

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) / B

7 APRIL 2024

## RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

As we bask in the light of resurrection, today we see two witnesses to the resurrection, and the transformation of lives.

The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, the second volume attributed to Luke, and it presents to us a changed way of living. Firstly, the whole group of believers are described as 'of one heart and soul' (v. 32). The apostles appear as testifying with great power to the resurrection and 'great grace was upon them all' (v. 33). The remarkable addition here is that they shared everything in common, sold property and distributed funds so no-one was in need (v. 34-35). This radical transformation of their way of life is not a defining feature of our communities today, even though adopted by many religious congregations throughout the Church's history. While not diminishing the great charitable works operating today, this way of life remains a challenge to us in a world where rich become richer and poor increase in number and poverty.

In juxtaposition to the Acts account, the Gospel outlines the appearance of Jesus among the apostles and the repetition of 'Peace be with you' (vv.19, 21). In this gathering behind closed doors, Jesus tells the apostles that he is sending them out. He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them, commissioning them. Eight days later in the same room Jesus arrives saying once again 'Peace be with you' (v. 26) and here is the experience of the doubting Thomas, forever recorded for anyone who might doubt that the resurrection happened and is real.

How will our lives be transformed by the resurrection?

## 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 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.**

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Dr Rosemary Canavan

*Welcome to*  
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## 2nd Sunday of Easter

### Reflection:

Our ability to forgive is from Jesus himself, who offered forgiveness even from the cross to his executioners. When he breathed on the disciples he gave us his very Spirit, which is now the reason we can offer forgiveness, even to our enemies – just as he did.

### So we ask ourselves:

- What person or institution do I need to forgive?
- Jesus is giving his Spirit today so we can do just that: shall I attempt reconciliation?

### Baptism

We welcome Henry Donald Panizza, son of Elliot and Colleen Panizza into our parish community. Henry will be baptised this weekend. May God continue to bless the Panizza family.

### Condolences

The funeral Mass for Colleen Hall will be celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1.30pm at OLG. Rosary 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm at Bowra & O’Dea Westminster chapel.

### Message from Father

My sincere thanks to all the dedicated helpers who assisted in making our Easter celebrations come together in such a wonderful & meaningful way. A personal thanks to parishioners for their well wishes & generosity with their Easter gifts and offerings.

### MASS THIS WEEKEND

*The Rosary will be prayed 20 minutes before weekend Masses.*

Sat 6 April 6pm	<b>Joe Holub</b>	St Dom
Sun 7 April 8am		OLGC
Sun 7 April 9.30am		St Dom

### MASS DURING THE WEEK

Tues 9 April 7pm		St Dom
Wed 10 April 9am		St Dom
Thurs 11 April 9am		OLGC
Fri 12 April 9am		St Dom
Fri 12 April 10am	Chrystal Halliday	
Sat 13 April 9am	<b>communion service</b>	OLGC

### MASS NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 13 April 6pm		St Dom
Sun 14 April 8am		OLGC
Sun 14 April 9.30am		St Dom

### Project Compassion

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) & donate online.

### Commissioning of Parish Pastoral Council Members

We thank Ramona Mendis, Anastasia Dharma, Marianna Segnini and Peter O’Mara for accepting the invitation to join the Parish Pastoral Council and share your gifts and talents through this ministry. We also take this opportunity to thank Rosanne Buchanan, Marcelino Rodriguez, Giselle Rodriguez and Hellen Corray for their years of service in the Parish Pastoral Council. Your service has been greatly appreciated.

### Senior’s Group

Tuesday 9th April, 10-12 noon, St Dom's church hall.

### Safeguarding Officers

St Dominic’s - Isabelle Brewer 0459 537 045  
 OLG - Dr Rina Cercarelli (PhD) 0413 835 852

Rosters this weekend	6 April 6pm St Dom	7 April 8am OLGC	7 April 9.30am St Dom
Readers	A Gunson Bouillet	B Croxford	M Rodriguez
Acolyte	D O’Sullivan		I Baviah
Offertory Procession		B Croxford M Tester	
Altar Society	Group 1		
Morning Tea		B Gascoigne M Tester	
EMHC	Ward, Karen		Ben, Anna

Rosters next weekend	13 April 6pm St Dom	14 April 8am OLGC	14 April 9.30am St Dom
Readers	Youth Group	K Wear	R Mendis
Acolyte	I Azzalin		L Commins
Offertory Procession		M Scaffidi D D’Souza	
Altar Society			
Morning Tea		M Smith J Gates	
EMHC	Pat, Dermot		Ignatius, Donald

### Pilgrimage to Shrines of Italy

Come walk in the Footsteps of St Francis, on an 11 day Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy from 3-13 Nov 2024. Visit St Mary of the Angel in Assisi, Church of San Francesco, Lanciano (Eucharistic Miracle Church). Visit the Shrine of San Padre Pio and his uncorruptible body plus Rome, the Vatican and St Peter’s Basilica. Full board cost: \$6518 for 25 paying persons. For itinerary/booking form, call Sheila 0433 771 979, Veronica 0402 290 827 or [info@anawimjourneys.com](mailto:info@anawimjourneys.com)