples' report that they had seen the Risen Lord.

After all, he had devotedly followed this Galilean for several years, but then there was the shock and trauma of the barbaric death on the cross. Who could be surprised at his doubting the reports of his fellow apostles?

But our Risen Lord Jesus Christ was quite willing to wait, to embody the patience of God.

And the other disciples – now the 'true believers' in the resurrection – must have caught something of this patience of God. They did not expel Thomas from their company but kept him within their circle. It was their continuing friendship with the Doubter which gave him the opportunity to be present for the appearance of the Risen Lord in their midst.

Perhaps there is a lesson for the Church to not too quickly raise the barriers excluding those struggling with belief in the Christian faith.

That is a consoling aspect of this gospel episode. Another aspect ends up as quite a challenge for us.

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.'

Did you notice that 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 join Thomas in *this* faith, 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 by hunger, humiliation, illness, enslavement in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds: feeding, esteeming, visiting, breaking chains. 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.

As Pope Francis says: "Jesus asks us to take a leap of faith towards Him, but through these, His wounds.

Sometimes, we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. We may say, and certainly have heard others say: "I believe that Jesus of Nazareth was a great teacher, or I am attracted by his miracles of healing, but to call him God? That is a step too far."

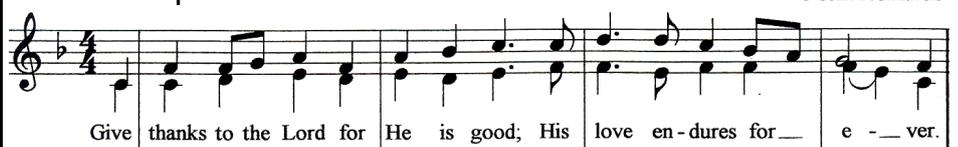
You, or the other person, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

In the meantime we can take heart from the final blessing of Our Lord. Blessings are promised to we who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who find that, in touching his wounds we cannot help but proclaim, 'My Lord and my God'.

© Fr Michael Tate

Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

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

Around the Parish

Anzac Day: Public holiday. Daily Mass will be at 9.00am. Parish office will be closed.

Children's Liturgy Roster 30/4/17: Frances Giunta, Rose Giunta, Jenny Fitzgerald.

Liturgy Meeting has been cancelled for this month.

Catechists Meeting Thursday 27th April, 9am in the Leo Mahon room.

Volunteer Church Cleaning roster 28/4/17: Kevin Glacken, Laurie Jarvis, Warren Sparrow, Lisa Ann Rae.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Prayers will be this Sunday, 23rd April, Woy Woy Church, 2.30pm-3.30pm.

St. Vincent de Paul NSW Northern Rivers Appeal: To make a donation please take a self addressed envelope (on church seats) and either post or put on collection plate during Mass, commencing 22/4/17. Further information visit website: www.vinnies.org.au or call 13 18 12.

Lectio Divina and Bible Study: Thursday, 27 April, 11am-12.30pm. Leo Mahon room. Studying the Acts of the Apostles during Eastertide. Bring your Bible.

First Holy Communion: Please keep our children in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament for the first time.

Mary Mac's Place Fund Raising Activity for April:

29th April at 7pm
Theme Concert—CWA Hall, The Boulevard, Woy Woy. "Protest, Politics and Parody". A night of tuneful dissent, protest, satire and laugh out loud humour. Presented by The Troubadours Folk Club, All proceeds to Mary Mac's Place. Cost \$7.00. Tickets available at the door. Further details on notice board.

Thank You: I would like to thank my parish family for your prayers, good wishes, and visits during my recent illness. Lola de Souza.

Social Justice

A call for Communities of Mercy and Love:

Jesus the carpenter probably built many tables during his days in the trade, and doubtless would have been at home in any local 'men's shed'. Yet in His ministry there was only ever one table: inclusive, open, surprising and challenging. At His table all had a place. There all were welcomed, fed, offered healing and invited to change of heart. Through the simple acts of gathering and talking, eating and drinking, Jesus made manifest the mercy and love of God.

