

WELCOME

Good morning/ evening, and welcome to St Mary's Parish.

The story of Thomas demonstrates that we need not be surprised at or dismayed by our own struggle with belief in the resurrection. The surprise is that such profound doubt leads to equally profound faith: 'My Lord and my God!' Embracing the struggle to believe is already believing.

Please say "hello" to those next to you, and if you do not know those seated near you, introduce yourself and say "hello."

We now keep in mind our sick brothers and sisters, especially those in our newsletter.

Our presider this morning/evening is -

Please join us as we begin with the Processional Hymn.

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47 (JB)

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.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (JB)

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

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.**

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.**

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 Peter 1:3-9 (JB)

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 a 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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31 (JB)

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 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

Celebrant: Inspired by Jesus' Easter mission of forgiveness, we now turn to the God of mercy and compassion and make known our needs.

Reader:

1. Let us pray for the writers and producers of movies and television programs will promote peace and compassion rather than violence and abuse, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
2. Let us pray that we begin within our hearts to promote peace through the practice of forgiveness, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
3. Let us pray that our homes will be safe and loving places of peace not violence, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
4. Let us pray that we promote justice as the foundation of peace, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
5. Let us pray that our compassion for the poor will lead us to perform acts of justice and compassion, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
6. Let us pray for Romee Marie Baldwin who is to be Baptised into the Catholic faith this weekend. May she always be close to God in this life and with Him in eternal joy. **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
7. Let us pray for those who have passed into eternal life, and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time. We also pray for those who have no one to remember them in their prayers. May they find eternal rest and comfort within God's own life and love. *Together we pray* (All) Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord! And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: God of mercy and forgiveness, teach us to forgive others as you forgive us so that we will be ministers of peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.