

Gospel

20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John

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

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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.

Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we consider the presence of the Risen Lord. Where is he found? Each of the readings offers an answer to this question. The Risen Christ is found in the community of believers who follow the example of Jesus. Even non-believers recognised something marvellously different about the Christian community, and they exclaimed: These Christians, see how they love one another.

The Risen Christ is found in those who accept the truth of the resurrection on the word of others. The word of God preached by others has often brought us out of darkness into light, from the stranglehold of death to the birth of new life. The preaching of the disciples has been not only instructive, it has also been transformative.

The Risen Christ is found in the forgiveness of sin. Jesus made the frightened disciples ministers of divine forgiveness. The Spirit reconciles sinners with God and, thereby, with the rest of the believing community. Forgiveness is a tangible sign of Christ's mystical presence.

The Risen Christ is found in the physical manifestation of Christ's own wounds, the wounds that he offered to be touched. Since the community is the body of Christ, we touch the wounds of Christ when we touch the wounds of the community, when we go out to the sick and infirm, the dispossessed and the violated. As shocking as these wounds may appear, they are really glorious, because the Risen Lord has identified with them and has made them his own.

Alleluia!

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Our Easter Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Divine Mercy Sunday (Year B) ~ Easter Octave Day

19 April 2009

First Reading

4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118

R/ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

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.

Second Reading

5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John

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

John 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!

Alleluia!





St Michael's Parish, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au

Website: nowraparish.org.au Incorporates the Church Communities of St Michael, Nowra; St Patrick, Berry
Sacred Heart, Bomaderry; Mary, Help of Christians, Culburra; St Joseph, Kangaroo Valley; Holy Spirit, Vincentia.

Second Sunday of Easter (Year B)

(Divine Mercy Sunday) 19 April 2009

Sunday Masses:

NOWRA 6pm Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY 8.00am
BOMADERRY 9.30am
CULBURRA 6pm Vigil
VINCENTIA 6pm Vigil, & 9.30am
KANGAROO VALLEY 11.00am

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

Nowra: Mon 7.00am Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am
 Friday 7.00am and 11.30am Sat **ANZAC DAY - 8.00am**
Morning Prayer: Wed 7.50am **Holy Hour:** Fri 10.30am
Berry: Tues 5.30pm..... **Culburra:** Thurs 5.30pm
Bomaderry: First Friday – 5.45pm
Vincentia: Mon, Thur, Fri 8.00am - Tues, Wed 5.30pm
S/Heads: Fri 3.30pm Community Centre
Kangaroo Valley: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8.00am;
 Wed 6.15am. Divine Office is chanted 15 mins prior to
 Mass. No Mass on Fridays.

Sacrament of Confession ~ Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 11.30-12.30pm & 5.00- 5.30pm
Culburra Beach: Sat 5³⁰pm. **Berry:** Tues 6⁰⁰pm
Bmderry: 1st Fri 5¹⁵pm; **K, Valley:** Sat 4³⁰ – 5⁰⁰pm
Vincentia: Sat 11⁰⁰ – 11³⁰am & 5⁰⁰ - 5³⁰pm.

JUST BEFORE EASTER two parishioners - Mary O'Connor and Kitty Henkelman of Bay & Basin - were seriously injured in a car accident on Jervis Bay Rd. A Novena to Blessed Mary MacKillop is being organised on their behalf. If you would like to participate would you please collect a copy of the prayer from the Parish Office or from Sr Val.

CULBURRA FAMILY GROUP - on Sun 26 April at 1.30pm at Marg and Paul Casey's home at Callala Bay. It will take the form of a story-telling, poetry-reading and book/film-reviewing time, followed by afternoon tea.

THE MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND will be holding a Gala Theatre Evening "**She Stoops to Conquer**" on Wed 24 June from 7.30pm for 8.00pm at Nowra Players Theatre, B'derry. Champagne on arrival and extended interval supper. Tickets \$25 or \$20 for students. Contact Denise Jones 0419 248 889 or 4423 2299 (leave a message.)

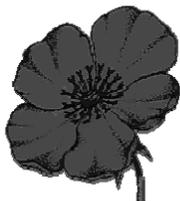
THE NOWRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE will be facilitating a Pastoral Care Course for men or women, by Carmen Caruda of **Centacare**, a 6 week course from Thurs 21 May, 9.30 – 3.30pm at the Parish – **NO COST INVOLVED**. The course looks at the emotional and spiritual needs of people. This can be achieved by taking the time to listen to the heart of a person's story and helping them to find meaning in their story. The program covers the following - Orientation, Educational seminars, aging, dementia, spirituality of older people, loss and grief, pastoral care, and palliative care. This program can be of great assistance to parishioners who volunteer to visit the sick and are ministers of Holy Communion to the sick and aged. You could also become a volunteer with Centacare, visiting the aged. **LIMITED NUMBERS** - RSVP Marie Hanley 4448 5347.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. A Holy Hour for Divine Mercy (19 April) will be held at Holy Spirit Church, Vincentia beginning at 2.30pm today. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will be included in the Liturgy.

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER the recently deceased; **Bernard Nixon** (K Valley), **Tom Guthrie** (Berry), Also **Jennifer Heffernan (nee Couch)**, **Anne Wheatley**, **Veronica Margaret Crowe**, **Fr Leo Stevens**, & **Fr Peter Hill** whose anniversaries occur. May they rest in eternal peace.



MenALIVE – a weekend retreat – Sat 30 and Sun 31 May at St Therese Parish, West W'gong (non-residential)) – concludes with Mass at 12noon. Cost \$49. Be inspired, encouraged and rediscover God's purpose for your life. Contact Vince 0417 249 741 or Peter 0418 123 824, Jeff 0423 183 627 or Phil 0434 894 589.



ANZAC DAY MASS – Saturday 25 April at St Michael's Nowra – 8.00am - We pray for those who have died in war, those who serve, and for peace.

Pope Benedict's Easter message:

"It is urgent to rediscover grounds for hope" in a world where people suffer from food shortages, financial turmoil, poverty, climate change, violence and terrorism, Pope Benedict said on Easter Sunday. He went on to identify "the historical fact" of Christ's resurrection as the central reason why people can have hope in the 21st century. A crowd of about 100,000 people including pilgrims from around the world filled St Peter's Square to hear the traditional "Urbi et Orbi" address to the people of Rome (urbi) and to the world (orbi). "Even if Christ has destroyed the root of evil," the Pope said, "he still wants the assistance of men and women in every time and place who help him to affirm his victory using his own weapons: the weapons of justice and truth, mercy, forgiveness and love."

This was a key message that Pope Benedict said he had sought to communicate to the people of Africa during his visit to Cameroon and Angola last month. He stressed the importance of hope and action in Africa, which "suffers disproportionately from the cruel and unending conflicts, often forgotten, that are causing so much bloodshed and destruction in several of her nations. The Church "wishes to share this hope with all people in every place, and especially where Christians suffer persecution because of their faith and their commitment to justice and peace," Pope Benedict said.



CENTACARE – courses for May

- **Young Parents Group** (aged 15-23) – Learn, Play, Support, Friends - Tuesdays commencing 5 May. Bookings 4254 9316
- **Poppy Playgroup** - for mothers with mental health issues with children from 0-5yrs. Fridays commencing 8 May. Bookings 4254 9316
- **123 Magic** – 3 Thurs from 7 May. Bookings 4254 9316

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST HIGH SCHOOL will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on 22-24 May. All past pupils, staff and parents are warmly invited to attend. For info please visit the school website:

www.sje.woll.catholic.edu.au, phone 4423 1666, or email info@sje.woll.catholic.edu.au