



'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 Greg Sunter

Because the focus of this week's gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, 'for fear of the Jews'. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. Their man, the one they had chosen to follow, was making waves and stirring the authorities – thumbing his nose at the rules. This, of course, made the disciples feel good to be around Jesus. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They'd gone from riding the crest of a wave to being utterly dumped! They were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. They'd already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus yet they were still hiding and afraid. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, 'Peace be with you'. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

Thomas has received a pretty bad rap for the last 2000 years, forever labelled as 'Doubting Thomas' because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word for the fact that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all his thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

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, ©1963 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.

# The Living Word

Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

16 April 2023

## 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.'



## Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

**Administrator:** Rev. Peter Krigovsky  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Veronica Denning (Wednesday 9.30am—4pm)

**Address:** 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall; **Telephone:** 9727 3759  
**Website:** <http://www.smgh.org.au> **Email:** [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)  
**Facebook:** [fb.me/smgh2](https://www.facebook.com/smgh2) **Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall**

*God and us Together*

**Principal:** Mrs Monica Palmer **Website:** [www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
**School Tel:** 9727 0000 **School email:** [info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au)

### MASS TIMES (English):

Vigil Mass 5 pm (Saturday)  
Sunday 8.00 am & 10.00 am  
Weekdays: Tuesday 6pm  
Mon. Wed. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9.00 am

### VIETNAMESE MASS

Vigil Mass 6.30 pm (Saturday)  
Sunday 5.30PM

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4.30pm-4.55pm  
or anytime on request

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday after Mass 9am-10.30am

### SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Offered to those in need on  
1st Wednesday at 9.00am Mass

**Baptisms:** Sunday 11.00am,  
Bookings are necessary.

**Children first Sacraments:**  
Please contact Elaine Nehme  
Email:  
[nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au)

**Parish site maintenance:**  
John Impala Phone TBA  
Ivan Leskur Phone TBA

**Parish Pastoral Council:**  
Bernie Freeburn, Veronica Den-  
ing, Elaine Nehme, Zena Azar,  
Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz,  
Monica Palmer, Linh Bui, Jan-  
nette Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

**Finance Committee:**  
Bernie Freeburn, Michael Ander-  
son, Ted Goetz, Veronica Dening,  
Eileen Stevenson

**Golden oldies:** Lorraine Impala

**St Vincent de Paul:** Mary Scott

**Music ministry:** TBA

**Youth Ministry:** TBA

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

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



**COVID-19** is still around, Please use sanitiser when you enter the church.

### HOW TO OBTAIN INDUL- GENCE ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The decree offers: a plenary indulgence, granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a

sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!). Why did the Pope make this decree of a plenary indulgence for special acts of devotion to The Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday? The decree itself clearly explains that the Holy See wanted to ensure that the faithful could experience the

Mercy of the Lord in a special way on this Feast Day, in the hope that then they might be inspired to be more merciful to others, as God is merciful to us (cf. Lk. 6:36):

**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY** will be prayed this Sunday after 8am and 10am Masses. This prayer will satisfy one of the conditions for obtaining the Divine Mercy plenary indulgence. The other conditions are reception of the Holy Communion, Sacrament of Reconciliation up to 8 days prior or after the Sunday of Divine Mercy and prayer for the intention of the Holy Father.

**DEMPSEY AWARDS** the Dempsey Medal is awarded annual by the Archbishop of Sydney to members of the Catholic clergy and laity. The Dempsey medal seeks to encourage and to recognize outstanding contributions and service, it is primarily intended to recognize those who have made an outstanding contribution to their parish. A very sincere **congratulations** to Vivienne Moseley, Mary Newton and Maria Rega who will be presented with the Dempsey Award by the Archbishop at a Mass at the Cathedral during May. All three ladies have served in many ministries, but particularly, as organists for almost 50 years

**EASTER HOLY WATER** Our parish has obtained only a limited number of water bottles. If you have missed out, please bring your own in the coming days and help yourself from the container near the baptismal font, on the first come first serve basis.

**PROJECT COMPASSION ENVELOPES AND BOXES** Please bring them in the course of next few weekends and place them on the weekly collection plates together with your weekly offering. The money donated will be used by Caritas Australia for various of their charitable projects. Thank you.

**GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION** If you have missed out and would like to contribute, please use Good Friday envelopes at the back of the church. Thank you.

**ANZAC DAY** Tuesday 25 April 2023 Our local council is directing those wishing to commemorate ANZAC DAY 2023 to Kogarah RSL Sub-Branch. The Address will be given at Jubilee Oval Cenoptah, Cor-

ner Park and English Streets. Start 7.15am for 7.30am march.

**ANZAC DAY MASS** Tuesday 25 April will be at our usual Tuesday time at 6pm offered for the repose of souls of our veteran family members. Parishioners are invited to bring photos of loved ones who were veterans to place in the reflection area on the sanctuary.

### HOW DO WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES

A Christian remembrance differs from the secular one. As Christians we pray for our loved ones or continuing in the Jewish tradition we offer a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and salvation of souls of the deceased. The highest form of prayer and sacrifice for our loved ones is the Prayer and the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, which as members of the Common priesthood we can offer ourselves by attending a Mass or we can ask the priest to offer the Mass (Mass offering) for our loved ones. The difference between the two is that priest acts in "*persona Christi*", in the person of Christ., so by asking the priest for a Mass Offering we are asking for Christ's prayers and Christ's merits of his Sacrifice rather than our own. However both have great value and the personal prayer and attendance of the Mass should be offered often privately for our deceased loved ones and should also accompany the priest's Mass Offering if we have requested one. Fr. Peter will provide a more thorough explanation on Mass Offerings and Mass Intentions in a booklet which will be available with the Mass Offering envelopes at the back of the church (currently at the entrance to sacristy).

**SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH** - Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 93905810 or Email: [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

**Our parish** has a folder (with Safeguarding information including quarterly newsletters) in the church – parishioners are welcome to view. A link to the Archdiocese's Child Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries: Veronica via [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com).



*Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick (please advise delisting)*

Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Kerry Gibbons, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Roger Luck, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, David Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio



*Rest In Peace*

*Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died*

Xavier Mayers, Josephine & Alojzy Pientka, Vicki Savvas, Peter & Anne, Robert Lawler, Jenny Tankard, Warren Ashley, Marian Pientka, Josephine & Thomas Pientka, Ross Graham, Bertha Smith, Isabel Nohra, Guiseppe Nesci, Stanislaw Kolodziej, Vincenza Denichilo, Ron West, Nicolo Aloision, Patricia Gibbons, Katherine Mathieson, Fr Jeremy Flynn, Lucy Borkowski

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*