

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) / B

7 APRIL 2024

'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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RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

As we bask in the light of resurrection, today we see two witnesses to the resurrection, and the transformation of lives.

The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, the second volume attributed to Luke, and it presents to us a changed way of living. Firstly, the whole group of believers are described as 'of one heart and soul' (v. 32). The apostles appear as testifying with great power to the resurrection and 'great grace was upon them all' (v. 33). The remarkable addition here is that they shared everything in common, sold property and distributed funds so no-one was in need (v. 34-35). This radical transformation of their way of life is not a defining feature of our communities today, even though adopted by many religious congregations throughout the Church's history. While not diminishing the great charitable works operating today, this way of life remains a challenge to us in a world where rich become richer and poor increase in number and poverty.

In juxtaposition to the Acts account, the Gospel outlines the appearance of Jesus among the apostles and the repetition of 'Peace be with you' (vv. 19, 21). In this gathering behind closed doors, Jesus tells the apostles that he is sending them out. He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them, commissioning them. Eight days later in the same room Jesus arrives saying once again 'Peace be with you' (v. 26) and here is the experience of the doubting Thomas, forever recorded for anyone who might doubt that the resurrection happened and is real.

How will our lives be transformed by the resurrection?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

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.'

7 April 2024
Easter Wk 2 Yr B

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest	Fr Anthony Koppman	Office Hrs: Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am
Pastoral Associate:	Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.	
Administration	Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden	Presbytery 67658211
Sacristan	Elaine Smyth	Pastoral Associate 0411703608
School Principals	Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland	St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9.00am Sun: 5pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12.00 noon Thur: 9.00am St Stanislaus
Fri: 12.00 noon

CONFESSIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm
*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The Lord said, as He entered the world:
Behold I come to do your will, O God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and His name will be called Emmanuel.



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Colin MacPherson, Gary Donaldson, Susan Rice (Guyra), Elizabeth Foy (Morpeth).

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Mansfield (3/3), William Grima (5/3), Anna (25/3), Fr Bruce MacPherson (8/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

DECEASED: Margaret Marshall, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

SICK: Fr Anthony Koppman, Norma O'Brien, Christine Porters, Shane Davidson, Monica Austin, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Graeme Bussell, John Betts, Kate Harrison, William Bonner, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Fr Bernard Flood.

VEENA'S VERSION:



St Thomas holds forth in the Upper Room. "I won't believe until I can place my fingers into the holes in His hands and His feet and thrust my hand into the wound in His side." Just then the Risen Christ enters. "Tom," Jesus says, "the boys and I have been talking, and we're all afraid that you're becoming just a little too weird. Maybe it's time you saw someone professional for some help."

COMING EVENTS:

7 Apr Divine Mercy Sunday Service at St Nicholas at 3 pm

15 Apr School Holidays Commence 25 Apr ANZAC Day

26 Apr Term 2 Commences 15 June REFLECTION DAY West Tamworth Parish Centre (Sr Maureen's reflection day which was postponed from March, is now rescheduled. Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom - Pope Francis invites us to journey with God this Lent. During the day there will be the opportunity to open up the Lenten Message of Pope Francis as we reflect on his words, inviting us to grow to greater freedom.)

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082 105

1st. Collection West Tamworth Presbytery (Diocesan collection) Acc No: 001023642
2nd Collection West Tamworth Church (St Patricks Church) Acc No:001041198

"Have courage." (1870)



PROJECT COMPASSION: Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2024 Lenten appeal, especially those who have now returned their contributions. **Please place Project Compassion boxes/envelopes in the white container in the centre of the church as soon as possible so it can be forwarded on.** You can also donate via www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or Ph 1800 024 413.

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous support of this collection. \$812.35 has been forwarded for the Holy Land Franciscan Australia order. "The Australian Church's support through the Good Friday Collection has always been very generous and is truly appreciated by the Christian people who live and work in the Holy Land, as it helps them feel a sense of belonging to a wider church outside their own homeland where they presently experience instability, suffering and violence, instead of the peace and harmony for which Jesus died." To find out more or make a donation go to the website at <http://holylandfranciscansaustralia.org/>

VEENA'S UPDATE - FR ANTHONY'S LEAVE: We are so very grateful to Fr John McHugh for providing his leadership and special presence during our blessed Easter period. We now welcome Fr Martin Maunsell back and thank him for providing for our pastoral care and accepting some disruption to his general duties elsewhere.

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS: So many people who worked so tirelessly to make our Easter celebrations so moving and so special. Special thanks for Fr John McHugh for his very special way of celebrating Easter.

menALIVE WEEKEND FOR MEN. What are you doing on the 4th and 5th of May? Could you benefit from a weekend featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion and space to reflect? Since menALIVE commenced in 2003 thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged and inspired at weekends across Australia. Now, Armidale's 3rd menALIVE weekend is being hosted at Echidna Gully at Metz Gorge. Further information - www.trybooking.com/CPBWS to register or Chris on 0433 775 42.

CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT: The latest Catholic Viewpoint, March 2024, can be found online at https://issuu.com/diocesefarmidale/docs/viewpoint_jan_-_mar_2024. It is well worth a read.

DE LA SALLE ARMIDALE REUNION: All Ex-students of De La Salle College Armidale are invited to a School Reunion to be held in Armidale on Saturday 26th October **THIS YEAR**, which is the 50th Anniversary of the closing of the College as we knew it. Very importantly - in order to secure our booking at this early stage - we need to soon know NUMBERS coming! **IF** you (wife/partner also welcome) intend to come please send a "YES" email to dlsarmidale@yahoo.com. to be put on invitees list. Limited seating for this special Reunion! More information if required from Pete Stanley, mob 0401745406. Other information will come to your email.

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son, You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest, prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice, taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule. We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese. May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a compassionate heart and firm resolve, and a person of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will. We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen*



WEEK 4 ROSTER: 7/4/24

Vigil: R P Bamford Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Brown, M Donaldson
5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran C Lavell
Counting Team: G & M Thrift, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning: S Brown V Griffiths
Altar Linen: J Hutt

WEEK 5 ROSTER: 14/4/24

Vigil: R C Ledwos, D Bolitho
9am Sun: R J Ryan, G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney D Bearman
Counting Team O & J Whale, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning K O'Brien M Brown
Altar Linen: M Vella

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

