

# PARISH OF ST ANNE AND ST BEDE



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020

For those wishing to contribute to Easter Offerings and Thanksgiving, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.

Church Account  
BSB: 083 347

Account no. 458706734

Account name: St Bede's Church Account

Presbytery Account  
BSB: 083 347

Account no. 666017079

Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account

**Please click on the link below after 5pm on Saturday, 18 April, to view the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Online Mass celebrated by our priests.**

**LINK:**

Your prayers are asked for:

*Ladislav Idrizovic and Mary Assumpta Therese Rajanayagam who died recently, and Dominic Hoat Nguyen, Maria Me Nguyen and Terry Smith whose anniversaries occur about this time.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN: Sing a new song unto the Lord — GA 414**

**COMMUNION HYMN: Christ is alive, with joy we sing — GA 365**

**1st reading: ACTS 2:42-47**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Responsorial Psalm PS 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24**

**R. (1) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the house of Israel say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

I was hard pressed and was falling,  
but the LORD helped me.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.

The joyful shout of victory  
in the tents of the just:

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

**2nd reading: 1 PT 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,

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kept in heaven for you  
who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith,  
to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.  
In this you rejoice, although now for a little while  
you may have to suffer through various trials,  
so that the genuineness of your faith,  
more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire,  
may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor  
at the revelation of Jesus Christ.  
Although you have not seen him you love him;  
even though you do not see him now yet believe in him,  
you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,  
as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Alleluia JN 20:29**

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**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;  
blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

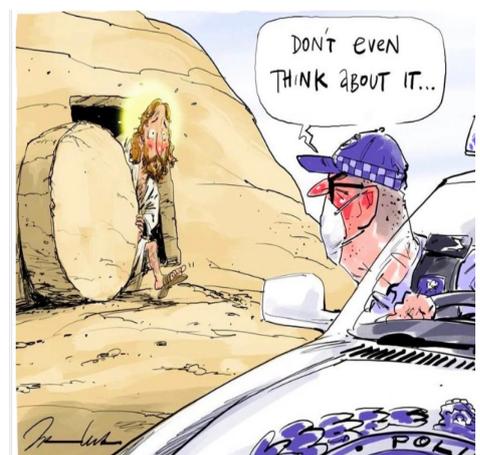


**Gospel JOHN 20:19-31**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

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On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood in their midst  
and said to them, "Peace be with you."  
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.  
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.  
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
And when he had said this, he breathed on them  
and said to them,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.  
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,  
and whose sins you retain are retained."



Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,  
was not with them when Jesus came.  
So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”  
But he said to them,  
“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands  
and put my finger into the nailmarks  
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside  
and Thomas was with them.  
Jesus came, although the doors were locked,  
and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.”  
Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands,  
and bring your hand and put it into my side,  
and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”  
Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!”  
Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples  
that are not written in this book.  
But these are written that you may come to believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

### **The Gospel of the Lord**



St Bede's magnificent

## REFLECTION ON JOHN 20:19-31

One of the fast growing groups of people when it comes to the religious question on the census are those who do not have any religious belief. So the example of Thomas: the one who questions, who struggles to come to faith, is the story of many of the people we work with, live with, and have in our friendship groups.

We can naively think sometimes that it would be easier if we could see and touch and hear God. People would have to believe! So would we! However, if we look at the Gospels, we find that almost the opposite is true. During the time when the apostles, the other disciples, and all the people of Israel could see and hear Jesus, they either misunderstood him or wanted him to be someone he wasn't; or they rejected him. And if they did think they wanted to follow him, their courage gave out as soon as the going got tough.

When did those people come to faith? It was after Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. When he was no longer with them in the way he was before.

This is what the evangelist confronts in today's Gospel, the Gospel of John. And so we are given the story of Thomas: the one who was not there to see when Jesus came to the disciples in the locked upper room. Thomas stands for all of us who have not seen, yet believe.

When Thomas is given the encounter with the Risen Christ, what is it that Jesus asks him to touch? A glorified body? A triumphant Christ? A miracle of healing? No. He asks him to touch the wounds of the Cross.

I suspect that the god that many unbelievers reject is not the God we believe in. They reject an all-powerful, wonder-working, manipulative god. Of course, tragically there are people who call themselves Christian who believe in that sort of miracle-worker, sometimes vengeful or unforgiving and harsh god. It is not the God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who carried our wounds on the Cross and continues to carry them in his resurrected body.

John's Gospel tells us that there were many other signs that Jesus worked, but they are not recorded – and they are not recorded because they do not bring us to faith. The sign of the Cross, the wounds of Christ, does. They are the signs of the God who loves us so intimately that he suffered and died for us. And it is in our fragility, our wounds that we come to know him.

In the second reading, Peter writes: *You did not see him, yet you love him.* And John's Gospel says: *Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.*

It is in love that we believe in the risen Christ. And it is in His love shown on the Cross that we come to know him.

*Fr. John Salvano*



## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Our strength and courage are Our Lord and Saviour whose presence among us we celebrate today. Let us turn to God whose love is everlasting.**

### **Petitions**

We pray for Pope Francis and the whole Church Community. May the Spirit guide us to be faithful to the witness of the Apostles.

*Lord hear us*

For the world which is fighting the Covid-19 pandemic – that the challenges we are facing bring about a sense of goodwill and a deepening awareness of hope and faith.

*Lord hear us*

For health workers – that they have time to rest and recover from their work, that they be protected from the virus, and that their work bears the fruit of healthy communities.

*Lord hear us*

As we pause to commemorate ANZAC Day this week, we remember all those who have given their lives in the defence and service of their country. We pray that God will guide political and military leaders to always strive for justice and peace.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for the sick of our parish and for all who have asked for our prayers. We pray for those who have died recently, especially Ladislav Idrizovic, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Dominic Hoat Nguyen, Maria Me Nguyen and Terry Smith. May they share fully in the life of the Risen Lord.

*Lord hear us*

**Ever loving God, may you hear the prayers of petition brought to you today, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Thank you to all those who returned their Project Compassion boxes and envelopes on Friday. Caritas Australia have put out an urgent appeal today to help with aid to poorer countries grappling with the same Covid19 crisis that we are experiencing. Envelopes and boxes are still available if needed, and donations can be dropped in at the presbytery between 6 and 7pm each day. If you wish for a tax receipt, please ensure you supply your name and address.

