

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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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / A (OF DIVINE MERCY)

16 APRIL 2023

## FAITH: A PROMISE OF LIFE

How many times have you heard people relate stories and then say, aware that the story does not do justice to the experience, 'You had to be there'? When we read of those early days of the Church, when the community was so united in faith, love and prayer, we can find ourselves wishing to have been there. Imagine the disappointment of second-generation Christians who had missed out by only a few years! The story of Thomas' doubt, disbelief and disappointment would have been partly preserved to encourage such Christians. Decades later, they were invited to see that while they were not part of the original experience, their faith was all the more precious because it was not based on being an eyewitness. It also served as a reminder not to be too quick to idealise the early life of the Church; even then the road to mature faith was not an easy one.

Late in the first century, the first letter of Peter set out to build up the faith of a community that felt caught between the resurrection and Jesus' final return. Like us, they may have felt that they had missed out on something precious, but Peter reminds them that their faith is a tremendous gift and promise of the life that lies ahead. The road to a mature faith is not easy and there are problems to be encountered from both within and outside ourselves. These very struggles purify our hearts and prepare us for what is to come.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## 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



## Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood

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[www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood](https://www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood)



[www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic)

**NB: New Parish PO Box address: PO Box 437 West Ryde NSW 1685. For your information**

### MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION AND DEVOTION

**Weekday Mass:** Monday - 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days);

Tuesday to Thursday - 7:30am (followed by Holy Rosary); Friday - 5pm

**Weekend Mass:** Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday - 8am, 9:30am, 6pm

**CCC Mass:** Sunday at 11:30am (English/Cantonese)

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Friday 4pm-5pm

**First Friday Devotion:** Monthly at 4pm

**First Saturday Mass and Devotion:** Monthly at 9am

**Exposition and Benediction:** First weekend of the month at all Masses

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Friday 4pm-4:45pm and Saturday 4:30pm-5:15pm

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## Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday

16 April 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:



**Recently Deceased:** Benjamin Isaacs

**Death Anniversary:** Michael John Hanna, Anthony Khoury, Jacki Boyce, Anthony Hogan, Mildred Hogan

**Deceased:** Jan Wiczorkowski, Peter, Allan & Molly McNamara; John, Bill & Eileen Taylor; Amy Murray, Katherine Corbett, Win Tranor, Sandra Walsh, Jim Grainger, James Bertoldo, Mike Crestani; Milly Farrell; Marie Cummins, Francis Murray; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff & Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Brayon

**Sick:** Elizabeth Uy Tan, Lyn Crown, Burkardt Foertsch, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

### A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS:

On behalf of the parishioners of St Kevin's, we congratulate Suzanne Maslen, our Dempsey Medal recipient this year. The Dempsey Medal is awarded annually by the Archbishop of Sydney to members of the Catholic clergy and laity to recognise their outstanding contributions & service to their local parish community and wider society. The Archbishop will present the award to all Dempsey Medal recipients across the archdiocese on Sun 21st May, 10:30am at St Mary's Cathedral. All are welcome to attend.



### PARISH NEWS:

• **Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.** Pope St. John Paul II named the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday at the canonization of St. Faustina on 30th April 2000. To celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy, we will have a Holy Hour from 2.30pm-3.30pm. This Holy Hour will include adoration, praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and blessing of devotional articles. This will complete the Divine Mercy Novena that started on Good Friday. ALL WELCOME.



- **A BIG Thank You for your generosity and well attendance during our Holy Week & Easter liturgies. We raised \$10,461.55 towards Caritas' Project Compassion Appeal and \$4,483.70 towards the Holy Land Appeal. We are truly grateful for your support!**
- **To view photos from Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil celebrations visit: <https://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au/photo-gallery/>**
- **Next weekend, April 22 & 23, we will have a special appeal to support the St Joseph Lumezi Nursing School and Provincial Hospital in Zambia.** Initiated by Dr Mark Hanley, a General Practitioner and long-time parishioner here at St Kevin's, this appeal will help provide the much-needed textbooks, equipment, hospital beds and other essential items for the ongoing establishment of the nursing school and hospital in Zambia. See poster for details or visit: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/docs-gift-to-zambia/> to read the full article. Dr Hanley will say a few words about this appeal at all Masses next weekend.
- Let us commemorate **ANZAC Day** by praying for those who had faithfully served and sacrificed their lives for our country. **A SPECIAL MASS AND SERVICE will be held on Tues 25th April at 7.30am. Please wear medals...bring voices and memories - and maybe a few Anzac biscuits to share for morning tea after Mass.** All welcome. Parish volunteers needed to help serve morning tea. Thank you!
- **Sacrament of Confirmation Information Evening for Parents/Guardians** will be held on Tues, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 7pm in the church. Candidates must be in Year 6 or above and have received the sacraments of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. For more info visit: <https://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au/confirmation/>.
- **Volunteer/s Needed for Family Mass:** A coordinator is needed to oversee all the preparations involved in a Family Mass. The Family Mass occurs every 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact the parish office at 9874 2533 or Email: [parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au)
- **Please grab a copy of the Catholic Weekly in the church foyer for only \$2. Thank you!**



### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **Join Sherry Weddell, international speaker & author of 'Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus',** for an evening dedicated to exploring the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives & renewing the Church for mission. May 22 in Liverpool/May 24 in Strathfield. Cost: \$30+ booking fees. <https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/>
- **Camino of St Joseph - Overnight Walking Pilgrimage for Men:** Starts Fri 28th Apr 8:30pm, at St Mary's Cathedral with Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers. Pilgrimage across 9 churches. Concludes Sat 29th Apr, 6:30am, St Joseph's Enfield w/ Mass followed by BBQ breakfast & celebration. Register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1032826> See poster for details or visit the parish website. Watch: [https://youtu.be/lp\\_1PahpzGI](https://youtu.be/lp_1PahpzGI)

### PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office (02) 9390 5810 or E: [safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.

