

Reflection

"Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

In these days of the rapid expansion of social media, how do we know what and who to believe? Stories are published with the purpose of influencing public opinion and affecting the outcome of political decision-making. National elections have been won and lost through interventions. The course of world history may well be affected for generations to come. It has even been given a name: 'fake news'. What was once considered to be a lie or an untruth is now simply a strategic tool with no morality or guilt attached to it. Just because something appears on an internet feed, or the TV news, or in a newspaper, doesn't make it true. We have to discern very carefully before we decide who and what to believe, and before we act on it.

In the first days after the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples were very slow to believe. They had seen the gruesome reality of the death of Jesus. They had buried him with their own hands and now the only visible evidence they had was an empty tomb. So when individuals came and announced that they had seen the Lord and that he was alive, they were understandably sceptical. Thomas was not to be convinced even by the verbal assurances of his companions. He had to see and to touch the wounds of the risen Christ before he would believe; and then Jesus said to him: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

The problem Thomas had is still a problem for the people of successive generations. How are they to see and touch the wounds of the risen Lord? The apostle John gives his testimony in the readings we hear today. He has a vision of the risen Lord in glory who tells him to write down all that he sees of present happenings and of things that are still to come. In the book of the Apocalypse, or Revelation, he is able to interpret the present persecutions and reassure the suffering communities that their faith in Jesus is not in vain. Jesus is with them and their wounds are his wounds. In his Gospel, John gives his reason for writing down the signs that Jesus worked: that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. Our faith today, then, depends on the testimony of these first eyewitnesses who became faith witnesses.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we hear the testimony of that early community. People experienced the power of the risen Lord through the witness of life of Peter and his companions. They believed that Jesus was alive and active in and through them. Even the shadow of Peter brought healing, and the numbers of those who believed in the Lord increased steadily. The community experienced the presence of Jesus risen from the dead in the life and teaching of the apostles. They wrote down their experience of faith as the New Testament—so that their children and their children's children might also believe and, believing, find life.

Today we are the recipients of two thousand years of faith-filled witness in the life of the Church. We, too, believe not just because we have been told. We have seen the difference that faith makes in people's lives, in our own lives. We touch the wounds of Jesus as we respond with compassion to the needs of the world around us. We believe that whatsoever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for Christ. We believe that he reveals himself to us in the love that we receive from others and the love that we are able to give to others.

We are not in the business of spreading "fake news" in order to influence people and build a world for those who are rich and powerful. For us, the message of the Gospel is good news. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. He continues to live and love, to bring healing and peace through the lives of his faithful disciples. Jesus so identifies with our broken humanity that the wounds of those who suffer today are his wounds. Whenever we reach out in compassion and kindness to touch and heal those wounds, our faith comes to life, so that we can pray with Thomas: "My Lord and my God!"

The Living Word



The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal

Our collection: 4/5 May, 2019

CWF is the Sydney Archdiocese's premier charity. They need your help.

The work of **CWF's** benefiting agencies represents our Christian values of mercy, social justice and compassion (visit www.cwf.org.au to find out more), giving your gift the power to change lives for the better.

Appeal envelopes for your use are on pews. Alternatively you can visit the **CWF** website to donate securely by credit card (please remember to include Haberfield as your nominated parish as this helps us too.)

To find out more, phone **1800 753 959** or email cwf@sydneycatholic.org.au.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Thank you.



Welcome to St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Zadro

Presbytery Office: 97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW 2045

P: 02 9798 6657 **E:** admin@stjoanofarc.org.au **W:** www.stjoanofarc.org.au

Parish Secretary: Tuesday – Wednesday 9.30am—2.30pm

YEAR C

SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

28th April 2019

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4, 22-27

**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.**

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.**

O Lord, grant us salvation;

O Lord, grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord God is our light. **R.**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me

with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 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!**

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. 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.

FEAST DAYS

Monday 29th April

St Catherine of Siena

Thursday 2nd May

St Athanasius

Friday 3rd May

Sts Philip and James

BAPTISMS - April, 2019

We welcome these children into God's family and our parish community

Saoirse O'Connor, Aidan Cronin, Alesso Galati, Madeleine Basso, Isabella Del Colle, Domenic Tavernese, Sofia Scandiuzzo, Hunter Dutton, Archer Dutton, Jackson Swain, Loretta Gullotta

WEDDINGS - April 2019

And the two shall become one

Alessandro Di Martino & Elicia Puntillo

Oz Rosary# 53

24-26 May, 2019

The weekend of the feast of the patroness of Australia Our Lady Help Of Christians.

Pray for Australia, its protection, future, Youth, families. This Year we are praying in particular also for our political leaders and the spiritual leaders of the church.

To register: www.facebook.com/OZROSARY53

Email: ozrosary53@gmail.com or

contact Jane: 0476 535 595

For more details or to use the contact page please visit

<https://ozrosary.wixsite.com/ozrosary53/contact-us-and-participate>

Tribunal of the Catholic Church

Reaching out to all who have experienced a marriage breakdown and question the validity of their first marriage as understood by the Church.

Enquiries: Ph (02) 6239 9813

Email: tribunal@cg.org.au

Catholic Bishops' Federal Election Statement

The bishops call for respect in public debate, share Catholic social teaching and detail some key issues to reflect on before you vote. "Politics in service of peace: a statement by the Catholic bishops of Australia for the 2019 federal election" can be found at www.catholic.org.au



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please Note:

There will be a 9.15am Communion Service

Friday 3rd May, 2019

instead of Mass



St Vincent de Paul CLOTHING DRIVE

SVDP are holding a clothing collection on **Saturday 4th May, 2019**. Clothing in bags to be out by **7.30am**.

