

St Francis of Assisi

CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B

8 APRIL 2018

1st Reading:

ACTS 4: 32-35

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

JOHN 5: 1-6

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world..

JOHN 20: 19-31

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.



Doubting Thomas

The appearance of the risen Christ to the disciples in Jerusalem is dominated by the figure of Thomas. The words that Jesus says to Thomas are so important for future believers that the narrative has become the fixed Gospel for the Second of Easter.

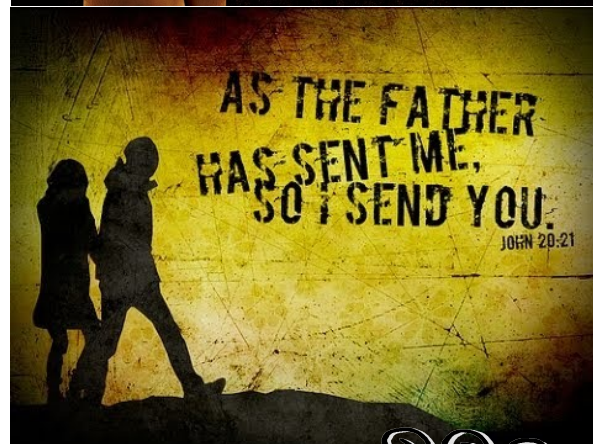
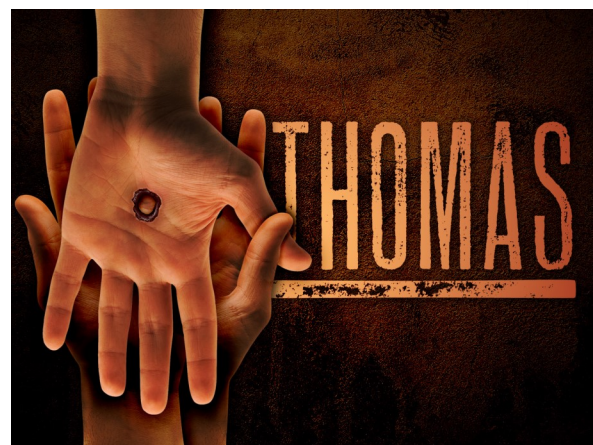
The story of Thomas is one of movement from skepticism to faith. At first, he doesn't believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Although he accompanied Jesus to Bethany and witnessed how Jesus raised the dead Lazarus to life, this has not created in him any readiness to believe in Jesus' resurrection. Only after Jesus speaks to him directly and addresses his doubts in a very personal way does Thomas 'surrender' and exclaim, "My Lord and My God."

Jesus then addresses Thomas and through him the Christians of later generations: "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." The future disciples must accept a new type of relationship with Jesus: a post-glorification discipleship. It is a believing without seeing the historical signs of the earthly Jesus but relying on the testimony of the believing community, now incarnated in the very text of

the gospel of John. The gospel was precisely written "that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God and that through this belief you may have life in His name." *Fr Vally*

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

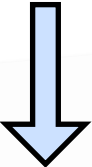
Ps 117



WELCOME VISITORS, to St Francis of Assisi, Thames. Whether you are here for the first time or visit periodically you are most welcome. Please join us in the Parish Centre for morning tea after Mass.



New pledge envelopes—PLEASE REMEMBER to write your pledge number on each envelope



ST FRANCIS of ASSISI
THAMES

DATE: _____

PLEDGE NUMBER: _____

FIRST COLLECTION

\$ _____

Offering for the support of:

- The Priests
- The Bishop
- The Clergy Trust Fund

SECOND COLLECTION

\$ _____

To help provide for the Parish



**Sr Ann Neven
RSJ—Facilitator**

**Sun
22nd
April**

**9:30am
Morning tea
10am
AGM
10:30am
Goal Setting
12noon
Shared
lunch**

Our group has started sewing again and we are going to send some of the dresses through a Lady in Invercargill. So if anyone is ever travelling down that way and could take some dresses with them please let me know.

