

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / A (OF DIVINE MERCY)

16 APRIL 2023

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



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## FAITH: A PROMISE OF LIFE

How many times have you heard people relate stories and then say, aware that the story does not do justice to the experience, 'You had to be there'? When we read of those early days of the Church, when the community was so united in faith, love and prayer, we can find ourselves wishing to have been there. Imagine the disappointment of second-generation Christians who had missed out by only a few years! The story of Thomas' doubt, disbelief and disappointment would have been partly preserved to encourage such Christians. Decades later, they were invited to see that while they were not part of the original experience, their faith was all the more precious because it was not based on being an eyewitness. It also served as a reminder not to be too quick to idealise the early life of the Church; even then the road to mature faith was not an easy one.

Late in the first century, the first letter of Peter set out to build up the faith of a community that felt caught between the resurrection and Jesus' final return. Like us, they may have felt that they had missed out on something precious, but Peter reminds them that their faith is a tremendous gift and promise of the life that lies ahead. The road to a mature faith is not easy and there are problems to be encountered from both within and outside ourselves. These very struggles purify our hearts and prepare us for what is to come.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## 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 spoiled 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

16 April 23  
Easter Wk 1 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.  
**Administration** Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

**Office Hrs:** Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND MASSES** Sat: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am & 5.30 pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Wed: 12 noon Thurs: 9am Fri: 9am

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

\*Or by appointment

**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.

**May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Carmel MacPherson, Peter Richards, Gary McSweeney, Sr Clare Keating RSJ.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Bruce MacPherson (8/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

**DECEASED:** Margaret Cummins, Janet Corcoran, Anna Fordham, Pam Perkins, Des Saunders.

**SICK:** John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Terry Dean, Sr Gerard Joseph, Gail Styman, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, William Bonner, Colin MacPherson, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

### VEENA'S VERSIONS:



*A family was in their car and just about to drive out of their parking space when another car turned too sharply and hit their front bumper bar. The father said, "Stay in the car kids". He got out and spoke to the other driver. They both checked their cars and wrote something down. When the father got back into his car, his youngest son said, "What did you do Dad?" Father "We just exchanged names". Son, "So what's our name now?"*

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

**BSB 082105** 1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery Acc 001023642 (Diocesan collection)  
2nd Collection - West Tamworth Catholic Church. Acc 001041198 (St Pats Church Collection)  
ENVELOPES ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR REGULAR PLANNED GIVING—PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE DIRECTLY SHOULD YOU PREFER TO GIVE THIS WAY AND DO NOT HAVE ENVELOPES CURRENTLY..

### COMING EVENTS:

**16 Apr** Divine Mercy Sunday 3pm Devotions  
**26 May, 29 Aug, 17 Nov** Mission & Evangelisation Events

**25 Apr** Anzac Day

*"I feel more trust in God than ever."*

**COVID GUIDE:** \* FACE MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED  
\* ANTISEPTIC WIPES & SANITISER ARE AVAILABLE.



**DIVINE MERCY:** This Sunday 16 April is Divine Mercy Sunday with devotions scheduled for 3pm. The origins of the Divine Mercy image are associated with the vision that Saint Faustina of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy had in the convent in Poland on 22nd February, 1931. The image of Jesus appeared to her. Jesus, when asked what the rays meant said, "The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. .... Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter." (Diary 2).

**BOOKLETS MISSING:** The services throughout Easter were marvellously attended with great participation. However, a number of Holy Week Missals and Way of the Cross booklets have inadvertently been removed from the Church. These are expensive to purchase and will be needed for services in the future. Could you please check cars and homes and if any have accidentally been collected, please return these to the back of the church. Thank you for your assistance in allowing continued reference to these wonderful books.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Thank you to all those who have already returned their Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes. \$1,082.60 has already been donated via St Patricks Parish for Caritas. Please return your donations in the coming week so the project may be finalised for recording and receipting. You can also donate via [www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or Ph 1800 024 413. Thank you.

**VOLUNTEER CALL OUT:** We thank all those whose contributions helped in so many ways in making the Easter ceremonies so beautiful and we greatly appreciate your efforts. As people do get busy with other activities however we find ourselves short of readers in particular and ask if anyone feels that they can contribute in this way, please contact the office to volunteer. We are in particular need for the Saturday and Sunday Evening Masses. Thank you.

*The readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A show us that faith has the power to overcome doubt and fear. Like Thomas, we may struggle with doubt and uncertainty, but through faith and trust in Jesus, we can experience the peace and joy that comes from knowing the risen Christ.*



### WEEK 1 ROSTER: 16/4/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos P Bamford  
**9am Sun:** R S Nichols G Clout  
**5.30pm Sun:** R C Lavell M Murray  
**Counting Team** P Sheils; A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 21/4 J Hutt & J Moran  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 23/4/23

**Vigil:** R Sr Kathryn Volunteer  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown O Monet  
**5.30pm Sun:** R J Murray D Bearman  
**Counting Team** S Brown, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 28/4 M Vella A Jones  
**Altar Linen:** H Reid

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

