

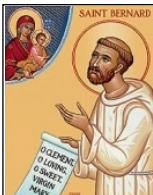
KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus'

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 19th April 2020 ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31



Our Mission Statement: 'Help others to recognise, through their experiences, that Jesus who died and is risen is the truth that lights up their lives'

Our Vision Statement: 'That the parishioners of Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish grow as missionary disciples and live as community in Christ inviting all people into our Parish, welcoming them to our Parish life and embracing the rich diversity of our community'



Divine Mercy Sunday

"I shall sing forever the Lord's mercy."
(Ps 89 [88])

Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion.

"From all My wounds, like from streams, mercy flows for souls, but the wound in My Heart is the fountain of unfathomable mercy.

From this fountain spring all graces for souls.

The flames of compassion burn Me.

I desire greatly to pour them out upon souls. Speak to the whole world about My mercy."

Excerpted from *Diary of Sr. M.*

Faustina Kowalska. <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2017-04-23>

The Divine Mercy image

is the image of the risen Christ on that first Easter, on the evening of the Resurrection, miraculously appearing there in the Upper Room and bestowing on the Apostles the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive sins.

His hand is raised in blessing, he shows them His wounds, and Jesus is looking for their trust.

He breathes on them and says "Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, what sins you retain are retained".
(Gospel of John, 20:23)

Fr Shaju's Homily—April 19 2020:

During this period of Easter, I reflected a lot more on my own faith journey.

Easter day was a very quiet day for me.

Like Thomas, I wandered around Berowra Heights.

As I walked, I observed these things:

- There was not much noise,
- The roads were very quiet and
- From what I could see inside homes as I walked by, people were inside their homes with their family. They were talking, listening and sharing their joys. I like to think that this Easter time has taught us to spend time with family in a different but very special way.

It reminded me of my young self in India over 40 years ago. My parents and my siblings would spend the Easter days in joy experiencing fun times, good food and lots of laughing together. I hope that your Easter days this year will give you this same joy with your family as you stay at home.

Of course, the joy we all get at Easter is by receiving new life through Jesus. It is by his passion, death and resurrection that we received this new life, a life free from sin and death.

There is a strong belief that (St) Thomas came to India and baptised the people.

So, the Syro-Malabar Christians in India are known as St Thomas Christians, and they follow the Eastern Liturgy. Today I invite you to reflect more on Thomas.

We all have the impression of Thomas as being stubborn and doubtful and questioning everything, he only sees the darker side of things. However, when we examine his whole life, he is a man of courage and passion for his Lord.

But, there is another side to Thomas and it is this side which I reflect upon today.

In John 11:7-16 - Jesus wanted to go to Judea to raise Lazarus from 'his sleep' but all the disciples except Thomas discouraged Jesus from going as people were wanting to destroy Jesus. At this point Thomas came forward with courage and encouraged the go with Jesus.

This courage and passion led Thomas to journey to India (a totally unknown place and language) and spread the Word of God, share his personal faith and experience about Jesus with others and to lead more people to know and love Jesus.

By Baptism, you and I are called (or sent) to share our faith and give witness to others. During this period of 'lockdown' let us share our faith with our children through family prayers or just reading a passage from the Bible and reflect with a bit of conversation about how our faith can still grow in difficult times.

The Second time we meet Thomas in the Gospel is John 14:1-6.

Here I see the openness of Thomas towards the truth. While other disciples were silent and struggling to find the meaning, Thomas would courageously "ask the question" seek clarification, be brave enough to admit he didn't understand.

So at this point Jesus clearly revealed who he is:

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" - to the Father.

This experience shows us and challenges us to seek always to ask questions until you fully understand. Then we will not miss the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE – that is JESUS.

Finally, we meet Thomas in today's Gospel John 20: 19-31.

Thomas missed the opportunity to witness Jesus' resurrection. Maybe that gave him pain and disappointment, after all, he was with Jesus for 3 years and he missed this most important event. because he loved his master so much. He was the type of person who wanted to have 'first-hand experience' and he desperately needed to see that Jesus had risen for himself so that he could give witness to the Resurrection of Christ with authority.

We need that desire to see Jesus. We need the desire of Thomas.

Through our prayer and meditation, the same Jesus who showed himself to Thomas shows himself to us. This story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience of the world today.

We are called to believe without seeing.