The sacramentality of this shared table is held for us now most strongly in the Eucharist. We gather in the Spirit, savour Christ's word and eat and drink of His Body and Blood. We are enveloped by God's mercy and the broad embrace of divine love. The Christian community is built on the Eucharist, and the older people have an important place around the table. For them it is a place of prayer and offering, comfort and petition, hope and sacrifice.

The table offers belonging to the local community, a connection to the universal Church, and a

sense of the presence of the Saints and those who have departed. At the Eucharist longstanding hurts are healed and losses and griefs consoled. The many graces of a life lived are remembered and celebrated in a spirit of thanksgiving. When we gather with Christ around His table we are in a position to hear what He is calling forth from us, whether from the larger Catholic community, young and old alike.

Social Justice Statement 2016-17.

From the Diocese and beyond

Camp Breakaway calls for help:

Camp Breakaway is seeking volunteers to provide support for children and adults with disabilities who attend their camps. This highly regarded charity is located at San Remo and helps some of the most disadvantaged people in our community, their families and carers. Camp Breakaway provides training for many volunteer roles and the essential requirement is that you care about other people.

If you have a bit of spare time and want to do something worthwhile, call 4390 7624 or visit our website www.breakaway.org.au Brochures available in gathering area.

Spirituality in the Pub Central Coast is an Ecumenical and Interfaith Speakers Forum with Q's and A's. The focus is on developing understanding and

encouraging dialogue about Spirituality through sharing one's life journey. We meet 1st Tuesday in the month from March to October and 2nd Tuesday in November. Meeting at The Grange Hotel Function Room, Cnr. Renwick St. and Pacific Highway, Wyoming. Bistro opens at 5.30pm.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, 2nd May, 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Sarah Tolmie: A holistic celebrant for all life and love celebrations and a coach for life and love transitions.

Daniel Widdowson: Artistic Director of Salt House Theatre Co. and on the pastoral team at Coast Community Church
Enq: Maryke Ph: 4328 2596 or 0498 588 216.

Evangelisation & Faith Formation: As a Church, we exist in order to evangelise; to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world

(cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 14)

To evangelise is the essential identity and mission of a parish. This course over two sessions, explores what it means to evangelise – to bring Jesus to the world, and to call people into relationship with Christ, and to active discipleship. Terminology will be unpacked, and practical suggestions offered, including the forming of evangelising teams; good hospitality; small groups; and life giving parish faith formation. An audit of some successful parish initiatives will also be discussed.

Session 1 Thursday 27 April.
Session 2 Thurs. 4 May. 7pm-9pm. Our Lady Star of the Sea, 165 Serpentine Rd. Terrigal. registrations@dbb.org.au or call Colleen 9847 0448 or 4332 9825. David Patterson 9847 0514 david.patterson@dbb.org.au

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 23

Acts 2:42-47
Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 R. v.1
1 Pt 1:3-9
Jn 20:19-31

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Today's Gospel reminds us that believing is seeing things differently. John tells us that the disciples, who are hiding "for fear of the Jews," are visited by the risen Christ on Easter night, "that first day of the week" (v 19). For our evangelist, belief in Jesus leads to "life in his name"; this is the goal of his text: "These things are written that you may come to believe" (v 31). John's text provides revelation that fosters faith, leading to salvation. We see in the scene with Thomas that when Jesus reveals himself to him, Thomas makes a strong statement of faith by declaring Jesus "my Lord and my God" (v 28).

In Acts, Luke gives us a picture of the early church in Jerusalem. Their life is dedicated to prayer and "breaking bread" in their homes (v 46), an early term for the Eucharist. Nourished by this meal, which for them is a way of being in the presence of the risen Lord, their lives progress in holiness, and "every day the Lord added to their number" (v 47). Believing, they come to approach the world in a different way. Their faith leads them to a new way of life on earth, which leads others to desire to join them.

In Peter's letter we hear of the "new birth to a living hope" we receive from God "through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (v 3). The author speaks of faith "even though you do not see him" (v 8), encouraging us to persevere in that faith, even in the face of "various trials" (v 6). Like John, this writer tells us that "the goal of your faith" is "the salvation of your souls" (v 9).

