

Looking for the hard truth

Although Thomas is called the 'twin', he might be better named Thomas the 'realist'. Unlike other disciples, Thomas is not about to believe in something as improbable as Jesus rising from the dead unless he has hard evidence. We might even call him Thomas the 'sceptic' who believes only in things he can see and touch. Yet, our 'doubting Thomas' has more to teach us than is commonly realised. In John's Gospel, Thomas is presented as someone who does the right thing even in the face of adversity. This is shown when Jesus decides to visit the ill and dying Lazarus. Thomas urges the disciples to accompany Jesus on this difficult mission - even if they might face death: "Let us go that we may die with him" (Jn 11:16). Thomas is a person of action who is true to his word. This is in contrast to Peter who commits himself to follow Jesus to the point of death, but then denies him three times! Nor is Thomas afraid to express his ignorance and ask the hard questions. At the Last Supper, when Jesus tells the disciples they know where he is going, Thomas bluntly expresses his confusion: "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5).

Finally, from today's gospel, we are presented with both a 'doubting Thomas' who is slow to believe, and yet someone who remains open-minded and continues to search for the truth. Once the resurrected Christ appears to him, his response is full-hearted and immediate: "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28). We, like Thomas, are people caught up with deeply human doubts and questions. Unlike Thomas, we do not have the luxury of walking beside Jesus for three years in his public ministry. Yet, even for Thomas this is still not enough to believe without evidence that Jesus was now risen. Nor do we have the privilege of touching the wounds in the risen body of Jesus, as Thomas did. Yet, in a strange twist of events, Jesus says that you and I are even more blessed than Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (Jn 20:29). Yet, our faith is not blind belief in things that others tell us. Easter faith is a genuine experience of the risen Lord who always walks with us on the journey of life. This is especially when we experience "crucifixion moments" in our own lives, or when our doubts threaten to overwhelm us. As Thomas' own experience teaches, doubt is not the opposite of faith, but its pre-condition, leading us to search for the 'hidden God' who is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

Pope Francis says that by living our faith in loving service of others "many doubts vanish because we feel the presence of God and the truth of the Gospel." In other words,

Easter faith is less about a set of things to believe in, than a way of life leading us to ever deepening discipleship.

Gerard Hall SM

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MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

Parish Office: 575 9296
Parish Priest: Fr John Dunn
Dcn Mark Rivalland: 021 482 555
Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9.30am-12pm
Wednesday: 1.30-5pm
E-Mail: office@glendowiecatholic.org.nz
Parish Website: www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz
Parish Administrator: Karla Nobre Milosevic
Pastoral Worker: Maureen Keenan (Home)5754354
Redemptorist Website: www.cssr.org.au

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Divine Mercy Sunday
Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 April 2022

*Holy God, Holy Mighty One,
Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy on us and on the whole
world.*

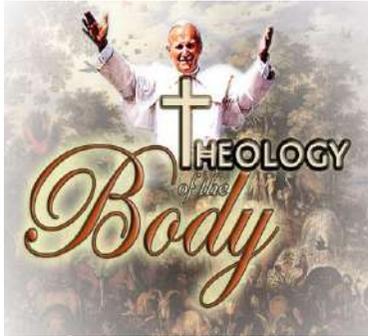
Our Lord's
Divine Mercy Sunday
grants forgiveness of all sins on the
Feast of the Divine Mercy,
Mercy Sunday, mercy for even
the most hardened sinners.

It is the Sunday of
Divine Mercy,
The Feast of Mercy!

***"O Blood and Water, which gushed
forth from the Heart of Jesus as a
fountain of
mercy for us.
I trust in You."***



newsletter



Theology of the Body (TOB)

is the name given to St John Paul II's profoundly beautiful catechesis on human love, human dignity, the meaning of our bodies and of sexual desire as they relate to the purpose of our existence.

Theology of the Body lays out a banquet that truly satisfies the deep hunger in our hearts. It reveals God's ultimate plan for each of us in a full and life

giving way. The next BEGINNERS TOB COURSE: **Human Love in the Divine Plan** starts on Wednesday 4th May (7-9pm - Hillsborough, Auckland).

This beautiful series opens the eyes of our hearts to the hope of infinite bliss and fulfilment in Christ.

For more information contact Maria on tobauckland@gmail.com or register at www.theologyofthebody.nz

If you would like some HOLY WATER, bring your own bottle (100ml or less), and Steve will fill it for your after Mass during the week.



Cleaning Lady Required – reliable and efficient – fortnightly Meadowbank Area.
Please phone Margaret 021 288 5088

CHANGE OF VENUE

**Catholic Women's League Wednesday 27th April 2022
NOW HELD AT ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH, ST. HELIERS**

Catholic Women's League - invite ladies, men to join us on **WEDNESDAY 27 April** at St. Ignatius Church, St. Heliers, 2 Kotiri Street, St Heliers.

MASS at 10.30am (taken by Father John) followed by morning tea in the Hall. Our guest speaker Sue Bennett, Principal of St. Joseph's School will give a talk in one of our series - The changing role of women in the Catholic Church - **Women in Mission**. Our usual delicious lunch will follow. All for \$15.

Please call Tina on 09-5212499 / 021 940 950 if you would like to come.

St Ignatius Catholic Primary School, St Heliers, Years 0-6 Enrolments

Enrolment applications for New Entrant places in 2023 at St Ignatius Catholic Primary School close on 31 August and will be processed in accordance with our Enrolment Scheme. Parents will be notified soon after 31 August. Please complete an enrolment application form together with the preference certificate and other supporting information and deliver or email it to the school office not later than 31 August 2022.

We currently have limited spaces for all year levels. If you would like to make an enrolment application you are welcome to do so at any time.

If you have a baby or preschooler it is helpful if applications for places beyond 2023 are in the system. It's never too early to apply.

For enrolment application forms please download from our website www.stignatius.school.nz or collect from 72 Speight Rd, St Heliers, email office@stignatius.school.nz or phone 5757081

We remember in prayer our parishioners whose anniversaries occur during April : Bill Trigance, Jessie O'Donoghue, Terrance Alcock, Maureen Bevin, Joseph Shalfoon, Douglas Barnett, Kevin Hayes, Monica Crookbain, Daniel Sloan, Kazimierz Borowski, Tony Squirrell, Anne Stanhope, Paula Willmering

Next Week: Third Sunday of Easter 30 April & 1 May

1. Acts 5:27-32,40-41 2. Apocalypse 5:11-14 3. Gospel John 21:1-19

<u>ROSTER</u>			Sunday Mass 10am
Vaccine Verifier			
Greeters			
Musicians			MPH Singers
PowerPoint			MPH Singers
Children's Liturgy			
Prayers of the Faithful	Bernie Culpan	Altar Linen - Heather Hart	
Ministers of Communion			
Readers			
Cleaners	Teresita and Danilo Gatbonton		
Grace Joel	10.30am		