PASTORAL CENTRE 1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082 **Phone:** (02) 9456 2450

P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082 **Email:** parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ku-ring-gai-Chase-Catholic-Parish-1789189034642054/>

Parish Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm. Parish Priest: Fr Shaju John, OSH Assistant Priest: Fr Joy Thomas, OSH

Emergency sick calls 0468 341 841 (Out of office hours only) - HOSPITAL ADMISSION: If you are admitted to hospital, please write down your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services. *Be sure to notify the Pastoral Centre if hospitalised and you would like our own priests to attend.*

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS
and PRAYERS**

EASTERTIDE

Easter Monday 20/04

Mass of the day
Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday 21/04

Mass of the day
Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 4:32-27; Jn 3:7-15

Wednesday 22/04

Mass of the day
Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday 23/04

Mass of the day
Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

Friday 24/04

Mass of the day
Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday 25/04

ANZAC DAY - Mass of the day
Preface of Easter II-V or
Preface II-III for the Dead
Wis 3:1-9 or Is 9:1-6;
1 Cor 1:18-25 or Eph 2:13-18;
Jn 12:23-28 or Jn 14:23-29

**Ku-ring-gai Chase Parish
Remembers & prayers for...**

RECENTLY DECEASED: KJ John, Gerald McCulloch, Patrick (Pat) Read, Patricia Clough, Don Matheson, Clare Daley, Greg Cooper, Peter Hanson, Peter O'Connell, Jillian Arthur, Win Colman, Jimmy Fitzgerald.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Kevin & Nancy Hester, Jim Treacy, Joseph Treacy, James Treacy, Araceli B. Padlan, Rosalinda de Ramos, Concepcion & Gesmundo Daria, Elde & Andrea Daria, Geoff Warren, Luz Turqueza, Eufemia Tugadi, Rose Hayden, Neville Nicholson, Clem Salmon, Francis, Hilda & Terence Conlon, Dr Michael Way, Dr Frances Maung, Karen Fitzgerald, Bill Colman, Rita McEncroe, Wladek Pieprzyic,

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Dan Leavy, Kerrin Enright, Patricia O'Malley, Alfredo R De Ramos, Marie Mickelson, Doug Hawkins, Felicity Fone, Graeme Kachel, Antonio, Anna Nicholson, Pat Bowden, Peter Brooks, Brian Treacy, Erick Enriquez, Charles Abela, Elaine Estrellado, Maureen Sharpe, Eve Davis (baby), Penny Rigor, Jwona Nowak, Irena Fellmann, Elaine Longmuir, Paula McGaulley, Michael Quinn, June Eileen, Patricia Smith (Carlton), Ramona Estrellado, Cathy Gleeson, Rosalinda de Ramos, Jaz Pitts, Georgia Meyers, Angela Smith, Matthew Franklin, Jeanette Bakker, Ewa Rakozy, Jean Cook, Betty Borg, Morrie Ramsden, Brian Neary, Edwina Subramany, Aiko Concepcion, John Buckley, Ellen Asistente, Sam Calacoci, Barbara Jones, Arlene Josen, Kath Lock, Cadia Maestri, Marcelina De Ramos, Matthew Conlon, Patrick Dorahy, John Macy, Tom Dawson, Narelle Cartwright, Mary Fernandes, Patricia Sanders, Monique Leyden, Frederick Novak, Barbara & Maciej Maciejewski, Alfredo De Ramos Sr.

**KCCP BANK
ACCOUNT DETAILS:**
Sadly, our parish still has financial commitments which need to be honoured.

If you find yourself able to contribute to the parish financially at this difficult time, it would be greatly appreciated, thank you.

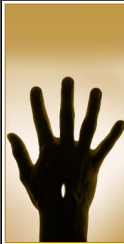
BSB: 062 784
Account: 1238 8001
Name: Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish—
Church Account.

When making donations to our bank account please be specific if you wish to split your donations between the 1st and 2nd collections. Perhaps send us an email with your wishes clearly indicated, so we may honour your intentions exactly.

1st Collection: Goes to Pastoral Revenue and is used to support the welfare of our priests, both active and retired.

2nd Collection: Donations are retained in the parish and used to pay regular outgoings and honour commitments to maintain and improve parish life. *For example...*

- 1) An improvement would be the new storage shed at Asquith (ordered and deposit paid prior to Covid-19) to be installed next week and to be used to store garden needs and get all sorts of things out of the roof cavity! like the crib etc. This will also rectify a WHS issue.
- 2) Insurance premiums, whilst hefty to pay, it is money well spent - we are at last getting a new church roof at Berowra following the **2018 hail storm!**
- 3) Regular bills; priest's petrol & car instalment, wages, office expenses etc.