For reflection: How has God's revelation strengthened my faith? Do I see things differently because of my faith? How is this manifest in my life?

3rd Sunday of Easter, April 30

Acts 2:14, 22-33
Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11 R. v.11
1 Pt 1:17-21
Lk 24:13-35

Many wonder why so few people in Jesus' day accepted him as the Messiah. A simple answer is that Jesus did not meet their expectations of what the Messiah was going to be. Luke's Emmaus story shows us that even Jesus' own disciples were slow to believe. "We were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel," they say (v 21). But their hopes were crushed when "our chief priests and rulers both handed him over / to a sentence of death and crucified him" (v 20). This was not what they were expecting from the Messiah. But the risen Jesus, unrecognised by them, interprets the Scriptures for them, showing that it was "necessary that the Christ should suffer these things" (v 26) before coming into his glory. It is only after "their eyes were opened" (v 31) that they recognise him and begin to understand his words. This text teaches us that sometimes it is difficult for us to comprehend God's plan, but with God's help we gain understanding.

In Acts, Peter's speech reinforces the idea that Jesus' death was a necessary part of God's plan. Jesus, who "was a man commended to you by God" (v 22), was "delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God" (v 23). But even death could not defeat him: "God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death" (v 24).

The letter of Peter interprets Christ's death for us, telling us that we "were ransomed ... with the precious blood of Christ" (vv 18-19). This was God's will for us, in order that we might share in God's eternal life. Christ, dying for us, paid the ultimate price in his self-sacrifice. Because of this, Peter says, we should "conduct [ourselves] with reverence" (v 17) in light of our dignity as children of God.

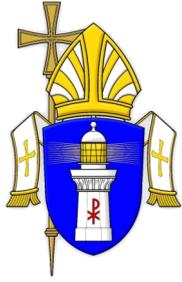
For reflection: When has doubt been a part of my faith journey? How did I overcome it?



Jesus meets the need of each disciple. To the fearful in the upper room, He speaks words of peace. To doubting Thomas, He provides the tangible proof of His resurrection. What do I need to become His disciple? What do I have to share that might meet someone else's need?



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Woy Woy,
Woy Woy South, Umina, Umina
Beach, Ettalong, Ettalong Beach,
Koolewong, Blackwall,
Booker Bay,
St Hubert's Island, Empire Bay,
Horsfield Bay, Pearl Beach,
Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's
Point, Phegan's Bay and
Wondabyne.

St John the Baptist Church,

Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre
P.O. Box 264 100 Blackwall Road.
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073
Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Administrator: Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.

Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill

Office Hours:

9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice:

3.30 p.m. Wednesday

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSS

The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 5pm; Sunday 7.30am, 9.15am, 6pm.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday-Friday 7.45am (Monday & Tuesday with Lauds);

Saturday and Public Holidays 9am; First Friday 4pm (with Anointing of the Sick).

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday after morning Mass; First Friday 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only). Godparents are examples of faith to the child. They must be confirmed and practising Catholics, at least sixteen years old. If there is at least one godparent, a non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness. Parents and godparents must attend a pre-baptismal instruction, held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 9.30am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am).

PARISH CHOIR— Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7pm. Enquiries: 4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP For information and events contact the parish office 4341 1073.

CATECHISTS

Teach approved curriculum in 4 Primary State Schools on the Peninsula. Volunteers always needed—to teach and help. Training provided at no cost.

Details: Susie 0411 566 622. "Bring the little children unto me."

CATHOLIC CARE Counselling and Family Relationships 4356 2600.

MARY MAC'S PLACE Volunteers provide nutritious, freshly cooked meals and information and referrals to appropriate community services. Open Monday to Friday, 11am-1pm, at the Ethel Cox Parish Centre. For more information, please contact Christine on 4341 0584.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY on the Peninsula assist and give a hand up to people in need. We have two Conferences with volunteers sharing the visiting or office work. We always welcome new Volunteers to our Conference.

Please ring Ken 0400 335 351 or Joan 0422 272 339.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre,

Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy.

Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.