



'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 Fr Michael Tate

The true believers in the Risen Christ kept Thomas the Doubter within their circle, rather than expelling him. This gave him a further opportunity to experience the very Real Presence of the Risen Lord and his gift of peace. Companionable patience is our best response to those struggling with belief in even fundamental tenets of the faith.

Thomas saw that the wounds of Christ were still present, not obliterated. Does this suggest that our redeemed bodies will bear the marks of the wounds unjustly inflicted on us? However, they will not be disabling to our personality because they will be incorporated into the resurrection life of Christ. Incredibly, our self-inflicted wounds, i.e. our sins, will be obliterated in the mercy of God.

Pope Francis emphasises that it was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: 'My Lord and my God'. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith.

We could take a moment to pray for the strength to touch the wounds of Christ in others, 'the least'. And we could pray that, wounded as we may be by the vagaries and injustices of life, we may be liberated from their evil effects as the Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own.

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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.'

OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
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Office Hours: *Monday, & Wednesday 10am-3.00pm; Friday 10am-4.00pm.

**Secretary is on leave, please leave a message or email us.*

Sunday Masses: *English:* Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* Sunday 2.30pm; *Tongan* TBC
Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm

Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30am (English or Vietnamese: 1st & 4th week) **Novena:** Tuesday 8.00pm



MASS INTENTIONS 16-23 March

Sat	5.30pm	Fr. Joseph Quang RIP Fr Dominic Vinh RIP
Sun	9.00am	Filip & Mara Krsticevic RIP
	10.30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	5.30pm	Lancy & Pancy Correya RIP Maria Thuy Vu RIP
Mon,	9.00am	Charlie Bonello RIP
Tues	7.00pm	Healing Prayers
Wed	9.00am	Parish Intention
Thurs	9.00am	Lucy Philomena Vaz RIP
Fri	11.00am	Parish Intention
Sat	9.00am	Parish Intention

***“Could you not
watch
one hour with
me?”***

Matt 26:40-41

**INVITATION to come
and spend some quiet
time with Jesus in the
Blessed Sacrament:
Each Friday
12.00pm -3.00pm**



*Come for just a short visit
or for as long as you wish.*

DONATIONS

Please support our parish
Thank you!



Week 2	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Mary Rapa	Andrea Borges	Tongan Choir	M. Boongaling
Extraordinary Ministers	Simplex & Blezza Borges	Sr. Shirani Britto	Jennifer Godfrey	Kieran Sheridan
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Tongan Choir	E. Boongaling
Weekly Counting	John Francis & Michael Payne			

The Day the Lord Made: Scott Hahn Reflects on Divine Mercy Sunday

Readings: Acts 4:32–35, Psalms 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24, 1 John 5:1–6, John 20:19–31

Three times in today’s Psalm we cry out a victory shout: “His mercy endures forever.”



Truly we’ve known the everlasting love of God, who has come to us as our Savior. By the blood and water that flowed from Jesus’ pierced side (see [John 19:34](#)), we’ve been made God’s children, as we hear in today’s Second Reading.

Yet we never met Jesus, never heard Him teach, never saw Him raised from the dead. His saving Word came to us in the Church—through the ministry of the apostles, who in today’s Gospel are sent as He was sent.

He was made a life-giving Spirit (see [1 Corinthians 15:45](#)) and He filled His apostles with that Spirit. As we hear in today’s First Reading, they bore witness to His resurrection with great power. And through their witness, handed down in the Church through the centuries, their teaching and traditions have reached us (see [Acts 2:42](#)).

We encounter Him as the apostles did—in the breaking of the bread on the Lord’s day (see [Acts 20:7](#); [1 Corinthians 16:2](#); [Revelation 1:10](#)).

There is something liturgical about the way today’s Gospel scenes unfold. It’s as if John is trying to show us how the risen Lord comes to us in the liturgy and sacraments.

In both scenes it is Sunday night. The doors are bolted tight, yet Jesus mysteriously comes. He greets them with an expression, “Peace be with you,” used elsewhere by divine messengers (see [Daniel 10:19](#); [Judges 6:23](#)). He shows them signs of His real bodily presence. And on both nights the disciples respond by joyfully receiving Jesus as their “Lord.”

Isn’t this what happens in the Mass—where our Lord speaks to us in His Word, and gives himself to us in the sacrament of His body and blood?

Let us approach the altar with joy, knowing that every Eucharist is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

Child Safety Reminders & Important Notice for Parents

- ◆ Please accompany your child if they need to leave the church building.
- ◆ Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.

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Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the vulnerable.