A HOMILY BY RICHARD LEONARD SJ

The gospel story about doubting Thomas has to be one of the most misunderstood episodes in the New Testament. If you're like me, for years we have been consoled by Thomas doubting that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Thomas' doubts were in Jesus, we have been led to believe. But let's read the story very carefully. It's not Jesus Thomas doubts, it's the disciples. In fact when Jesus appears to them seven days later, Thomas has the opportunity to share in the experience of the Risen Lord and like the others he immediately confesses Easter faith.

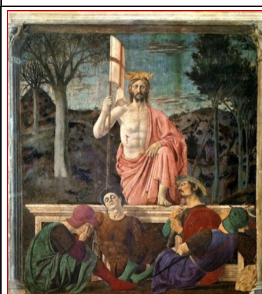
There are three elements in this story that should give us great comfort. The first is that Thomas doubts the early Church, and not just in regard to a minor issue of discipline or procedure. He doubts the central Christian message: that God raised Jesus from the dead. Some of us, too, at various times in our lives, can have doubts about all sorts of things in our faith. There are very few Catholics who get through life without asking some serious questions of God, about Jesus, the Spirit and the Church. These questions are good in themselves. They are necessary for a mature, adult faith. What we need to ensure is that we sincerely want answers to the questions we ask and not just use them to justify our wandering away from our faith. Thomas is the patron saint of all of us who sometimes struggle to believe what everyone else in the church seems to accept. And he is also the patron saint of those of us who seek the courage and patience to wait for the answers.

The second consoling fact to this story concerns the earliest Church. Even though they were filled with the presence of the Risen Lord and though Thomas refuses to believe their witness, they remain faithful to him in his doubts. We know this because he is still with them a week later. They didn't expel him from the group or excommunicate him, they held on to him in the hope that he would experience the Lord for himself.

Sadly for us, today, there are some who argue that Catholics who struggle with their faith should 'shape up or ship out'. While every group has its boundaries and there are limits to what people can dissent from, we could take the earliest Church as our model and stay faithful to our doubters and help them come to see the transforming truth that has changed our lives.

The final element in this extraordinary story which can help us in our Easter faith concerns the significance of the time between the first and second appearances of Jesus. We're told it was seven days and the parallel to the story of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of John's Gospel. And even though the earliest disciples experience the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, they are still locked in their fears one week later. The creation of the early Church, the movement of its earliest leaders from timidity to boldness took time and having a doubter in their midst ends up a great blessing for them all, for Christ is present at every step of the Church's creation and re-creation as well.

This story was written for people like us who do not have access to the historical Jesus. The birth of the Church is an ongoing act of God's creation in every generation. It takes time, and people will be at different stages at different moments. Our fidelity to one another on the long journey of faith is only surpassed by our Crucified God who does not give up on us, no matter how many questions we ask or how much we doubt. May this Eucharist give us confidence enough to hold on to each other in good times and bad so that we can all continue to experience his presence and have life in his name.



ART SPACE: THE RESURRECTION As we continue to adapt to this "self-isolation" period of our lives, let us embrace the time that we have to savour the joy of Easter through our Art Space image this week. May the luminous colours of this artwork encourage you to reflect upon the Risen Christ and to take a moment to focus on what is in your heart.

PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA'S, THE RESURRECTION. (1463-5) is a 2.25m x 2m fresco in the civic hall of Sansepolcro, Italy. The town's name Sansepolcro literally means "Holy Sepulchre" the tomb that Christ was buried in. The image captures the moment that Jesus majestically steps out of a Roman sarcophagus in front of the guards depicted lying "as dead men" in the Gospel according to Matthew. Pausing in the moment, triumphal banner in hand, the serene Christ is the centre point between the divine and human spheres. The depiction of life and death is echoed in the landscape, where the trees on the left of Jesus appear as if dying. The guard's spear points our gaze to the trees to the right of Jesus which are full of life and indicate the divinity of the Risen Christ.



The latest from the Diocese:

*Many blessings to you all during this great Octave of Easter.
May the peace, hope and love of our risen Lord sustain you during these days of uncertainty.*

‘May the blessings of the risen Lord be with you all. Today, and everyday!’

