

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.

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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



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Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadagal People of the Eora Nation as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Go Make Disciples, The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Hazel Scott, Mark Foster, Kate Friček and Peter Heaney. All the people of Syria and Turkey who have died as a result of the Earthquake, all the people of the Ukraine and Russia who have died as a result of War, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Robyn Deacon, Lydia & Joseph Bujeya, Yolande & Robert Aquilina, Cheryl Rose, Eugene, Catherine & Mario Torchia, Victor Bonifacio, Marine Derapraham Daniel Soriano, Adelaidia Soriano, Robert & Helena Dwyer, Inez S'Souza, and Alferd & Helena Gainge

The Sick: Marcus O'Dean, Mick Hall, Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, Patrick Sargent, Gina Buchan, Ethan Sharpley, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Sylvester and Santa Viselli, Ellie Carter and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and those suffering from Covid.



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 22 April - 5.00 pm St Agnes'
Sunday - 23 April - 9.00 am - St Andrew's (Livestreamed)



Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville.

This Sunday completes our celebration of the Octave of Easter, 8 days of Easter Sunday. We

will continue our Easter Season, which will conclude with Pentecost Sunday, 28 May. So, continue to celebrate the Easter Joy! Once again thanks to all for your participation at the Easter Triduum and those who prepared it. Many thanks to those who contributed towards the Easter flowers at St Agnes' Matraville. Also I wish to express my appreciation to both parishes for their well wishes and gifts at this easter time..

Some thoughts on today's readings: John Byrne OSA

"Note the way Jesus dealt with Thomas. He did not give out because he doubted. He took him where he was and led him where he was and led him along to see the truth of his resurrection. Who has been that kind of a teacher for you, gently taking you where you were and leading you on to a deeper knowledge of some truth about life? For whom have you been that kind teacher?"

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed'. That requires great trust. Perhaps you have had the experience of being trusted without having had to prove every step along the way. What was it like to be trusted in that way? Who have you been able to trust in a similar Manner?"

Those who are still on holidays, I hope you are resting well and preparing for Term 2. This next Term we will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. St Agnes' Matraville, Tuesday 20 June and St Andrew's Malabar, Friday 23 June both celebrations begin at 6.00pm.

Our statue of Mary Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, is located in our Marian Shrine at the rear of the church at St Andrew's, Malabar. This statue was commissioned for the opening of our church, in 1977. Over 46 years the statue's beauty has diminished. We are indeed grateful for Mario Dato and his restoration skills, in bringing the beauty and the lustre back to the statue of Mary Help of Christian. May our Patroness of Australia intercede for us for our many needs and prayers to our almighty God

Happy Easter Joy to all

Fr



We welcome into our Parish Community Malachi Seth Robert Peter Russell, Michah Evie Russell, Mya Summer McCraw and Tai James McCraw who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St Agnes'. **Congratulations.**

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding.enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.