

Reflection on Today's Readings:

Dr. Scott Hahn

Jesus is nowhere visible. Yet today's Gospel tells us that Peter and John "saw and believed." What did they see? Burial shrouds lying on the floor of an empty tomb. Maybe that convinced them that He hadn't been carted off by grave robbers, who usually stole the expensive burial linens and left the corpses behind. But notice the repetition of the word "tomb"—seven times in nine verses. They saw the empty tomb and they believed what He had promised: that God would raise Him on the third day. Chosen to be His "witnesses," today's First Reading tells us, the Apostles were "commissioned . . . to preach . . . and testify" to all that they had seen—from His anointing with the Holy Spirit at the Jordan to the empty tomb. More than their own experience, they were instructed in the mysteries of the divine economy, God's saving plan—to know how "all the prophets bear witness" to Him. Now they could "understand the Scripture," could teach us what He had told them—that He was "the Stone which the builders rejected," that today's Psalm prophesies His Resurrection and exaltation. We are the children of the apostolic witnesses. That is why we still gather early in the morning on the first day of every week to celebrate this feast of the empty tomb, give thanks for "Christ our life," as today's Epistle calls Him. Baptized into His death and Resurrection, we live the heavenly life of the risen Christ, our lives "hidden with Christ in God." We are now His witnesses, too. But we testify to things we cannot see but only believe; we seek in earthly things what is above. We live in memory of the Apostles' witness, like them eating and drinking with the risen Lord at the altar. And we wait in hope for what the Apostles told us would come—the day when we too "will appear with Him in glory."

Easter Message from Our Parish Priest, Fr. John Fowles

Our Easter Gospel exclamation proclaims: "Christ has become our paschal sacrifice, let us feast with joy in the Lord." Such is the joy that Easter brings when with faith we have accompanied Jesus through his passion & death and then arise in joy on Easter Sunday singing out Alleluia's for the Lord is Risen indeed!

May we go forward now revitalised in our faith, facing the challenges with renewed courage and confidence, that Christ's victory is our victory... for we who have suffered with Him will also rise with Him.

May your Easter be for you and your family a time of great joy, inspiring love and peace wherever Our Lord leads us in life.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona

Parish Priest: Fr John Fowles



Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith. James

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Mass Times

Saturday: - (Vigil) 6pm

Sunday: - 9:30am & 5:30pm

Monday - 8am

Tuesday - 10am, *Mass of Mercy*

2nd Tues of month-Anointing of the sick,

Wednesday - 8am

Thursday- 7pm, Mass & Family Novena

Friday - 8am

1st Saturday of Month only:-8am- with
devotions to Bl.V.Mary

Working Bee: Sat - 9am to 11am

Sacraments and Devotions

Adoration - Fri 8:30am to 10:30am

Rosaries - Thurs 6:30pm and Sun 9am

Reconciliation - Thursday after Novena

Sat 5:30 to 5:50pm before Vigil,

Sun 9 to 9.20am & 5.00 to 5:20pm

Baptism and Marriage -By appointment

Legion of Mary Praesidia :

Mon 9:30am - Mystical Rose

Tues.9.00am - (prior to 10.00am Mass)
- Mary Immaculate

Parish Notices

Happy Easter to parishioners and their families and may you all experience the joy of this season, with its accompanying holidays, in peace and safety.

A Hearty Congratulations to Heidi Heath on being Confirmed in the Catholic faith during the Easter Vigil Mass. We wish Heidi and her husband, Angus, a very special, Joyous Easter this year.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Next Sunday 28th April is Divine Mercy Sunday.

Please refer to the programme below.

Piety Stall: After 9.30am Mass, 28th April and the Divine Mercy Devotions.

Divine Mercy: - Devotions for the **Divine Mercy** will be held on Sun.28th. April.

3.00pm - Rosary and Hymn

3.30pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

(Reconciliation is available throughout)

- Talk & Reflection & Hymn

- Divine Mercy Prayers

- Talk & Reflection & Hymn

Piety Stall with devotional items after 9.30 Mass & Divine Mercy



Easter Sunday

21st. April, 2019

Collect

O God, who on this day, through Your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by Your Spirit, rise up in the light of life

First Reading Acts 10:34,37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 117:1-2,16-17,22- 23

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

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Easter Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!



The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed.



Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon: 1 Cor 5: 7-8

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord hear our prayers for the Sick: Ross McKeowan, Beau Kirkham, June Cox, Shirley Evans

For the recently departed: Graham MacLean, Bob Garrett

Anniversaries: Richard Bartosik, John and Jack Evans, Doreen Linham, Hilary Roseman, Patrick Hickey

Readers this week: Sat 6pm-Damien Tocher 9.30am-Magdalene Kaur

Readers Roster: 27th/28th April 2019

Sat: 6.00 pm –Peter Tobin 9.30 am - Stefany George

Cleaning Roster: April, 27th. Isabella and Dennis

Financial Report: cheques payable to **Ihm Parish Account** or Direct Debit:
BSB640000: Acc. No.111270902 Include name on transfer. **First Collecion\$362.90**
Second Collection (Envelope): \$320.00Direct Debit:\$340.00Loose \$237.50