



Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

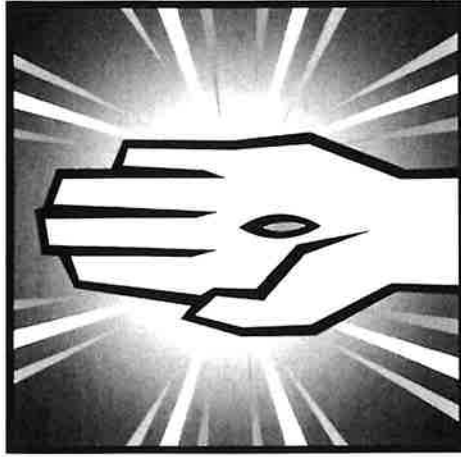
27 April 2025

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This passage can be seen as the gospel writer's version of the Pentecost that was previously recorded by the writer of Luke-Acts. As the account of Pentecost in the book of Acts was already in existence, the gospel writer felt no concern about alluding to it in his version of the gospel story. The inclusion of this event in the gospel of John adds a 'completeness' to the gospel text - from the Word with God in chapter 1 through the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus to this moment of charging his disciples with the task of carrying on his work and breathing on them the Holy Spirit. It seems that the gospel writer wanted to bring the story to its conclusion. The idea of Jesus 'breathing' the Holy Spirit onto the disciples is an interesting one. The Greek word *pneuma* carried two meanings: breath and spirit. So to deliberately breathe on someone was to share one's spirit with them. Jesus gives this act a greater meaning by declaring the spirit to be the Holy Spirit that will empower the disciples for the mission he is entrusting to them.

The disciple Thomas has received a pretty raw deal from history. The phrase, *doubting Thomas*, has found its way into our everyday language and condemns Thomas as the one who wouldn't take the word of his fellow disciples but wanted to see the Risen Lord himself. However, rather than remembering Thomas for his doubt, we should remember Thomas as the one who makes the extraordinary declaration of faith, 'My Lord and my God!' It is Thomas, alone amongst all those who recognise the greatness of Jesus across the four gospels, who acknowledges Jesus as not just the Messiah, but God.

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'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.

First Reading Acts 5:12-16

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v.1

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

(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 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.)
3. O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the true God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading Rv 1:9-13, 17-19

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

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.'

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Miriam Coco, Dragica Glavina, Nadja Louis
RECENTLY DECEASED

Pope Francis, Massimo Burrone, Palma Prato
ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph Refalo, Sam Ratnatunga, Cesidio Danese, Michele Cornacchia, Herbert Meneze

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Please call the Parish Office for further information.

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12noon – Sunday, 4th May 2025

Molly Kennedy

Clara Reidy

Please pray for these children and their families.

PARISH SUPPORT Thank you all for your continued support. For those who prefer to, online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C
BSB: 083 347 Account No. 665417521
Reference as your first initial then surname, or you may remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account
BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 535304676.
Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

EASTER OFFERINGS

Envelopes are available in the narthex.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please return your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes as soon as possible.

FEAST DAYS NEXT WEEK

Mon 28 April St Peter Chanel
Tues 29 April St Catherine of Siena
Fri 2 May St Athanasius
Sat 3 May Sts Philip & James

PARISH NEWS



POPE FRANCIS

JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO

17 DECEMBER 1936 ♦ 21 APRIL 2025

May he Rest in Peace

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will be celebrating a Solemn Pontifical Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis on Monday, 28 April at St Patrick's Cathedral at 1.00pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

DIVINE MERCY FEAST CELEBRATION – Sunday 27th April

Concluding 9 day Novena with Confessions commencing at 1.30pm followed by Adoration, Rosary, Litany and **Holy Mass at 3.00pm.** (No 5pm Mass on this day).

“ALL WELCOME”

MASS TIMES AT ST PETER'S

The 9.15am Weekday Morning Mass resumes Tuesday, 29th April and the 5.00pm Sunday Mass resumes Sunday, 4th May.

EASTER ‘THANK YOU’

Again, I thank all who participated in the Easter ceremonies and helped make them meaningful for our Parish community and visitors. My sincere thanks to our Liturgical Ministers: Commentators, Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick, Sacristans, Greeters, Singers, Musicians & Altar Servers. Our Audio-Visual Presenters, Collectors, Flower Arrangers, RCIA team, Parish Groups, Collectors, Counters, Cleaners, Maintenance team and all who help in any way. It was very much appreciated. **Fr. Anil Mascarenhas**

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Tickets now on sale. Drawn on Mother's Day, 11th May after the 10.30am Mass. Tickets: \$2 each or \$3 for \$5. Great prizes.

Wishing a very 'Happy Birthday' to

Fr Anil Mascarenhas

25th April

May God bless you

Thank You for being our pastor

PARISH OFFERTORY PROGRAM

We'd just like to take a moment to thank all of you who have already returned your pledge cards. There are still a number of cards yet to be returned, so if you haven't had a chance to return yours yet, we kindly ask that you do so as soon as possible. For those who have not received cards, please take a pledge card from the Church narthex. Once completed, please place them in the collection plate as it comes around, in the pledge box found in the narthex, or bring to the Parish Office, by next weekend. Thank you again for your continued support!

ST PETER'S COMMUNITY CHOIR FOR CONFIRMATION

We are inviting all competent singers to join the St Peter's Community choir for the Confirmation Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday, May 30th at 6.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together to be part of this special occasion. Rehearsals will be on Tuesday, May 20th, and Tuesday, May 27th, at 5.00pm in the Church. We will also practice at the 10.30am Mass on Sunday, 25th May. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Seona Martin smartin@spkelloreast.catholic.edu.au We look forward to your involvement in making this event memorable!

EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS

According to the tradition of the Catholic Church, all the houses of the believers are sprinkled with the blood of the lamb (the newly Blessed Holy water) as a sign that we are resurrected with Christ. This is done from Easter to the Feast of Pentecost. If you wish to have your house blessed for Easter by Fr Anil, please contact the Parish Office.

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue

Keilor East Vic 3033

Administrator: Rev. Anil Mascarenhas

Parish Secretary: Helena Meredith

Phone: 03 9337 4141

Parish Office Hours: 8.30am-4.00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: kelloreast@cam.org.au

Website:

<https://www.melb.catholic.org.au/st>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acting Principal: Anne Tadinac

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email:

principal@spkelloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Christine Torrance

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am & 10.30am Sunday Masses

*5.00pm Mass

***No 5.00pm Mass on 27/5 - Divine Mercy Sunday.**

Weekday Mass Times*

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon request of Parish Priest)

HOLY PLACES

The annual Holy Places collection on Good Friday raised \$1,381.60 (incl. credit cards).

Thank you for your generosity. Please return any envelopes by next weekend.

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.