



## Second Sunday of Easter

7th / 8th April

### Parish Administrator

Fr Martin Cruickshank

### Parish Office

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

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### Mass Times

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm**

**SUNDAY: 9.30 am**

**WEEKDAYS: This week TUESDAY ONLY**

**9.30am**

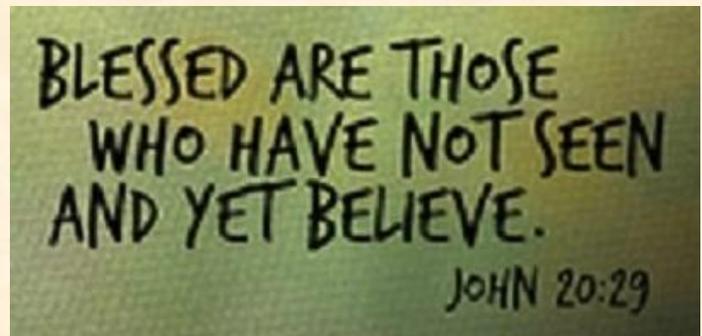
**First Tuesday of the month: 11.00 am Mass at Mercy Place.**

### RECONCILIATION

**SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM**

**BAPTISMS—By appointment**

**Preparation Course: 0411 883 661**



Today we consider the presence of the Risen Lord. Where is he found? Each of the readings offers an answer to this question. The Risen Christ is found in the community of believers who follow the example of Jesus. Even non-believers recognised something marvellously different about the Christian community, and they exclaimed: These Christians, see how they love one another.

The Risen Christ is found in those who accept the truth of the resurrection on the word of others. The word of God preached by others has often brought us out of darkness into light, from the stranglehold of death to the birth of new life. The preaching of the disciples has been not only instructive, it has also been transformative.

The Risen Christ is found in the forgiveness of sin. Jesus made the frightened disciples ministers of divine forgiveness. The Spirit reconciles sinners with God and, thereby, with the rest of the believing community. Forgiveness is a tangible sign of Christ's mystical presence.

The Risen Christ is found in the physical manifestation of Christ's own wounds, the wounds that he offered to be touched. Since the community is the body of Christ, we touch the wounds of Christ when we touch the wounds of the community, when we go out to the sick and infirm, the dispossessed and the violated. As shocking as these wounds may appear, they are really glorious, because the Risen Lord has identified with them and has made them his own. (Dianne Bergant CSS)



# Parish Community



*We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Gordon Lawson, Jack Dempsey, Noel Wighton, Judith Manison/ Corrigan.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mark Pennay, Kevin Corrigan, Joe Everett, Allan Roach, Frank Percy, Wal Tozer, Ellen Phibbs, Otto Sproule, Colleen O'Reilly, David Miller, Pam O'Brien, Les Stewart, Phillip Percy, Harry Hore, Steven Campbell, Rose Dynan, Rusty Stewart, Angel Taravilla, Kerry Faul, Joan Godde, Catherine Campbell, Catherine Thompson, Patricia Fisher, Patrick Scammell, Sandra Gillett, Alice Frauenfelder, Leo Doolan, James Leo Doolan, James Patrick Doolan, Albert Maguire. *Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## Prayer for the Sick

*We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.*

*May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.*

*We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen*

## ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 7th / 8th April		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Foley	Rosalie Martin
<b>Lector 1</b>	Kellie Gordes	Roy Thompson
<b>Lector 2</b>	Pat Hickman	Jane Murtagh
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Catherine Cutler Judy Lindsay	Gemma Whitehead Carey Menz-Dowling Trish Parkinson
<b>Cantor</b>	Margie & Ed Brown	Anne McIntyre
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
<b>Counters: Michael Byrnes</b>		<b>Cleaning Group: Group 6</b>

Sat /Sun: 14th / 15th April		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Nano Clancy	Jane Murtagh
<b>Lector 1</b>	Justin Clancy	Ray Murtagh
<b>Lector 2</b>	Barbara Godde	Wendy McFerran
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jim and Kaye Deanshaw	Mary Lefevre Carmel Butts Pamela McIntosh
<b>Cantor</b>	John van Lint	Bernadette and Wendy
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	
<b>Counters: Nola Scarvell &amp; Liz Simon</b>		<b>Cleaning Group: Group 7</b>

## Prayer to St Thomas the Apostle

Ever living God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection:

Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight.

Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Open our hearts to your love.

Help us to be true to you and to each other.

Give us the courage to be your disciples

in all we do and say.

Through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis): 'We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence, and we are able share it with others.'

# Parish News

## THANK YOU

Gratitude is extended to all involved in the organisation and preparation for the celebration of our holy week and Easter liturgies.

To Sr Anne Hagan for her tireless efforts.

To those who helped cater for morning tea following our ecumenical Stations of the Cross.

To our wonderful choir and musician's for the generous sharing of their gifts and talents.

To all for your prayerful and active participation, your contribution is much appreciated.

May the hope and joy of the Easter season remind each of us of God's guiding presence in our world and in our lives. May the Risen Christ renew our faith and give us the courage and strength to be his disciples in our world.

Easter Water is available for you to take home. The small containers can be collected from the front of the baptismal font.

## Project Compassion

Your generous support for Project Compassion helps end poverty, promote justice and upholds dignity. Please return outstanding boxes / envelopes and additional contributions as soon as possible so that our final parish contribution can be forwarded to Caritas Australia.

## Fr. Bernie Moylan's Sermon.

Copies are now be made of the homily Fr. Moylan gave at Fr. Kevin's funeral Mass. They will be available for collection in the church next weekend.

## Philippine Independence Day Mass

On Saturday 2nd June at 5.45pm Holy Spirit Church, Prune Street, Lavington. Pot - luck Dinner...Bring something to share.

## Meditation Day

An introduction to Centering Prayer Saturday 12th May, 9.30am—3.30pm. Nagle Room, ErinEarth, Kildare Ave, Wagga Wagga. Morning tea and 'all day' tea/coffee/water available. BYO Lunch. Cost donation only. Contact Sr Carmel Wallis [carmel.wallis@preswaqqa.org](mailto:carmel.wallis@preswaqqa.org).

Centering Prayer is simply a wordless, trusting opening of self to the Diving Presence—listening to God.

## First Communion Lessons

Children not enrolled at St Anne's Primary School and wish to make their 1st Communion (on 30th June) lessons will be running on Mondays for 6 weeks at Sacred Heart Hall, beginning 21st May, 2018. Please phone Sacred Heart parish office on 6025 1516 to enrol.

## Bonsai Under Lights

Come and join us for a stunning and unique event featuring Albury's largest and oldest collection on bonsai, accompanied by the soothing sounds of the Murray Conservatorium Choir, and a beautiful display on bonsai botanic artwork. Fund raising event for The Murray Conservatorium Choir. Dates: 13th, 14th & 15th April at 7.10pm. Venue: Valibo Nursery, 534 Urana Road, Lavington. See flyers in church.

## Prayer for Our Sacred Heart Parish

God of Love,

Source of all hope and good things;  
You call us in love, to share in the work  
and ongoing life of our Sacred Heart  
Parish.

Bless this parish of ours and lead us to  
be confident and joyful in serving those  
around us, so that through us, the world  
may catch a glimpse of the love you  
have for each one of us.

Make us instruments of your love to  
everyone that we encounter in our parish  
community, at home, at work and in  
our neighbourhood.

Help us to grow in gratitude so that we  
can recognise and thank you for all the  
good things you have given us.

Each day may we come to know you  
more clearly, love you more dearly and  
follow you more nearly.

Through Christ our Lord.

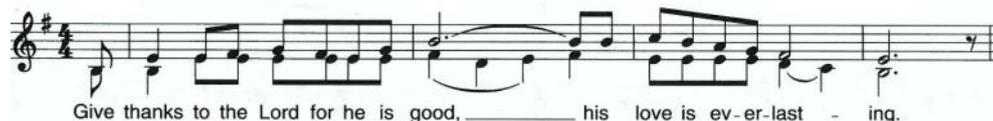
Amen.

# Liturgy of the Word

*Second Sunday of Easter — Year B*

*Readings: Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 5: 1-6 ; John 20: 19-31*

*Responsorial Psalm:*



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

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!



## Reflection on the Readings

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.

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God. Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

**(Greg Sunter)**

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