

# The Living Word

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

7 April 2024

## First Reading Acts 4:32-35

*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.

## Responsorial 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

*(R.) 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 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 Jn 5:1-6

*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.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!*

*Alleluia!*

## Gospel Jn 20:19-31

*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.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The true believers in the Risen Christ kept Thomas the Doubter within their circle, rather than expelling him. This gave him a further opportunity to experience the very Real Presence of the Risen Lord and his gift of peace. Companionable patience is our best response to those struggling with belief in even fundamental tenets of the faith.

Thomas saw that the wounds of Christ were still present, not obliterated. Does this suggest that our redeemed bodies will bear the marks of the wounds unjustly inflicted on us? However, they will not be disabling to our personality because they will be incorporated into the resurrection life of Christ. Incredibly, our self-inflicted wounds, i.e. our sins, will be obliterated in the mercy of God.

Pope Francis emphasises that it was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: 'My Lord and my God'. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith.

We could take a moment to pray for the strength to touch the wounds of Christ in others, 'the least'. And we could pray that, wounded as we may be by the vagaries and injustices of life, we may be liberated from their evil effects as the Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own.

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**Entrance Antiphon:** 1 Peter 2:2  
Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf John 20:27  
Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.  
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**GOULBURN MISSION**

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**WEEKEND MASSES**

**Saturday** ----- 6pm SPP Goulburn  
6pm Taralga  
**Sunday** ----- 8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)  
9am (Crookwell)  
Binda -10.30am (1st Sunday)  
Marulan - 8.30am (2nd Sun)  
Tarago - 8.30am (3rd Sun)  
Tuena - Nil until further notice  
Bungonia St Michael's: 7pm, Thurs Rosary

**CONFESSIONS**

**SPP:** 11.30 -12 (Wed /Thurs/Fri), Sat 5.15pm  
**OLOF:** Sat. 9.30am -10am  
**Taralga:** 5.30pm (1st Sat)  
**Crookwell:** 8.30am (2nd Sun)

**ADORATION & BENEDICTION**

SPP 11am Fridays  
**Holy Hour:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 5.30pm OLOF

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tuesday - 5pm (OLOF),  
Wed, Thurs Fri - 12md (SPP)  
Sat - 9am (OLOF)

**Mass Offerings:** Please send to office, or central collection boxes.

**ROSTER Coordinator-**  
[judith.stuart11@gmail.com](mailto:judith.stuart11@gmail.com)

**BAPTISMS:** are booked through the Parish Office.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Apr 13: Men's Breakfast **7.30am -9am** Tatts.  
Apr 17: Taralga Prayer group **10am** CTK  
Apr 24: Readers Workshop **5pm** Wednesday SPP  
Apr 25: **9am** ANZAC Day Mass

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

As the eighth day of the Octave of Easter, this Sunday completes the Easter Octave. The Missal texts (prayers of the Mass) continue to strongly emphasize the meaning of the effects of our sacramental initiation. Historically, this day was given the name *Dominica in albis* — the last day for the neophytes (newly-initiated) to wear their white baptismal garments (albs). How fitting for all of us to continue to reflect on the meaning of what it means for us to be united to Christ through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, the three sacraments of initiation.

The Collect (Opening Prayer) for today's Mass speaks with the language of initiation: it reminds us that we are the people who have been made God's own through the font in which we have been washed (Baptism), by whose Spirit in whom we have been reborn (Baptism and Confirmation), and by whose Blood we have been redeemed (Eucharist). The Prayer over the Offerings asks that we may "attain unending happiness" because we have been "renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism."

Throughout all the fifty days of Easter Time, we rejoice as we reflect on what Christ has done for us, and as we extol the mystery of sharing in His life; as one of the Prefaces for Easter reminds us, "*...by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.*"

St. John Paul II gave the additional title of "Divine Mercy Sunday" to this Second Sunday of Easter. This title does not imply a new solemnity or feast, nor does it celebrate a new or separate mystery of redemption, but rather it leads us more deeply into the continuing celebration of God's mercy today and throughout all of Easter Time.

**Recently Deceased:** Barbara Simpson, Theresia Neonbasu, Rita Berrell, Margaret Cherry (Mackay), Archbishop Francis Carroll, Judith Roper, Debra Burgess, Yvonne Halls, Dorothy (Lorraine) Davies, Wayne McKay, Stephen Cole, Hector Rodger, John Cassidy, Colleen Quinn, Brendan Craig, Pauline Hill, Josephine Rankin Ng, Spiro Grech,

**Anniversaries:** Margaret Clark, Pauline Bowen, Jessie Falk, Terry Thistleton, Max McGaw, Jan Collins, Gerry Doodeman, Bernadette and Phillip Hart, Deasey Family, Dr Paul Falk, Gina Pincott, Mary Liddle, Deceased of the Anable, Coffey and Craciun Families, Pat Phemister, Mary, Theo, Dolph and Henrietta Groves, Brian Webb, Peter Hartley, Ray Elliott, Lyle Elliott, Jack Stevens, Kevin McManus, Salvatore Depetro, Elaine Petrivic, Ryan and Dignos Families, Brian Webb, Mollie Evans, Ray Elliott, Johanna Kennedy, Joseph Kennedy, Richard Kennedy, Ruby Kennedy, Megan Pigram, George Cummins, Mary Jane and Braydon Golding,

**Prayers:** Gavin McKenzie, Sean Lucas, Justin Cauduro, Paul Hollands, Sr Aileen Wailes, RSM, Charles.