

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.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OF DIVINE MERCY) / C

24 APRIL 2022

## FAITH BRINGS PEACE

The journey of faith is one that has many moments and stages. At times all goes well, as in Acts, and we can rejoice in the fruitful results of our efforts. There can be other times when, like Thomas, we wrestle with doubt and disbelief. In the face of difficulties, we can run the risk of losing heart, like the Christians of Ephesus, and sorely need encouragement. Today's readings are particularly consoling because they show us that the life of faith has always been a journey with many such moments. Many people of faith feel that it would have been different in the early Church, that somehow they had more faith, vision, courage, and understanding. We can often be unduly hard on ourselves and perhaps overly idealistic about life in the early days of the Church.

It is always worth asking why the earliest Christians wrote as they did. If John's community had not had its moments of questioning, the episode of Thomas the apostle would probably not have been written down. If the Christian communities around Ephesus had not been discouraged and fearful in the face of persecution and opposition, it would not have been necessary to write the book of the Apocalypse. They needed to be reminded that the Risen One who holds the key to life and death, was walking among them still. Even the bright picture painted in Acts was probably written with a view to encouraging the Christians of Luke's time.

The Risen One walks amongst us still. Mindful of our journey of faith, he calls us to faith and to know his peace.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Acts 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.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v. 1

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, 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 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.

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 Lord God is our light. R.

## SECOND READING

Apoc 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.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

In 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

In 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

24 Apr 2022  
2nd Easter Yr C

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrickswesttamtworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamtworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamtworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.  
**Administration** Di Bolitho / Anne Bowden  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

Office Hrs: Wed-Thur 9.30 am -11.30 am

**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND MASSES** Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30pm

### CONFESIONS

**Sat:** 4.30-5.15pm

\*Or by appointment

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Mon: No Mass Tues: No Mass  
Wed: 12 noon Thurs: 9am St Peter Chanel  
Fri: 9am St Catherine of Siena Sat: 9am

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in Him you may grow to salvation, Alleluia.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, Alleluia.

**May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:**

**Recently Deceased:** David Owens, Kathleen Griffin (Lismore), Ivan Abra, Annette Hardy.

**Anniversaries:** Alf Small (13/04), Fr Bruce MacPherson (8/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

**Deceased:** John Steer, Terry Burke, Laurence Vella, John Paul Vella.

**Sick:** Sr Rita Vella, Barbara Brennan, Peter Richards, Colin MacPherson, Kevin Bonner, Lisa Foster, Kate Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Margaret Marshall, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

*The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.*

*Douglas MacArthur*

**Lest We Forget 2022**



**CHURCH COLLECTIONS:** (contactless option)

BSB 082105

1st Coll: Presbytery Acc 001023642

2nd Coll: St Patricks Church Acc 001041198

*Happy Easter Everyone  
from Fr Anthony and Veena.  
We hope everyone enjoyed our wonderful  
Easter ceremonies.*

*The work of God goes on, and for this we have much to thank Him.*

*Sr Mary MacKillop*

**NSW STATE COVID RULES:** \* FACE MASKS ARE NOT COMPULSORY BUT RECOMMENDED

\* SANITISE HANDS ON ENTERING. \* NO CHECK IN REQUIRED

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** We welcome into our catholic community the following children who have recently been baptised in our parish: Denver Wood, Hudson Leehy, Matilda Cusack, and Charlotte Woppard. We pray for them, their parents and godparents.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2022. Please bring your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes back next week or visit [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au) and donate online or call 1800 024 413.

**DIVINE MERCY NOVENA:**

Divine Mercy is this Sunday. It is based on the private revelations of St. Faustina Kowalska, which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy. The Divine Mercy Novena commenced on Good Friday 15 April with Divine Mercy Celebrations being held today Sunday 24 April. Information is on the noticeboard about these ceremonies.



**SYNOD ON SYNODALITY:** Bishop Michael Kennedy will mark the close of the Diocesan consultation phase of the *Synod on Synodality* at the 10am Mass at Saints Mary & Joseph's Cathedral, Armidale on Sunday 1 May, 2022. Parishioners from across the Diocese are invited to attend."

**PARISH CENTRE HIRE:** The lower level of our lovely parish centre is now available for event hire to the public.(no 18th's/21st's). Please contact the office for information and bookings.

*Easter is not just a weekend, it's a whole season!  
It begins on Easter Sunday and runs through to Pentecost,  
seven weeks in duration. The colour gold or white is used during this time to signify the glory of the Lord  
and our joy in the resurrection.*

*It is a time when we, as a Church, focus on the promises of Jesus  
to save us from evil and be with us in our lives.*

### PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart  
and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.  
Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; We are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 24/4/22

**Vigil:** R D Gowing G Styman  
**9am Sun:** R Volunteer M Donaldson  
**5.30pm Sun:** R M and J Murray  
**Counting Team** S Brown A Bowden  
**Sat Cleaning** 30/4 K O'Brien J Cunningham  
**Altar Linen** E Jackson

### WEEK 5 ROSTER: 1/5/22

**Vigil:** R D Gowing D Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R Volunteer G Clout  
**5.30pm Sun:** R M and J Murray  
**Counting Team** P Sheils ; A Bowden  
**Sat Cleaning** 7/5 J Hutt & J Moran  
**Altar Linen:** B Flood/ E Smyth

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

