

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.

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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

8 APRIL 2018

## ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN LORD

Thomas is one of the most clearly defined characters in the Gospel. Born loser, realist, pessimist, having missed out on the Easter night appearance of Jesus, he won't believe in the resurrection simply on the other disciples' claim, 'We have seen the Lord'. He will believe only if certain highly 'physical' conditions are met.

A week later, with the divine 'courtesy' featuring in all the resurrection stories, Jesus is prepared to meet Thomas' conditions exactly. But, at the sight of the Lord, Thomas abandons them. He, the obtuse late-comer, then makes the most exalted act of faith of all: 'My Lord and my God!' It is left to the hesitant one, the doubter to bring out the full identity of Jesus.

A further comment from Jesus brings us into the picture too. Thomas has believed because, like the other disciples present in the room, he has seen the risen Jesus. Succeeding generations of believers will not see Jesus. Unlike Thomas, we have to believe simply on the report handed down in the Church's preaching, 'We have seen the Lord'. On them – and us – Jesus pronounces a blessing: 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'.

Why 'blessed'? Because the new situation will require a faith greater than that of Thomas. The greater the faith, the more scope for the power of God.

Subsequent generations are in no way disadvantaged compared to the disciples who first saw and heard and touched Jesus. In the written Gospel believers have all the knowledge necessary for a life-giving encounter with the risen Lord.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

## FIRST READING

Acts 4: 32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

*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.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP 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 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 cornerstone. / 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

A reading from the first letter of St John

*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.

### ■ 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

# St Clement of Rome Church

Address: Egan Drive, Bulleen 3105 - Phone: 9850 3262, Fax: 9850 2550  
 Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, Web: www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au  
 Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00am-3:00pm



Parish Priest : Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Office 9850 3262) or (Presbytery 9850 6073)  
 Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), School Principal: Mr Michael Heenan (9850 1216)  
 Pastoral Associate: Cecilia Tan (9850 3262), Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262)  
 Communion to the Sick: Trish Atherton (9850 2746) Clifton Centre: Mary Hansen (9850 1860)  
 St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1800 305 330)

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



**Project Compassion** : We ask for boxes to be returned as soon as possible. Thank you for your contribution over this major collection.

**Mass of the Annunciation of the Lord** will be held on Monday 9th April at 9.15am. All welcome



Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am. All welcome

"Where if not in the Divine Mercy can the world find refuge and the light of hope". Pope John Paul II

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AT TA' PINU SHRINE

Sunday 8 April, 2pm onwards  
 Ta' Pinu Shrine, All Nations Marian Centre, 15 Flanagans Drive, Bacchus Marsh  
 Divine Mercy at Ta' Pinu this year begins with the Psalms of Mercy and the Divine Mercy chaplet, followed by Mass and Benediction. Then there will be a procession through the grounds of the shrine, accompanied by live music. Principal celebrant will be Fr Tadeusz Bostworowski SJ. All welcome. Light refreshments served.  
 Details: [infotapinu@optusnet.com.au](mailto:infotapinu@optusnet.com.au)

## Anzac Commemorative Mass

The Catholic War Veterans Association District 9 invites veterans to remember our fallen comrades and those since departed at our Annual Anzac Commemorative Mass. The Mass will be celebrated at St Kevin's Catholic Church in Lower Templestowe.

Date : Sun 22nd April 2018  
 Mass Time : 10.00am  
 Location : St. Kevin's Catholic Church  
 26-44 Herlihys Road  
 Lower Templestowe VIC 3107

## MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am ,11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)

Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Sat 9:15am. Eucharistic Adoration: Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)

Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request). Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.

Baptisms: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th weekend) every month. Weddings: By Appointment.

## Recently Deceased : Francesca Cucuzza

Death Anniversaries : Domenico & Maria Paolilli, Giuseppe Cassino, Antonio Ormando, Giuseppina Musumeci, Angelo Poli, Luigi & Santino Alleruzzo, Daniele Schieven

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen

## PARISH DIARY

Sun 8th Apr @ 10.00am—Mario & Angela's Café  
 Mon 9th Apr @ 9.15am—Mass of the Annunciation of the Lord  
 Thurs 12th Apr @ 7pm—Baptism Preparation in the Clifton Centre  
 Sat 14th Apr @ 5.30pm—Baptism Welcoming  
 Tue 17th Apr @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Parish Office

**Collections Last Weekend**  
 1st Collection (Thanksgiving)  
 Actual — 4,449  
 2nd Collection (Presbytery)  
 Actual — 2,407  
 Many thanks & every Blessing!

## VINCENT PALLOTTI



Team Pallotti Presents a Musical Play written by Father Patrick Jackson, SAC directed by luciana gagliardi

VINCENT PALLOTTI Powered by Infinite Love  
 4th and 5th May 2018 7.30pm - 9pm  
 Saint Christopher's Parish, Syndal hennessy Hall, 5 Doon Avenue, Glen Waverley, [www.Trybooking.com/URDB](http://www.Trybooking.com/URDB)  
 Florence D'Costa 0433851662, Tibor Deheny 0417740449, wayne savedra 0405187178

## Sacramental Program 2018

Enrolment Forms can be now downloaded from the parish website. Payment must be made at the enrolment.

## CONFIRMATION: TERM 1

Confirmation: 19 May 2018 @ 5.30pm (ASRE)  
 Confirmation: 18 May 2018 @ 7.00pm (St Clement's School Children)

## RECONCILIATION: TERM 2

Classes commence: Tuesday, 1st May 2017 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Parish Office  
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday 12th May 2018 @ 5.30pm  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 23rd June @ 10.30am (ASRE)

## FIRST EUCHARIST: TERM 3

Classes commence: Tuesday, 17 July 2018@ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Parish Office  
 Parents' Information Evening: Tuesday 17 July 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Clifton Centre  
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday, 21 July @ 5.30pm  
 Reconciliation before First Communion: Saturday 8 September 2018 @ 10.00am  
 First Communion for After School RE children: Saturday 15 September 2018 @ 5.30pm

The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$150 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Please see Bernadine who is in charge of accounts. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office. All enrolment forms must be completed and submitted by the last date for enrolment.

Please note the dates except for Confirmation may be subject to change. Families will be informed.

7/8 April	Sacristan	Elroy De Witt	Francis & Gloria Ng
Divine Mercy Sunday	COMMENTATOR	Jacinta De La Cruz	Tim Landsberg
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
	Special Ministers	Linda Cultrera	Eleanora Mascitti
		Corinne Goh	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Cecilia Lam	David Mitchell
			Pam Mitchell
			Gloria Ng
			Maria Papalia
			Elsa Waters

14/15 April	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR	Rene De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Grace Canatelli
	Special Ministers	Reg Lecordier	Chris Zordan
		Maree Marsi	Trish Atherton
		May Teh	Anne Fusca
			Fulvia Gerasolimo
			Rita Gagliardi
			Gabriella Grande
			Eleanora Mascitti

## Mario & Angela's Café

This Sunday 8th April after the 9am Mass. All are welcome. If you attend the 11am Mass, please come early and join us for a cuppa.



## Mass for Expectant Mothers

The Life, Marriage & Family Office warmly invite all expectant mothers and their families to the Mass for Expectant Mothers. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 27 May at 11.00am. Registrations can be made online at: [www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily](http://www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily) or alternatively by contacting: 9287 5587 or emailing [lmf@cam.org.au](mailto:lmf@cam.org.au). Please note that registration closes on Friday 18 May. Expectant mothers who register will receive a small token of recognition.