LITURGY OF THE WORD Second Sunday of Easter Year C First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 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. *The Word of the Lord*

R. Thanks be to God

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.

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.' 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.

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

Second Reading

Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

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.'

The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *John 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 *John 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. 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

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis says that when we feel 'like Thomas, with the same doubts ... we do not need to be ashamed of this.' We can all have moments of uncertainty. Importantly, the other Apostles never rejected or harassed Thomas; rather, they accompanied him. The story of Thomas shows us that it is healthy to acknowledge our struggles. As the Pope puts it, 'Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith' tend to make him think that 'something isn't right.' As the Pope goes on, 'the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be?' Now, generations later, we recall Thomas' doubt because it has much to teach us. 'Crises are not sins,' the Pope explains, 'they are part of the journey, we should not fear them.' The Pope encourages us to recognise such moments as opportunities for grace. 'Crises help us to recognise that we are needy,' he suggests, because 'they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord.' And, as the story of Thomas so clearly shows, Jesus meets us where we are in our journey of faith; he does not expect us to resolve every doubt on our own before encountering him. © Nick Brodie

ARE YOUR LOVED ONES MISSING OUT?

It is harder to get referrals from Aged Care Facilities for those people would would like visitation and HC. At all of the five facilities, we have rostered Pastoral Care and monthly Mass is celebrated if sufficient numbers wish to attend. Families can give us the details of those wishing for a visit. If in hospital please alert the RN to add your loved one to the Catholic Sunday visitation list.



ST BERNARD'S PARISH BATEMANS BAY 2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536



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E: batemansbay@cg.org.au Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay Office Hours: 10am to 2pm Tuesday-Friday Priest: Rev. Rex Curry
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Finance Admin: Anne Jackson JP
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Asst. PC Co-ord: Carolyn Evenden

Principal: Karen Hadley
St. Bernard's Primary School, Batehaven
R.E.C: Rebecca Keough
Principal: Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan
Carroll College, Broulee
R.E.C: Anna Smart

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER Year C



CHURCH EVENTS

Choir Practice
Resumes Monday May
26 at 1.00pm

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am Fridays after Mass

Wrap with Love TUESDAY 13TH May 10-11am BB Library

Craft Group 10am Thursdays Church Meeting Room

ADORATION TUESDAYS @ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after
9am Mass
Venue: Corrigans
Cove

Archbishop Christopher Prowse's tribute to Pope Francis

We mourn the death of our beloved Pope Francis on Easter Monday 21st April 2025. We offer our Masses and our prayers for the repose of his soul.

What a great gift Pope Francis has been as our Pope over these 12 years. He has been a Pope of many firsts.

He is the first Pope (and there have been 266 Popes) who was a member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

He was also the first Pope from the Americas and the Southern Hemisphere. He was the first Pope born and raised outside Europe since the 8th Century.

Finally, he is the first Pope to have chosen the name "Francis" as his Papal name. Since his election as Pope on the 13th March 2013, Pope Francis has given so much hope to the Catholic Church and the world in general. He has been a Pope who has encouraged us to open ourselves more fully to the merciful love of Jesus. This is even reflected in his Papal Motto: "Lowly but chosen." We can certainly say that God has chosen, for our time and place, Pope Francis.

For me personally, it has been a Pontificate of beautiful humble and merciful images. So many examples come to mind.

We will never forget the beautiful image of Pope Francis after his election as Pope returning to the hotel he was staying to pay his bill for his accommodation. He then decided to live in a house for priests rather that the Apostolic Palace.

I recall in his early days as Pope Francis stopping the Pope-mobile in St Peter's Square and embracing the deformed face of a man – Vinicio Riva. It was a symbolic image of the love of God embracing those who, in this case physically, are on the periphery of life. Then of course we must not forget that for so much of his Pontificate there were two Popes present. His greeting of the retired Pope Benedict XVI, his predecessor, in retirement soon after Pope Francis's election in 2013 was history in the making.

There is another image that was so constant in his many unexpected travels around the world. His choice of a very humble car rather than some Limousine was always a good image. The other image was him constantly passing people with his hand outside the window blessing and waving to them. This image of his outstretched arm waving to people from his humble white car was a prophetic image of a Church living humbly and modestly. Pope Francis interacted with the crowds in a very personal way. He would continually stop his Pope-mobile to embrace and bless children and the infirm. Quite often there were old friends invited into his vehicle or unexpected people going for a ride!

