

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / B (DIVINE MERCY)

11 APRIL 2021

EXPERIENCING THE RISEN LORD

The picture of the early church which Luke paints for us is a striking one. Everything is shared in common and it seems that Luke is at pains to highlight the radical difference the encounter with Jesus Risen made in their lives. What must other people have thought about this new group in Jerusalem? One minute they were a rabble, a rudderless ship after their leader Jesus was killed. Now they were found united sharing their faith and their goods. They were now respected, and their leaders were fearlessly giving witness that Jesus was not dead but alive.

At times people look at the difference between the early church's experience and our experience and wonder why things seem to have gone off the boil. What keeps us from letting the new life of Easter change our lives? Part of the answer lies in our own hearts. We can be afraid of allowing Jesus to enter into our lives and change us so radically. As John knows all too well, it's not the world that is the biggest obstacle for the person of faith, it's our own heart and the defences we have established there! There is a journey that must be made that no one else can make for us. The witness of the other disciples cannot substitute for Thomas his own experience of Jesus as the Risen One. When Jesus stands before him there is no more need for defences, no need to test what he knows to be true. Now, he too, can begin to live.

Christopher Monaghan CP

'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.

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FIRST READING

Acts 4: 32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP 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 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 cornerstone. / 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

A reading from the first letter of St John

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.

■ 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 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 Parishes of St. Andrew's Malabar & St. Agnes' Matraville

Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



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Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 2.30pm

Parish Secretary: Julie Lippmann

Secretarial Support: Julie Wright

WEEKEND MASSES

Malabar

Vigil Sat. 5pm Sunday 9am

(18th April, 10am, No 9am)

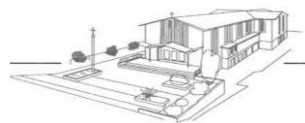
Weekday Masses: 9.10am Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat

RECONCILIATION:

Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm

Also available by appointment.

School: 9311 1203



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Office located at 6 Prince Edward St Malabar

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9.30am - 4.30pm

Parish Secretary: Yvonne Larssen

WEEKEND MASSES

Matraville

Vigil Sat. 5.30pm Sunday 10am

Weekday Masses: 7 am Tues, Wed, Fri

9.10am Thurs

RECONCILIATION:

Sat. 5pm - 5.15pm

Also available by appointment

School: 9311 1995

From my desk

Happy and Blessed Easter to all, as we conclude our eighth day (Octave) of Easter Sunday celebrations! Our Easter Season continues to be celebrated and concludes with the Feast of Pentecost (23rd May).

I do hope you are enjoying these days, whether on holidays or not.

I wish to once again, thank all those who made our Easter Ceremonies so spiritually and beautifully stunning, those who prepared the Churches at St Agnes and St Andrew's, those who assisted in the ceremonies especially the choirs, musicians, servers and sacristans, our COVID Marshals and any who assisted in any way. We appreciate your ministry in our parishes of Matraville and Malabar.

Next Sunday 18th April, at St Andrew's Malabar, Archbishop Fisher OP, will install me as Parish Priest of the Malabar Parish. **MASS NEXT SUNDAY, WILL BE AT 10am AT MALABAR**, there will be **NO 9am Mass** next Sunday. You are invited to bring along a plate of food to share, at a morning tea after Mass.

On Sunday 16th May, at St Agnes Matraville, Bishop Umbers will install me as Parish Priest of Matraville, during our 10am Mass. A morning tea will follow.

I am grateful that we have been able to have both Archbishop Fisher and Bishop Umbers, to perform these important liturgical rites and will form a welcome to these parishes, as I embark on this appointment, of these two parishes, for at least six years. We as parishes, will also commence more fully into the 'Go Make Disciples' Mission Plan of the Archdiocese, with its Five Foundations:

Evangelisation, Leadership, Community, Formation and Worship.

Continue to enjoy your holidays, those who are on them!

God bless.

Fr John

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Evelyn Harriet, Joaquin L Delgado-Reeves, & Gunther Schonfeldt

Anniversary: Greg Hayson, Daniel and Adelaida Soriano, Donald Wright, Betty Johnson, Kenneth Phillips, Morgan Hill, Gerard Dalton, Alfred & Helena Dwyer and Alfred and Helena Gainge

Funeral: for the late Evelyn Harriet - 10:30am, Thurs, 15th April, - Malabar.



Please try to download the Service NSW app so that your phone can scan the QR Code

St Agnes' and St Andrew's are registered as COVID Safe

Those who are unwell or at high risk are asked not attend.

Please observe signs on the pews.

Please keep the physical distance of 1.5 metres (2 arms lengths) at all times.

When coming to Holy Communion or placing your donation, please form **one line** & keep to the **centre** of the aisle and go back along the **side** aisles

Morning Tea will be held in the hall, following Fr John's Installation. All welcome, to help with catering, please bring a plate to share.

PARISH OUTING - Tuesday, 1st June 2021

Outing by Coach to the **Aviation Museum Albion Park** and lunch at **The Builders Club, Wollongong**. \$50 per person (includes coach fare, museum entry, morning tea, and lunch. Full Payment by Sunday, 2 May. Call, Kathy Sullivan: 9311 1749/Marie Jennings: 9311 1071.

Please return all Project Compassion boxes and envelopes soon

All in the Planned Giving and those wanting to join (St Andrew's Parish), are kindly asked to fill in the notification form on the table near the donation boxes. If we have accurate information, we may be able to give a higher tax deduction in the new financial year. **Sincere thanks for your generosity.**

Where will Fr John be??

This Week Saturday, 10 April - 5pm Malabar, Sunday 11 April - 10am Matraville
Next Week: Saturday 17 April - 5pm Malabar, Sunday 18 April - 10am Malabar