



# PARA HILLS MODBURY CATHOLIC PARISH

## PARISH TEAM

FR MANU KUMBIDIYAMACKAL  
MSFS

(PARISH PRIEST)

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(PARISH ASSISTANT)

PAULINE LAI  
(FINANCE OFFICER)

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## OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY-FRIDAY: 9AM-2PM

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

171 KESTERS ROAD,  
PARA HILLS 5096

## ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH

50 RESERVOIR RD,  
HOPE VALLEY 5090

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY  
CELEBRATED AT  
10AM MASS**

## BAPTISMS

BOOKINGS TO BE MADE  
THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE.

## MARRIAGES

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

## REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S**  
(PRIMARY) 8251 9500  
CARIGNANE ST,  
WYNN VALE 5127

**GLEESON COLLEGE**  
(SECONDARY) 8282 6600  
40-60 SURREY FARM DRIVE,  
GOLDEN GROVE 5125

## PARISH CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

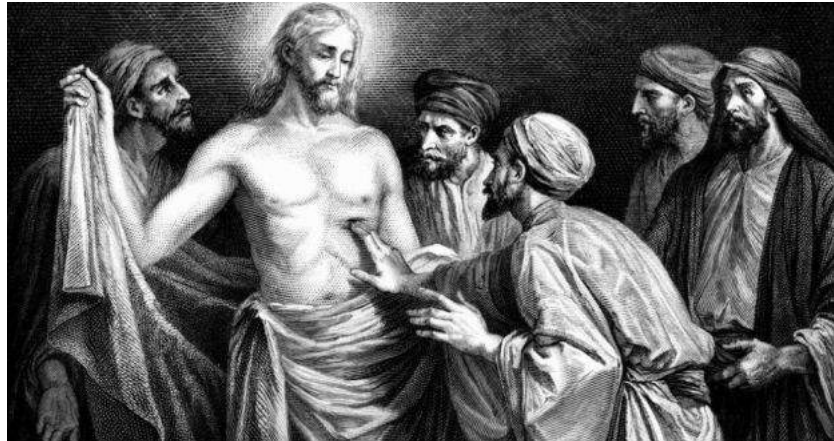
THERESE MEYERS: 0421 533 761  
TASH SOUTER: 0422 270 655

19th April 2020

Divine Mercy Sunday, Year A - White

Bulletin Vol.17  
Issue 13

**We acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of this region.  
Let us share and learn together for reconciliation and justice.**



## Thomas: A Model of Faith or Doubt?

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across safely. He used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters and call in an air strike. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that REALLY what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no, Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

We hear a series of "post - resurrection" stories: the women at the tomb who seemed to have forgotten the "punchline": that Jesus told them he would rise after three days. It took the angels to remind them of that rather important detail.

And then when they ran back to tell the disciples, the men didn't believe them! And Mary in the garden: she thought he was the gardener. And today we hear of Jesus' appearance to the disciples: who were huddling in fear behind locked doors! Thomas, one of the faithful 12, who goes down in history forever as "doubting Thomas" for his refusal to accept the testimony of others, but demanded his own experience of the risen Lord was not there with them at the time. What took him away from the community that day? Why was he out of the room? Had they drawn lots for someone to venture out for food? Had they gotten into another quarrel about who was the greatest and Thomas had left in a huff or gone off to compose himself? We'll never know; but the possibilities are rife with the humanness of these early Christians: they didn't always get it right, either!

Imagine, missing one Sunday, and coming back to hear "Guess who showed up while you were gone?" "The pope." Would you believe it? Sometimes we are too quick to make Thomas the poster child for faithless doubt. The rest of the bunch don't acquit themselves so well, as a matter of fact. The women at the tomb, the men who didn't believe the women's story, Peter who runs back to see for himself .... And here are the "faithful" disciples, after the appearance of Jesus: still in the locked, upper room. What should strike us about this story is that Thomas came back after all. Whatever had taken him away from the community, he came back. And it was in the community that Jesus came to him, and without so much as  
Cont.....

a confession or absolution, offered him what he needed to believe: "Touch, me Thomas. Do not be faithless, but believing." One of Thomas' great virtues was that he absolutely refused to say that he understood what he did not understand, or that he believed what he did not believe. There was an uncompromising honesty about him: he would never still his doubts by pretending they did not exist. Verna Dozier, the Anglican theologian, writes: "Doubt is not the opposite of faith: fear is." Thomas had doubts, but he refused to surrender to the fear which kept the disciples shut up in that locked room. He both ventured out and then had the courage to return: to face a community which had an experience he did not share and be willing to insist on his own experience of God. Thus, Thomas becomes for us not a symbol of faithlessness, but of courage. To trust that there are no doubts so profound that God cannot answer; to believe that Jesus cares enough to show up a second time; a third time ...

