



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY / A

19 APRIL 2020

## FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**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. 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

1 Pet 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

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 had 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 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.

■ **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.

'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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# Reflections on the Gospel

## STILL BEARING THE WOUNDS OF LOVE

Thomas is one of the most clearly defined characters in the Gospels. Born loser, realist, pessimist, he has missed out on the Easter night appearance of Jesus. He won't believe that Jesus has been raised simply on the other disciples' claim: 'We have seen the Lord'. He insists on seeing, touching, hearing for himself.

Eight days later, with divine 'courtesy', Jesus meets Thomas' conditions exactly. But, at the sight of his risen Lord, Thomas abandons these conditions. He, the late-comer, the obtuse one, goes on to make the most exalted act of faith contained in the gospel: 'My Lord and my God!' It is Thomas, the hesitant, the doubter, who brings out the full identity of Jesus.

Moreover, Thomas' demand to see and touch the wounds shows that the risen Lord continues to bear these badges of vulnerable love. Presumably that is why Pope John Paul II chose this Second Sunday after Easter as 'Divine Mercy' Sunday: Jesus is someone to whom we can go and find understanding and mercy in a divine degree.

Jesus adds a comment that brings us into the picture too: 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Succeeding generations of believers will not have the privilege of seeing the risen Lord. We have to believe simply the testimony handed down in the Church: 'We have seen the Lord'. We are not at a disadvantage. We are in fact 'blessed' because from us a faith greater than that of Thomas' will be drawn. And it is faith that lets God's power into the world.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**



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## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY YEAR A – 19 APRIL 2020

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

**NO PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS OF MASS, THE CHURCH IS CLOSED 24 HRS**

Mass is available daily online at [www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)  
Sunday Mass is aired on ten (Channel 05) Sunday mornings at 6am

### SACRAMENTS

Confession	By request, must be in an open space observing the 1.5 metre physical distancing
Marriage	By appointment, must not exceed 5 persons – couple, witnesses and priest
Funerals	Graveside service only, no more than 10 persons including priest
Anointing	By request
Baptism	Suspended until further notice
Holy Communion	Suspended until further notice
Confirmation	Suspended until further notice

*If you have any questions or need to speak to a priest please contact the parish on the phone numbers and/or email indicated above and below*

### PRAYER REQUESTS

### RECENTLY DECEASED. THE SICK AND MASS OFFERINGS

Please email or phone through your prayer and Mass requests, so that we can share them here and gather in spiritual communion to offer your intentions. We pray for the recently deceased especially James Brown, and those taken by the Coronavirus.

### PARISH DETAILS

PARISH COUNCIL	PRIESTS / PARISH	PARISH BANKING
Fr George, Fr Namora, Peter Gain, Chris Baron, Anne Saunderson, Craig Ferguson, Kate Howe, Liz Knight	Fr George – 0484 604 273 Fr Namora – 0450 438 444 Madeline Ryan – 0478 000 526	BSB 062 786 A/C 14943 <b>ST PATRICKS PARISH GUNDAGAI</b>

A copy of the Church Bulletin is available on our website each week – [www.cg.org.au/gundagai](http://www.cg.org.au/gundagai)  
Please send any notices to [gundagai@cg.org.au](mailto:gundagai@cg.org.au) by midday Wednesday each week for inclusion in the bulletin.

### BANKING / PLANNED GIVING

We can, and must, continue supporting the priests and the parish through our first and second collections. These can be done through online banking or by a bank deposit in person. Please note the different accounts and references.

<b>FIRST COLLECTION</b> including Mass Intentions		
BSB 062-786	A/C 000029248	Acc Name: Central Presbytery Fund
<b>IMPORTANT!</b> Please reference your <b>SURNAME</b> and <b>PARISH</b> eg. <i>Smith GUNDAGAI</i>		

<b>SECOND COLLECTION/PLANNED GIVING</b>		
BSB 062 786	A/C 000014943	Acc Name: St Patricks Parish Gundagai
Please reference your <b>SURNAME</b> and <b>PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER</b> eg <i>Smith PGENV24</i> Please contact the Secretary 0478 000 526 or <a href="mailto:gundagai@cg.org.au">gundagai@cg.org.au</a> if you need an envelope number.		

## NOTICES

### ROSARY & ADORATION

A group of parishioners are praying the Rosary, in our own homes, at 11am every day. We are praying for ourselves and our families, our Parish community, our Church and the whole world. Please join us, so we can still pray and “be together”, in these trying times.

*“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope is gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God” ~ St John Paul II*

Consider ‘virtual Adoration’ - through the following website <https://virtualadoration.home.blog/> or on Facebook through ‘Sacred Heart Parish Griffith Perpetual Adoration’.

*“O Jesus, concealed in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar, my only love and mercy, I commend to you all the needs of my body and soul. You can help me, because you are mercy itself, in you lies all my hope” ~ Diary of St Faustina #1751*

### FR GEORGE’S GOSPEL REFLECTION – DIVINE MERCY

The Second Sunday of Easter is traditionally observed as Divine Mercy Sunday. In one of the visions of Saint Faustina Kowalska, Jesus said to her, "Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy."

We see traces of this Divine Mercy in the Gospel reading of day. Jesus appears to the disciples and appoints them to become agents of His mercy. The most practical way of showing this mercy is in the forgiveness of sins. This is at the heart the Easter message. Jesus died and rose again that He may take our sins away. "Divine mercy becomes the Easter gift the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity." Jesus forgives our sins, but empowers us to forgive others. The peace with which He greeted His apostles will reign in our lives, and society, if we all have the mind of Jesus in forgiving one another.

We are called today to recommit ourselves to the promise made to us in the first letter of Peter 1:6&7. “This is a great joy for you (the debt paid by Christ), even though for a short time you must all bear all sorts of trials so that the worth of your faith more valuable than gold, which is perishable even if it is tested in fire, may be prove to your praise and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.” The disciple’s faith after the passion and death of Christ was tested, they were afraid; Thomas doubted and eventually expressed his faith when he exclaimed “my Lord and my God”. We also face the same ordeal like the disciples in the midst of the uncertainty in our world and fear of the unseen enemy (Corona Virus). We have been quarantined with fear like the disciples. If we allow Christ into our homes and hearts at these trying times and cast away our doubts like Thomas, the Peace and Mercy of Christ will find a place in our heart.

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday.



### PARISH BULLETINS VIA EMAIL

If you would like to receive updates and the Parish Mass Bulletin in your inbox every week, or if you know anyone with an email address, who would like to receive it, please send Madeline an email with your request [gundagai@cg.org.au](mailto:gundagai@cg.org.au)

### CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE EDITIONS

As the Catholic Voice is not currently being printed, short weekly editions are available via email. You can subscribe at [www.catholicvoice.org.au/weekly-voice/](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au/weekly-voice/)

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

We can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist through making a spiritual Communion.

By making an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask him to unite himself with us. Here is the Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.