

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

YEAR B - 19th April 2009

GOSPEL: John 20: 19-31

Today we hear of Jesus' resurrected appearance to his disciples. Jesus shares his authority to forgive sins. We call this the institution of the sacrament of penance. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we call on the mercy of God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jesus spoke to Thomas: Put your hand here, and see the place of the nails. Doubt no longer, but believe, alleluia.

THE RISEN JESUS IS GOD

At the very time when Roman emperor Domitian was demanding to be worshipped as "our lord and god," the disciples are featured as owing these titles to no one but Jesus.

In today's Gospel, the resurrected Jesus tells his disciples that if they forgave people's sins they would be forgiven, and if they did not forgive them they would not be forgiven.

A Fictional Story

A parish priest was visiting the catechism class and asked the students: "What must we do before we can expect forgiveness from sin?" After a long silence, one of the young boys raised his hand and said: "First you have to commit a sin."

As any priest who hears confessions knows, this is not always simple. A man confessed that he had stolen lumber from his work site for years. The priest suggested a penance, asking, "Can you make a novena?" The man replied, "Father, if you have the plans, I've got the lumber."

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Brian Scanlan, Lionel West, Geoff Bray, Paul Moatz, Eileen Carroll, Lyle Jansen, Maureen Burke, Kath Robinson, Gary McLinden, Paul Trotman, Mary Hamilton, Lillian Roberts, Norm & Joan McLaurin, Kevin Hynes, Mihovil Katalinic, Vin Griffiths, Juanita Jervois, Norina Spinelli, Bishop Brennan, Nancy Gibson, John Hunt, Rob Deller, Mary McNamara, Ria Stumpe, James Williams, Mary Cooper, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Luke Heffernan, Rosel Free, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, Ben Harper, Bess Harris, Patricia Bourke, Effie Ray, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bob Woods, Marie Cook and Sandra Varrasso.

Grant eternal life to:

Pat Esler (Wagga Wagga), Don McDonald, Elsie Dale, Noel Carrol, Br John Hurley, Dennis Gooding, Molly Buchanan, Mavis Keating, and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Apolonia & Luis Flores, Richard O'Grady and all our loved ones whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Bert Scammell, Kathleen Dyball Snr., Bessie & William Fulton, Joan Rice, Lorraine Hill and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

ALEXANDER GRIFFITHS

LOUISA GRIFFITH

ABIGAIL GORDON

CALLEN CHALMERS

LILLIAN THOMPSON

FOR YOUR DIARY

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your generosity to the special collections over Easter, Holy Places \$1,061.00 and Project Compassion \$2,743.00 so far.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League will be held at St Patrick's presbytery on Monday 20th April at 7.30pm. All welcome.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

The Anzac Day Mass Service will be held on Saturday 25th April 2009 at St Patrick's Church, Cnr. Smollett and Olive Streets at 7.00am. Complimentary hot tea/coffee and biscuits available immediately after Mass.

POPE BENEDICT XVI APPOINTS TWO BISHOPS TO AUSTRALIAN DIOCESES

Bishop Gregory O'Kelly SJ has been appointed the Bishop of Port Pirie and Fr Michael McKenna has been appointed the Bishop of Bathurst.

SCHOOL OF ST JUDE

Gemma Sisia, Founder and Director of the School of St Jude, Tanzania, will speak at a dinner function on Monday 18th May. The event will begin at 6.30pm in the Waratah Room, Commercial Club. The cost of tickets is \$27.50 per person, with drinks at bar prices. For tickets and details, please contact Leasa Brown on

(02) 6043 1346, 0409 827 531 or email: leasabrown@gotalk.net.au

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE VISIT

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona is privileged to be able to have the pilgrim statue at their parish on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May 2009. A Marian Procession will commence at 5.45pm with the Rosary prior to Mass. Following Mass, a DVD presentation of the Message of Fatima will be shown in the Marian Centre. BYO shared tea. Following the 9.30am Mass on Sunday, the DVD will again be shown. All welcome.

ST PATRICK'S PRAYER GROUP

St Patrick's Prayer Group meets each Tuesday evening at 8.00pm. For details please ring Kath Ryan on 6021 2821 or Maree Sobolewski on 6021 5433.

YOU WANT YOUR MARRIAGE TO BE THE BEST

Committed, intimate, joyful and passionate!

Presented in a Catholic context, this course from PMRC, grounded in the Theology of the Body, is open to couples of any faith. The two day retreat will be held at Thurgoona on 30th and 31st May. For details, visit www.ce.ebrateloove.com.au or phone (02) 9662 7272.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP FOR 18-35YRS

A weekly discussion group for 18-35yr olds meets weekly on Wednesday nights at 7.00pm in the upper room of St Patrick's Hall.

Contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 or email mizmim@gmail.com
John Burton 0400 574 958 or Marcus Shaw 0418 463 952.

PARENTING TEENAGERS - WAR OR PEACE???

Living with a teenager can be exciting, rewarding - and often challenging!

Centacare is again presenting its successful parenting program.

The program will be held on 3 consecutive Thursdays

30/4/09, 7/5/09 & 21/5/09 - from 7.30pm-9.30pm

at Centacare, Slattery Catholic Centre, 449 Olive Street (in the grounds of St Patrick's Church) Albury.

The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$50.00 per family. Supper provided. Bookings essential. Please phone 6042 3700 (BH) or 6025 4714 (AH).

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH - SCHOOL FETE

The Holy Spirit Parish and School will hold their annual fete on Sunday 3rd May. The fete will run from 11.00am until 3.00pm in the school grounds, on the corner of Mutsch & Prune Streets, adjacent to Holy Spirit Church.

SNIPPET

This is the reality of Baptism: he, the Risen One, comes; he comes to you and joins his life with yours, drawing you into the open fire of his love. (Benedict XVI)