I remember well a baptism I attended. After sprinkling the little one, the priest said, "Welcome this new Christian. "And how is she going to learn to be a Christian?" he asked. And holding her high in his arms to face the congregation, he said, "By watching you."

Is it possible that the story in today's gospel is not so much about Thomas' disbelief but about the failure of the disciples to act out their faith? Why should Thomas believe when the others were still staying behind closed doors, not acting as if they had seen the risen Christ? Will those who come to us, seeking the risen Christ, experience us as moving out into the world, in spite of our doubts ... or closing ranks out of fear of the unknown? What would they learn about being a Christian by watching us?

The Uncertainty of Faith is so well expressed in this poem:

Let me meet you on the mountain, Lord, Just once.  
You wouldn't have to burn a whole bush.  
Just a few smoking branches  
and I would surely be ...your Moses.

Let me meet you on the water, Lord, Just once.  
It wouldn't have to be on the calm tides  
of semaphore beach

Just on a puddle on a gravel road  
and I would surely be...your Peter.

Let me meet you on the road, Lord, Just once.  
You wouldn't have to blind me on princess high way.  
Just a few bright lights on the way to my parish church  
and I would surely be...your Paul.

Let me meet you, Lord, Just once, anywhere, anytime.  
Just meeting you in the Word is so hard sometimes  
Must I always be...your Thomas?

(Adapted from Norman Shirk, April 10, 1981,  
KQ, Dallas Seminary)

Like Thomas, Mary Magdalene, Peter, Cleopas, and the Eleven Disciples we all do have moments of doubt, uncertainties, confusions, disbelief, hopeless and frustrations. Conscious of those moments we are invited today to put our hands into those wounds of Christ! And be faith filled, healed and strengthened by Christ our wounded healer!

Let us pray in this troubled times that we are strengthened in our faith and unity to say with Thomas "My Lord and my God."



Readings for next Sunday, 26th April 2020

1st Reading	Act	2:14, 22-33
2nd Reading	1 Peter	1:17-21
Gospel	Luke	24:13-35

**Saints/Feast Days Of the Week**

21st	Apr	St Anselm
23rd	Apr	St George, St Adalbert
24th	Apr	St Fidelis of Sigmaringen
25th	Apr	Anzac Day

**Our Community's Prayer Petitions**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE NAMES ON THE SICK LIST WILL REMAIN FOR TWO MONTHS ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.**

**BULLETIN PRAYER LIST:** Please note that names can only be added to this list by immediate family, or the ill person themselves (for reasons of privacy).

**Please Remember in your Prayers THOSE WHO ARE SICK, especially:**

Pat Collins, Ruby Brokensha, Anne Van Der Arend, Gerry McConnell, Margaret Pitt, Patricia Kopf, Darcy Ridley, Paul Holmes, Father Peter Milburn, Maria Hand, Emma Gammon, Asher Caudle, David North, Elijah Neri, Wayne Collins, Antoinette Pascale, Marg Dolman, Charlotte Fussell, Phyllis Anthony, Reta Lockyer, John MacGrath, Ken Robinson, Graham Armstrong, Mary Redmond, Graham Speed, Marlen Piineda, David Truman, Bruce McAndie, Rosa Maria Santos, Sean Molloy, Betty Roper, Imperia De Ionno, Julie Reimann, Maddison Calleja, Janice Forrester, Jim Marlow, Gerry Canavan, Jayden Lee, Marie Boulton, Sr. Marleen Dewar OLSH, Kay Kennedy, Rita Robinson, Gary Lockyer, Yvonne Summers.

