



'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.

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# The Living Word

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

7 April 2024

## First Reading Acts 4:32-35

*The whole group was united, heart and soul.*

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1**

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting**

or

**(R.) 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 Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.  
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,  
but not doomed to die. (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 Jn 5:1-6

*Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;

this is what loving God is –

keeping his commandments;

and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world;

this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God;

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only,

but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness –

since the Spirit is the truth.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;**

**happy are 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

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Peter Krigovsky  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Zenna Azar (Tues 9.30am—5.30pm)  
**Address:** 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall NSW 2198  
**Website:** <http://www.smgh.org.au>  
**Facebook:** [fb.me/smgh2](https://www.facebook.com/smgh2)  
**Telephone:** 9727 3759  
**Email:** [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)  
**Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall**  
*God and Us Together*

**Principal:** Mrs Monica Palmer  
**School Tel:** 02 9727 0000  
**Website:** [www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
**School email:** [info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au)

**MASS TIMES (English):**  
 Vigil Mass 5:00pm (Saturday)  
 Sunday 8:00am & 10:00am  
 Weekdays:  
 Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9:00am  
 Wednesday 6:00pm

**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**  
 Wednesday 5.00pm—6.00pm  
 Friday after Mass 9am-10.30am

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**  
 Offered to those in need on 1st Tuesday at 9.00am Mass

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

**Parish Pastoral Council:**  
 Michael Anderson, Veronica Denning, Elaine Nehme, Zenna Azar, Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz, Monica Palmer, Linh Bui, Jannette Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

**Finance Committee:**  
 Michael Anderson, Ted Goetz, Veronica Denning, Eileen Stevenson

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

**Golden Oldies:** Lorraine Impala

**St Vincent de Paul:** Mary Scott

**Special Religious Education (SRE) Catechist Coordinator:**  
 Zenna Azar

**Music Ministry:** Vivienne Mosely

**Youth Ministry:** Grace Mokdassi

**Childrens Liturgy:** Nancy Khalil

**Childrens' Choir:**  
 Natalie Showah, Jicy Kasparian



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

**ADDITIONAL NOTICES** If you are interested in any diocesan events, please collect a copy of the additional bulletin at the back of the church.

**CLERGY CONFERENCE 2024** will take place from Monday 8th April to Thursday 11th April in Wolongong. There will be no Mass celebrated during these days. A Communion Service will be celebrated at 9am on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Please note there will be no Mass and No Communion Service on Wednesday. Thank you for your understanding.

**A BIG "THANK YOU!"** to all who helped with preparation for Easter Triduum and Easter ceremonies. Singers, Readers, Altar Servers, Altar Society, Cleaners, Children Choir Group & Parents & countless number of others. May God reward you hundredfold.

**A BIG "THANK YOU"** to Elaine Nehme our Sacramental Coordinator and all her helpers as well as the Parents of all children completing their 1st reconciliation last week. The children were divided into three groups.

The picture on the right depicts Friday's group.

### ST MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN'S ANNIVERSARIES

We are so blessed to be a part of this beautiful community and it is fitting that we celebrate our milestones. We are planning to celebrate the anniversary of the appointment of the first parish priest and dedication of the church together on Sunday 16 June 2024 - 10am Mass followed by feast **Memories** - Parishioners are invited to share their memories – a template is available at the back of the church with suggestions of the type of information you might like to provide.

**Photos** - we are hoping to collate historical photos—do you have any sacramental (or other) group photos that you can share with the parish? Please forward any memories or photos to: [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)

### HOW TO OBTAIN INDULGENCE 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):

**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 02 9390 5810 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 in the church for parishioners to view. Check out the latest safeguarding newsletter. 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 email: [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)  
**Check out the latest Safeguarding newsletter-in the folder**

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
<b>April 6/7 - Second Sunday of Easter, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Brian Kurrle	Abraham Family	Barbara Kains Pauline Tonkli	Laurie Simpson	Charlie Delfino Andrew Trostel	Gabriel Azar Adrian Trostel
8.00 am Sun		Danuta Maka	Carmen Heredia	Goetz Family	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Daniela Lukunic	Harry Ross Elizabeth Tobaji
10.00 am Sun		Maurice Gili	Rosemary Lim	Gill Cramp Maurice Gili	Andrew Driessen	William Amicucci Tiana Daou	Eliana Mardini Brandon Daou
<b>April 13/14 - Third Sunday of Easter, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Zenna Azar	Brian Kurrle	Eileen Stevenson Barbara Kains	Chaben Azar	Charlie Delfino Zoe Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Carmen Heredia	Coorey Family	Jenny Freeburn Veronica Denning	Bernie Freeburn	Nicholas Coorey Daniela Lukunic	Gabriele Serratore Elizabeth Tobaji
10.00 am Sun		Cramp Family	Alex Driessen	Maurice Gili Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem Marcus Kasparian	Isabella Maamari Abie Khalil



*Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick*

Judith Van Baardwyk, Cornelius Van Baardwyk, Diane Small, Jayden Turk, Joseph Akkary, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Paul Evans, Kerry Gibbons, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, Robert Sanders, John Smallwood, Tony Strambio



*Rest In Peace*

*Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died*

Filomena Auditore, Teresa, Maria, John the Baptist1, John the Baptist2, Eddie Counihan, Tom Counihan, George Stevenson, Robert Lawler, Ancrea, Trevor Newton, Ross Graham, Lise Goetz, Max Graham, Hillary + Rita + their sons, Nabill + Bahia + Elias + Eilie Maroun, Norma Younane, Raemanos + Wadia Nehme, Youssef + Martha + Chalitta + Issetteye Tannous, Marina Safer, Halina Donarska, Ennio Fattore, Elizabeth Gieseman, Ryan Lynch,

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