Another important image of healing was the washing of the feet of prisoners during Holy Week. His annual trip to wash the feet of prisoners was never to be taken for granted and was most unusual in such an annual pattern.

Personally, the Australian Bishops' meeting with Pope Francis over 90 minutes on 24th June 2019 in the Vatican was an unforgettable experience of my life. His nearness, kindness and pastoral wisdom was awe-inspiring.

Another image for us in more recent years was very significant. It was his interaction during the Synods on Synodality in Rome (2023-2024). There was the image of the Pope sitting around a circular table with everybody rather than on some high throne on a stage. His reorganisation of the Roman Curia and his total support for expressing Church life in a "synodal way" will be one of his lasting inheritances.

(cont inued over the page)

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Walbunja people of the Yuin Nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 28th April:—Sunday 4th

NO MASS Monday 28th: Tuesday 29th: Mass 5pm Wednesday 30th: Mass 9am Thursday 1st: Mass 9am Friday 2nd: Mass 9am Saturday 3rd: Mass 5pm

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30 Mass 9am Sunday 4th:

ROSTERS

26/27 APRIL

Cleaning

22 Apr- 2 May D & L Mav

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer K Conway Commentator: P O'Kelly Reader: J O'Sullivan **Eucharistic Ministers** J Wain Computer Screen

9.00 AM

M O'Neill

MASS: Welcomer T van den Broek Commentator N Beatty Reader: J Whiteford. .. **Eucharistic Ministers** V & C Burns

Computer Screen D May

MORNING TEA:

J Barroman/G Berryman

COUNTERS: G Norris/J O'Sullivan 3/4 MAY Cleaning 5-9 R & K Ison

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer J Anderson Commentator: S Ebejer Reader: P Nolan **Eucharistic Ministers** C Brownlie Computer Screen K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M deSmet Commentator L Page Reader: B Basevi **Eucharistic Ministers** N Page & L Stevens Computer Screen T Priest

MORNING TEA:

Filipino Community

COUNTERS

B Basevi/C Meade

BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH—27th April, 2025 This week-end we welcome Jace Gassmen into our faith community through the waters of baptism. May God's love and blessings be upon him now and always.

PARISH FINANCIAL **SUPPORT**

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Ref: Family Name

Archbishop Prowse's message continued..

This is symbolised in the conversations in round circles that he promoted and participated in personally.

When we talk generally to people about Pope Francis they inevitably describe his humility and informality. Others would comment on his great contribution to Inter-Religious Dialogue. Particularly his signing of the document on Human Fraternity (Abu Dhabi, 4 February 2019) along with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, was a prophetic document in a world still so desperately trying to find peace among the world Religions.

Another landmark contribution was his advances in regard to the Catholic Church and its theology and practice of Ecology. The document, Laudato Si (2015)(and Fratelli Tutti 2020), has begun a major return of the Catholic Church back to its theological understanding of Ecology.

His support of popular movements within the Church and always arranging his timetables, national or international, to embrace the poorest of the poor will be remembered.

He always supported the youth, particularly in World Youth Days. In the World Youth Day in Portugal (2023) he insistence that we all repeat after him, "Everyone". This was guite monumental. Quite often being misunderstood and making him unpopular in some circles, he was always insisting that everyone is welcomed into the Church no matter what their situation.

He was unique in many respects. He did not write in the philosophical language of Pope St John Paul II nor equal the incredible international pilgrimages he made. Nor, really, were his writings as numerous and as profound theologically as his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI. Nonetheless, his writings reflect a most personal sharing of his deep relationship with the Lord. He was always stressing the importance of evangelisation and our need to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

May his dear soul rest in peace.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Two Morning Retreats: 'The Gift of Years - Growing older Gracefully'.

Dates: Morning 1: Tuesday May 27 a

Morning 2: Tuesday June 17...topics will

differ on each morning.

Time: 9-30am - 12 noon in St Bernard's Church Meeting Room.

Cost= Free:

BYO shared morning tea.