**Recently Deceased**

Antonio (Tony) Pascale, Dudley Dolman, Patrick Healy



**PASSING OF**

**Antonio (Tony) Pascale**

It is with regret that we inform you of the passing of Antonio Pascale, who was a long term parishioner.

We extend our condolences to Antoinette and the family and ask you all to keep them in your prayers at this difficult time.

**Spam Emails**

Please note that parishes and priests do not solicit donations by email. We have had reports of people being approached via email by people falsely claiming to be priests or parish representatives. If you should receive such an email please do not forward, respond to, or donate via any links contained in them.

# Alleluia!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Easter Tuesday, the day of Mary of Magdala, the apostle to the apostles, the one who was bewildered until Jesus spoke her name - same with us. The little reflection below may be of interest.

Alleluia!

It is an unusual word that is not native to the English or even Latin liturgical vocabulary; the word - 'Alleluia'. As a matter of fact, it sounds less like a meaningful word than the babbling of a child, and when it is sung with many notes for the final vowel, this impression becomes even stronger.

Alleluia does, of course, have a meaning. It is a Hebrew word, and down the centuries the church has brought it with her, untranslated (like Amen), as a product of the Jewish soil from which she herself sprang and as a reminder of her early days. The word is a cry of jubilation meaning 'Praise the Lord' and occurs frequently in the psalms...

But the translation does not explain why the church retained this word from the Hebrew language of prayer in order to express her Easter jubilation, even though in her later centuries the people of God did not understand the meaning.

I think the church meant to say: in the presence of the mystery of our redemption, our usual vocabulary is inadequate.

When faced with the superabundant mercy of God we can only stammer in amazement like children.

This is how it is with us Christians: As we gaze at the Sun that has risen high over the darkness and cold of our Good Friday, all well-chosen words are useless. We can only stammer out our Alleluia of wonder and jubilation.

Balthasar Fischer

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ  
**Apostolic Administrator**

## Parish Bulletin

To help to keep you up to date with developments the Parish Bulletin will continue to be published weekly and posted online on the Parish Website <http://paramodcath.com.au>

If you would like to receive the bulletin via email please contact us at [bulletin@paramodcath.com.au](mailto:bulletin@paramodcath.com.au)

## Bulletin Articles

We would like to publish some stories from our parishioners about how this time of church closures and isolation from our parish community is affecting you and your faith.

If you have a story to share please email it in to [bulletin@paramodcath.com.au](mailto:bulletin@paramodcath.com.au)

## Collections

We would like to thank all our parishioners who so generously support our Priests and Parish. We are all going through some difficult times and the parish requires your continuous support so that we are able to go on as the bills keep coming in. If you can help in any way it is very much appreciated.

If you would like to contribute online please visit our website [paramodcath.com.au](http://paramodcath.com.au) and use the link to make your contributions to both the presbytery fund (1st collection) and to the parish (2nd collection).

Once you click the link

- Choose the parish. Scroll down and choose Para Hills /Modbury and click submit.
- Once you have done this please make sure that you have filled in all the required fields.
- Choose first collection from the payment type for presbytery collection.
- Choose "general" at the payment type if you are making a donation for the second collection. \*Please fill in your planned giving number in the space provided so that we will know from whom the debit comes.
- Click next
- Enter verification code
- Click next
- You will have the option to print or email a receipt for your records
- Click finish

Contributions can also be dropped off at the Parish Office using the mail slot next to the office door. Please mark envelopes clearly as 1st or 2nd collection.

**For those who are unable to come to the Parish Office Contributions can also be dropped off at Holy Trinity Church on Sundays 11am - 12noon**



## Bottle Collection at Holy Trinity

With to the recent passing of Dudley Dolman, who organised the collection of recyclable bottles and cans at Holy Trinity, we are looking for people who would be able to help in this role.

If you are able to help sort the bottles and cans and to take them to the recycling centre or would like some more information about this role, please contact the Parish Office.

Due to the large amount of work and the very small return (1¢ each) we are no longer able to accept wine bottles, jam jars and pickle jars. We ask that you bring only recyclable bottles and cans that have a 10¢ refund. We thank all those who have supported us by bringing their bottles and cans for recycling and hope that you will continue to do this.

**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!**



**COVID-19 PHONE COUNSELLING  
NOW AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT**

People struggling to cope with the chaos and fear surrounding COVID-19 can now access free phone counselling by appointment from Centacare Catholic Family Services.