Anyone wishing to donate is asked to take a bag and write your name and address on the list provided on the table in the church foyer.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE



Forthcoming events

Sunday, 5 May 2019

Cancer Council morning tea in the Mother Theresa Courtyard after 9am Mass – this is part of the Cancer Council's biggest morning tea initiative and aims to raise funds to contribute to vital research to improve treatments and find a cure as well as programs to support people living with cancer and their families.

Further information is available at www.cancercouncil.com.au

We encourage you to support this event and contribute to the work of the Cancer Council. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Thursday, 30 May 2019

Mass to celebrate the feast of St Joan of Arc at 7pm followed by supper in the Mother Theresa Courtyard – more details about this special parish function will be provided in the next bulletin.

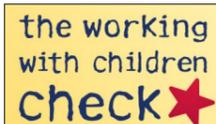
If you are able to we ask if you could please bring a plate to these events.

Next Social Committee Meeting

The Social Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 1 May at 7.30pm** in the presbytery.

You are welcome to join us.



Have you changed your name, address, or phone number? If you have a **WWCC** don't forget to update your details at www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Next week: Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Second Reading: Apocalypse 5:11-14

Gospel: John 21:1-19

ROSTERS

Scripture Readers:

Saturday Vigil: Greg Hill, Majella Hill

Sunday 9.00am: Vince Sicari, Tracey Baxter

Sunday 6.00pm: Nunzio Arena, Carmelina De Francesco

Ministers of Communion:

Saturday Vigil: Cathy Carrozza, Julie Garrard

Rita Raco, Judith Molloy

Sunday 9.00am: Romina De Grazia, Maria De Grazia

Yvonne Molloy, Rhonda Albani

Sunday 6.00pm: Viv Fezzuoglio, Melissa Lentini

Children's Liturgy:

Sunday 9.00am Emma Mauceri



We invite you to share in the Sacraments of:

EUCCHARIST:

Saturday Vigil:5.00pm

Italian Mass:6.15pm

Sunday Mass:9.00am & 6.00pm

Tuesday (Preferred day and time for 1 month & 1 year of anniversary of death Masses - must be booked).....7.30pm

Wednesday, Thursday9.00am

Friday9.15am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:30pm—4.50pm

BAPTISM

Celebrated on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Sunday of the month at 11am.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements for a wedding must be made at least four months in advance. Attendance at a Pre-Marriage Course is encouraged.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

We are pleased to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to those in need. The Eucharist will also be brought to those who are ill or housebound upon request. Please notify the Presbytery if members of your family or other parishioners are in need of the Eucharist.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During 9am Mass Sundays during school term

St Joan of Arc School

Principal: Des Fox

Office Phone 9798 9780

St Vincent's Care Services Haberfield

(formerly St Joan of Arc Villa)

Enquiries: 1800 778 767

The Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation for St Joan of Arc Parish young people:

CHILDREN ATTENDING ST JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

First Reconciliation: Wednesday, 6th November, 2019 at 7pm

Parent Meeting: Tuesday 17th September, 2019 7pm

Commitment Masses: 21st & 22nd September, 2019

First Communion: Sunday 18 and 25 August, 2019 at 10.30am

Parent Meeting: Tuesday 18 June 7pm

Commitment Masses: 22nd & 23rd June, 2019

Confirmation: Saturday, 25th May, 2019 at 5pm

Reflection Night: Tuesday 21st May, 2019 at 7pm

CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOLS OTHER THAN ST JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

First Reconciliation: Wednesday, 4th September, 2019 at 7pm

Information Night: Tuesday 30th July, 2019 at 7pm

First Communion: Sunday, 24th November, 2019 at 10.30am.

Information Night: Tuesday 15th October, 2019 at 7pm

Confirmation: Sunday, 26th May, 2019 at 11am

Reflection Night: Tuesday 21st May, 2019 at 7pm

(Preparation classes start Sundays 4 weeks before sacrament date - Please contact Greg Hill, our Sacramental co-ordinator at greg200@yahoo.com.au for more information and to register)



LORD, WE PRAY WELCOME HOME THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recently Deceased: Angela Gaitanos, Chris Boyd, Antonio Di Gori, Pasquale Sacchetti, Giuseppe Scardilli, Andrea Marchese, Giuseppe Aversa, Antonio Raiti, Giovanni Cassino, Venera Franco, Giuseppe Donato, Salvatore D'Arro, Alberto Savelli, Francesca De Ceglie, Claudio Bossi, Bartolomeo Nitti, Cathy Musumeci, Maria Fresta, Mark Dolahenty, Bruna Alibrandi, Dominic Banno

Rest in Peace: Sebastiano Mannino, Annibale Pagura, Celeste D'Arro, Jack McEnally, Dawn Ahrens, Michael Lindwall, Nell Putland, Barbara Mordente, Giovanni Cassino, Silvestra Pitronaci, Francesco De Grazia, Vin Putland, Michael Papponetti, Concetta Cardillo, Nicola Lattari, Marco Angeloni, Giorgio Daidone, Giovanni Bianco, Serafino Bianco, Domenico & Olimpia Spadaro, Francesca Ricciardi, Luigino De Domeneghi, Giovanni Tama, Frances Bot, Glorie Kelly, Giuseppe Iorfino, John & Kathleen Huie, Lucy The, Jim Tuite, Sarina Torrisi, Lattari & Aversa families, John & Moya Phillips, Mons Dino Fragiaco, Fr Frank Furfaro & All Souls in Purgatory.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill

members of our community: Anna Attard, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Aitken Family, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Buda, Mario Bianco, Tony Sulfaro

In keeping with the Privacy Act names cannot be published in our Parish Bulletin without the permission of the persons themselves or their next of kin. Please specify on your Mass Envelope your intention to include the person's name in this Bulletin or contact the Parish Office on 9798 6657