

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

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.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 1:3-9

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 has 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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 READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

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.

(...continued overleaf)



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham

Parish House/Office: 9583 6161

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

DIVINE MERCY SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

18th / 19th April, 2020



Focus on the Readings...

This gospel is one of transformation. The fear of the disciples, locked in their upper room and huddled in upon themselves, is transformed by the gift of peace that Jesus brings and his giving of the Spirit to strengthen them on their way. The doubt of Thomas is transformed by his encounter with the risen Lord. With this transformation, however, comes responsibility. Just as Jesus was sent by the Father, now, too, the disciples are sent into the world to act as Jesus did.

Second Sunday - Year A
18th / 19th April, 2020

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

Frances North 9583 6161
Email: Frances.North@cam.org.au
Christine Dunne 9583 6161

PSYCHOLOGIST:

AnneMaree Eddy 0403 284 536

PARISH OFFICE:

9583 6161
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
Secretary: Lisa Harris
Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald
Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

PARISH SCHOOL:

Our Lady of the Assumption 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MASS TIMES:

Saturday 6:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 6.00 pm
Wednesday 9.15 am
Thursday, Friday 9.15 am
Saturday 9.00 am

COMMUNION SERVICE:

Monday 9.15 am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.30am & 6pm

BAPTISMS:

Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism and Application Form available on our parish website.

WEDDINGS:

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: 9583 6161

PRAYING FOR:

Eileen Taylor, John Laherty, Lucy Mallia
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

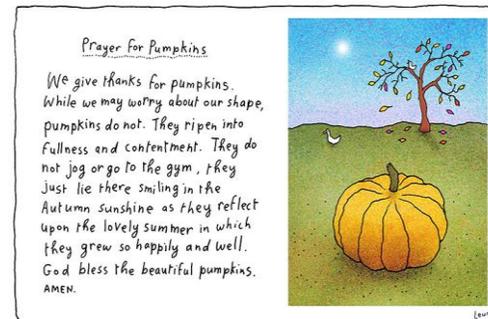
all whose anniversaries which occur about this time.

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: Be merciful, Lord Jesus, to all who have entered eternity because of this virus. Comfort and strengthen their families and friends and strengthen with the hope of your glorious Resurrection. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them. + May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. *Amen*

ACCESS TO PERSONAL & FAMILY PRAYERS:

In this time of crisis, the website liturgyhelp.com is providing Catholics with access to a range of resources for personal and family prayer. In particular, the hope is that Catholics in social isolation can gain a sense of prayerful solidarity with their local school and parish communities and the whole Body of Christ. You're welcome to print resources and pass them on to your friends, family and community, particularly those who do not have access to the internet.

Simply go to: liturgyhelp.com/aus/pray



Prayer for the World

Facing the Challenge of COVID-19

Dear God,
who hears the cries of all in our world.
You invite us to trust in your gift of unconditional love.
Stay with us in this time.
Give strength to those who are ill and work through the hands and hearts of those who serve.
Be with us as we pray at home, unable to access the communities that have carried us for so long.
In every heart you have given the capacity to love as Jesus loved.
Let us share this love today. Amen.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2020: Due to the current health emergency, and its associated restrictions, there's currently no need to drop in any Project Compassion boxes/envelopes. Hang on to them for now! Once we're again able to gather as a community of faith, for Mass, etc., we'll ask anyone who collected/put aside money for Project Compassion in Lent 2020, to bring them along and we'll forward them on to Caritas Australia, albeit later in the year than usual.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: to Elizabeth Thomas who reached a milestone this week by turning 90! Congratulations Elizabeth, and we hope to be able to sing Happy Birthday in person to you very soon.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) head to: <http://www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass.htm> Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column.

COUNSELLING: All counselling will now be over the phone or video consultations due to COVID-19. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact AnneMaree directly on: 0403 284 536, and leave a message indicating you are a parishioner.

Gospel Reading continued from overleaf...

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.

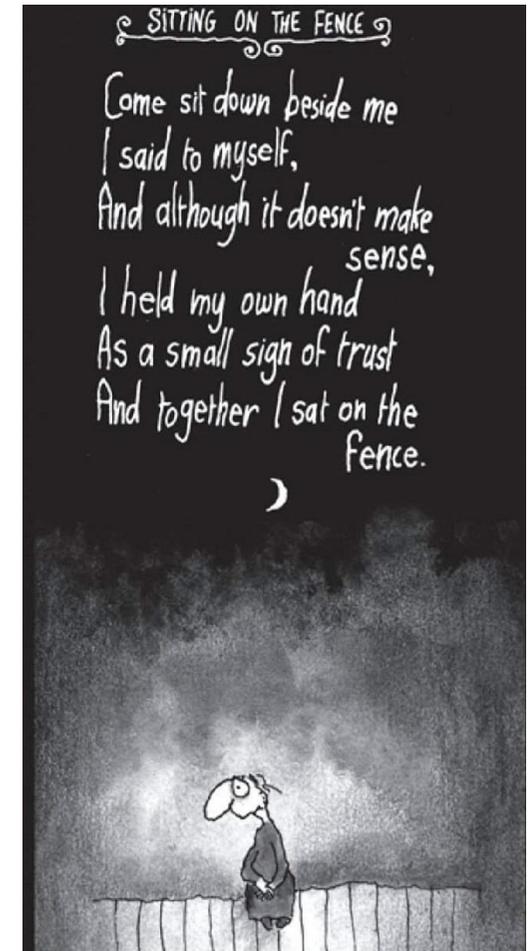


Image courtesy of Michael Leunig...