In response to the health emergency, Centacare has increased capacity to provide telephone support for mental health concerns, family stress due to job loss, social isolation and other challenges arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

People do not need a mental health care plan to access the short-term support.

Rather, they can phone Centacare direct and book an appointment for a telephone counselling consultation.

**To book an appointment please phone Centacare on 8215 6700.**

**For more information, please contact Elizabeth Rowe 0437 062 302.**

**Coronavirus Protocols**

**Due to the restrictions on all gatherings, which have been put into place in response to the Coronavirus outbreak, all Parish activities are suspended until further notice.**

**We ask that you do not access any of the Parish buildings for any reason without prior permission. We also ask that if you do enter any of the Parish buildings that you fill in the sign in sheets provided.**

**We regret the inconvenience this may cause, but our priority at this time is to minimise the risk of spreading the Coronavirus in our community.**

**The Parish office will continue to be staffed for the time being, but this may change at short notice, therefore we ask that all queries are made over the phone or via email.**

**We greatly appreciate your cooperation at this difficult time.**

**Sale of Entertainment Books**

Due to the current pandemic, the parish East Timor committee's only fundraiser for now is the sale of Entertainment Books.

If you would like to purchase one, digital versions are the only ones available now. Please refer to the Entertainment Book website for information and ordering. You will need to quote 'Para Hills Modbury Catholic parish' as the charity.

\$14/book will be given to the parish for Maliana diocese.

Kind regards East Timor committee

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
APRIL BABIES**

22nd Apr

Bradley Horn, Ashley Ball,  
Bill Schafer



**Masses Online & On Television**

**We will continue to stream weekend Masses on our YouTube channel.**

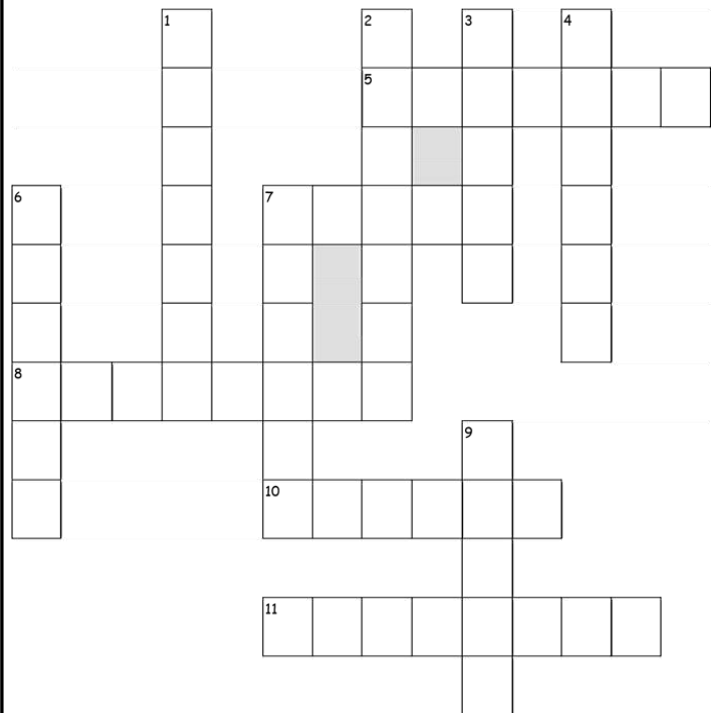
**Please visit our parish website for the link or go to youtube.com and search for Para Hills Modbury Catholic Parish To find our channel.**

**Also visit the Archdiocese website for links to information, prayers and other streamed Masses.**

**Sunday Mass is also screened on Channel 10 at 6am every Sunday morning. .**

**Kids Corner**

**Happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!**



Jn 20:19-29

**Across**

5: to take into your possession

7: long, pointed weapon

8: to have come into sight

10: the apostle who doubted that Jesus had risen

11: not believing

**Down**

1: to pardon an offence

2: welcomed

3: marks left by a healed wound

4: Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your \_\_\_\_\_ here and look at my hands!"

6: frightened or scared

7: Jesus said to his disciples, "Receive the Holy \_\_\_\_\_".

9: belief

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