A short video message from Most Rev Anthony Randazzo to the people of Broken Bay can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5Jad928Brc&feature=youtu.be>

Bishop Anthony's Homilies: Bishop Anthony is now loading his homilies onto our Diocesan website for the community to read. This includes the homilies for the Easter services, which can be viewed at: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/people/bishop/homilies-and-reflections/homilies>

Latest information from your own parish:

GREAT NEWS FOLKS! ...you can now...

Watch Mass live-streamed to your home from our Facebook page at BOTH of our CHURCHES

5pm Saturday evenings @ St Bernard's // 9am Sunday mornings @ St Patrick's

Like our Facebook page so you are ready to live-stream Mass from our parish.
<https://www.facebook.com/Ku-ring-gai-Chase-Catholic-Parish-1789189034642054/>

The back page of our bulletin has the Readings and Responses to this Sunday's Mass so you can following along whilst watching on Facebook.

OR

You could pretend you were really and truly in the church and read the whole bulletin during Mass ~ (Now-now, be truthful, there wouldn't be many amongst us who haven't 'been there, done that!')

Please stay in touch with us ~ we miss you! Contact us via: **Email:** parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au; **Phone:** 9456 2450

And we will stay in touch with you ~ using our: **KCCP Website:** <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp>;

KCCP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Ku-ring-gai-Chase-Catholic-Parish-1789189034642054/>

Diocese of Broken Bay Website: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/> **Friday mailouts** (send us your email details if not receiving);

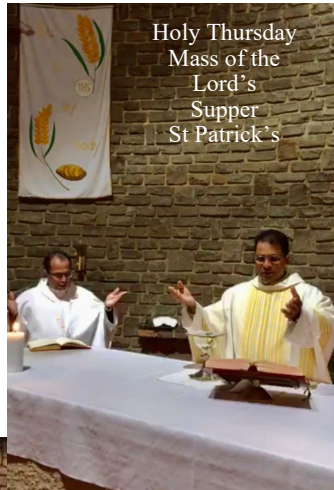
Are You Receiving Our Regular Friday Mailout (via Email). We certainly hope so !

If you are not receiving an email from us on a Friday afternoon/evening, then we don't have your most current email address. Please send an email from yourself to: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au and insert in the subject line **“Please add this email to the Friday Mailout List”**, that way we can add you to our growing list of over 840 parishioners!!!! *We're in this together! KCCP Staff.*

Pictorial of Holy Week at Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish



Palm Sunday
St Patrick's Asquith



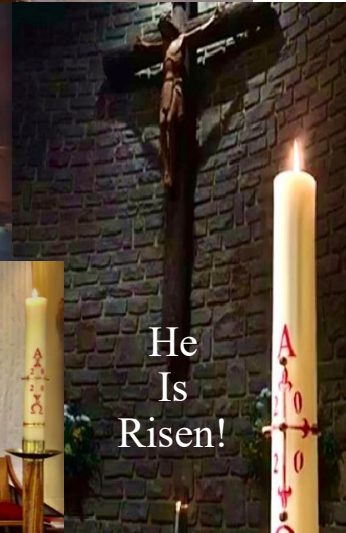
Holy Thursday
Mass of the
Lord's
Supper
St Patrick's



Stations of the
Cross
St Bernard's
Berowra Heights



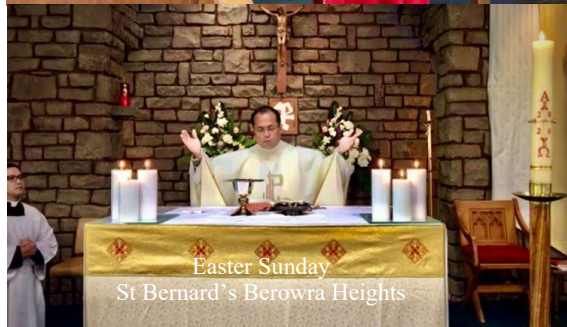
The Passion of the Lord
St Bernard's Berowra Heights



He
Is
Risen!



Easter Vigil
St Patrick's Asquith



Easter Sunday
St Bernard's Berowra Heights



Allelulia,
Allelulia!

Entrance Antiphon : 1 Pt 2:2 ~ **Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.**

First Reading : Acts 2:42-47 ~ **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

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.

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. 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.)
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. (R.)

Second Reading : 1 Pt 1:3-9 ~ **A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

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 spoiled 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 : 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**

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.

Communion Antiphon : Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

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