

**2ND SUNDAYOF EASTER**

**YEAR A**

**16 April 2023**

**LITURGY AND BULLETIN**

**OPENING PRAYER**

*God our Father,*

*Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ*

*and help us to grow as your people*

*towards the fullness of eternal life with you.*

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

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:** A reading from the first letter of St Peter

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 spoilt 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 has 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 a 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.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31.

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.

‘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 on the Gospel by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray for a new conversion of heart, that the human family will be united in a spirit of gratitude and solidarity. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Christian communities everywhere, that they will be true to the teaching of the apostles, the fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for parents, teachers and catechists, that they will inspire children with the good news of Jesus Christ. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who oversee their country’s water resources; that they will ensure the poor have ready access to safe fresh water. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who are homeless or limited to insecure and sub-standard housing, that their right to safe and healthy shelter will be met. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who have suffered abuse from church personnel, that they will be believed, supported and well accompanied. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Jenny Bodman, Eadaoin Corcoran, Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley and all who need our prayers. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: That those who have died, including Lisa Drury, Brian Walsh, Ann Fisher, Phillip Lee and David O’Connell whose anniversary occurs at this time, will live forever with the risen Christ.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Almighty God,*

*through the resurrection of your Son you have redeemed us and made us your children.*

*May we live lives that are holy that we might be united with him for ever.*

*Amen.*

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm**

**Weekday Mass:** No Tuesday Mass until May.

**Meditation:** Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

**Social Justice Group:** Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

**Krawarree Mass: May (date to be advised) at 11am.**

**Anzac Day Ecumenical Service:** 9.30am in St Bede’s Church followed by a cuppa and Anzac Biscuits. Please bring a small plate to share.

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting:** Tuesday 2nd May at 10am. All parishioners are invited to attend. There is much to discuss. A cuppa will be provided.

**Mothers’ Day Breakfast:** All women are welcome to come along to a Mother’s Day Breakfast on Saturday May 6th. Let’s get together to enjoy each other’s company and conclude with prayers of thanks and celebration for the mothering roles in our lives.

**Readings for Mass:** 1st: Acts 2:42-47. 2nd: 1 Peter 1:3-9. Gospel: John 20:19-31 **Next week:** 1st: Acts 2:14, 22-33. 2nd: 1 Peter 1:17-21. Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

**Offerings acknowledged with thanks:** 1st: $455. Easter dues $50. 2nd: envelopes: $25. Loose:$313. Thanks also to those parishioners who contribute online and annually.

**Ministries for our Mass: 15 April 22 April 29 April 6 May**

Welcomer: Cathy F Helen P Geraldine Cathy F

Acolyte:

Reader 1: Wendy M-B Ann T Michael Bobbie

Reader 2: Germaine Wendy H Cathy F Tommy

**Ministries of service: 14 April 21 April 28 April 5 May**

Altar Decorating: Joy Helen P Cathy Margaret

Cleaning: Bani & Ella Pauline & Wendy M-B

Counters: 1st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2nd: Sunday: Wendy H

 3rd Sunday: volunteer please 4th: Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other, Helen

The Parish of St Bede’s Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.