Facilitated by Marie Weatherall and Carolyn Evenden. All welcome ... come to 1 and/or both mornings.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL RSVP by Monday May 19

Marie (m) 0405028057 or Carolyn (m) 0400 021 119.

Cuppa with Mary MacKillop Tuesday 6th May at Mary O'Neill's home 10-11am Ph: 0403 147 242

"You believe because you see me. Happy are those who have not seen but believe.'

Easter has been celebrated but on this Octave day of Easter the readings continue to remind us to reflect, celebrate and respond to the message of the Resurrection. They are reminders of the meaning, for us particularly, of the Resurrection—the feast t hat gives meaning to life.

The suggestion of community is highlighted in the first reading with the word "faithful" being used. That word intimates that they, the faithful,living together as a community strengthen each other. They were also "witnesses", living and showing the values they had learned from Jesus-compassion, love and justice.

Richard Rohr in the book The Great Themes of Scripture New Testament writes Community is not something which is added on to Christian life; it is at the very heart of that life. Christianity is a way for people to live community." (Page64) Community helps us to support and encourage each other in our faith. Being together helps us grow and face challenges with a stronger faith.

> Peace be with you! Receive the Holy Spirit. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you. Happy are they who have not seen and yet believe.

How do these statements impact us in this time following Easter? We know the disciples were locked behind closed doors, living with fear and doubts about what was to happen to them now Jesus was gone. Then He appeared - the closed doors were no barrier. We are reminded of the many things that happened. The disciples lost their fear -they were transformed by Jesus' gift of peace and the Spirit. Thomas was transformed. Like Thomas, we all have times of being a "doubting Thomas": we need to stop and remember the choices with which we are faced and remember we have been gifted by the Spirit to make responsible decisions. The Spirit is with us to strengthen our faith. We need to trust. Jesus is always with us, ready to help if we ask.

Jesus, in conferring peace makes us think, understand and realise that our significant relationships with others and God take time to grow and deepen. The peace we received should help us to be forgiving and understanding in our daily interactions with those in our community and those outside our community. We can make a positive im-

How we react/respond to what is in today's readings depends on our faith: the gift we have been given, how we nurture it through our commitment and witness to each other in our community.

A gentle reminder from Sr Joan Chittester "Resurrection is not a one time event but a continuous process of renewal and transformation that unfolds in our lives if we are believers.'

God is on our journey walking with us!

Ken and Carolyn Evenden

Remembering the Sick:

Kristy Crosby, Jeanette Clarke, Chris Bowditch, Sheree Jackson, Brendan Blyton, Wendy & Pat Roberts, Mark O'Neill, Karen Nixon, Kevin Totterell, Dawn Robinson, Maria de Rocco, Myrna Glenn, Norma Dean, Ann Marie McLoughlin, Antionette Doyle, Christine Norman, Anne Gatehouse, Tony Vogel, Suzanne Hughes, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Fr John Walter, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Vince Burns, Patrick Burns, Carolyn Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Allan Odlum, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, those in hospital and nursing homes.

Death Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Pope Francis, Kelvin Jones, Margaret Priest, Linda Vogel, Geoffrey Bopping, Ivan Backo, Jean McSmith, David Wick, Joe Quigley, Margaret Silversides, Patricia Totterdell, David Cowley, Joanne Rogers, Gerald Lewis, Josephine Beckhaus, Cyril Noyeaux, Frank Simic, Sr Paulinus Croker, Marion O'Grady, Patricia Suhl, Neil Leonard, Letitia Baz, Trent Fisk, Kevin Carew, Margaret Kelly, Arthur Hurrell, Vicki Lukasik, Paul Skinner, Suzanne Melton, James Quirk, Giovanni Menon, Tony Puconja, Hazel Nolan, Else McGahey, Richard Smart, Patrick Dunn, Laurence Foran, Lynton Ryan, Jacki Harding, Keith Cooke, Sarah Good, Robert Mitchell, Joyce Hurrell, Archbishop Francis Carroll, Ruth O'Malley, Julie Morgan, Suzanne Houssard, Nancy Sykes, Lillian Burkinshaw, Lynette Arundel

Pope Francis Monthly **Prayer Intentions**

MAY

For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanised.



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