- We are in need of narrow ribbon all colours,
- white cotton,
- lace and
- material.
- we need boys tees and shorts
- And if you have heavier material that would be suitable for shorts or would like to donate some boys tee shirts.

We would be very grateful. As the Elim church

was badly damaged in the January flood we are now sewing at 114 MacKay Street every Thursday morning. Call in and see what we do any time
Mary Connors
078690077



We cannot give up in the face of evil. God is Love and has defeated evil through Christ's death and resurrection. *Pope Francis*

No matter how bad things seem, God is always there to hold us in love



PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Can you help continue the tradition of giving?

Last weeks collection

Loose \$326

Pledge \$290

TOTAL \$616



RC Bishop of Auckland Parish Account Thames
02—0100—0120990 — 008

PLEASE NOTE: WE ONLY HAVE ONE COLLECTION

Have you considered giving your gift to the Parish through **Auto Payment?**

This is a way to show a strong commitment to your Parish. AP's continually support even when you are away on holiday.

**May the angels
protect you
May sadness
forget you
May goodness
surround you
May Jesus
always bless
you**

HAPPY EASTER

SHOES IN CHURCH *Author Unknown*

I showered and shaved I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat In a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer As I closed my eyes.
I saw the shoe of the man next to me Touching my own. I sighed.
With plenty of room on either side..... I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?'
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine. But it didn't bother him much.
A prayer began:
'Our Father'..... I thought, 'This man with the shoes, has no pride.
They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!'
'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.
The shoe man said A quiet 'Amen.'
I tried to focus on the prayer But my thoughts were on his shoes again.
Aren't we supposed to look our best. When walking through that door?
'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought Glancing toward the floor
Then the prayer was ended And the songs of praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud Sounding proud as he sang.
His voice lifted the rafters His hands were raised high.
The Lord could surely hear The shoe man's voice from the sky.
It was time for the offering And what I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man reached Into his pockets so deep.
I saw what was pulled out What the shoe man put in.
Then I heard a soft 'clink' . As when silver hits tin.
The sermon really bored me To tears, and that's no lie..
It was the same for the shoe man For tears fell from his eyes.
At the end of the service As is the custom here.
We must greet new visitors And show them all good cheer.
But I felt moved somehow And wanted to meet the shoe man.
So after the closing prayer I reached over and shook his hand.
He was old and his skin was dark And his hair was truly a mess.
But I thanked him for coming For being our guest.
He said, 'My names' Charlie I'm glad to meet you, my friend.'
There were tears in his eyes But he had a large, wide grin.
'Let me explain,' he said Wiping tears from his eyes.
'I've been coming here for months And you're the first to say 'Hi.'"
'I know that my appearance 'Is not like all the rest.'
'But I really do try 'To always look my best.'
'I always clean and polish my shoes 'Before my very long walk.'
'But by the time I get here 'They're dirty and dusty, like chalk.'
My heart filled with pain And I swallowed to hide my tears.
As he continued to apologize For daring to sit so near
He said, 'When I get here 'I know I must look a sight.'
'But I thought if I could touch you 'Then maybe our souls might unite.'
I was silent for a moment Knowing whatever was said
Would pale in comparison I spoke from my heart, not my head.
'Oh, you've touched me,' I said 'And taught me, in part;
'That the best of any man 'Is what is found in his heart.'
The rest, I thought, This shoe man will never know.
Like just how thankful I really am That his dirty old shoe touched my soul
Remember, everyone needs a friend.. Someday you might feel like You have no friends at all. Just remember this and take comfort in knowing that someone out there doesn't care about your shoes, but your Soul.



The April 8 – 21 issue of NZ Catholic is out now.

Some headlines are: Include Church in abuse inquiry say bishops. Birds ousted as new roof tops Dunedin priory. Young adults want Church to take them seriously. Imitate St Padre Pio's life says Pope.
The next issue of *NZ Catholic* will be published on April 22.



CATECHIST CATCH-UP

Something about Mary

- Praying with Mary
- Mary as Catechist
- Teaching about Mary

RSVP on line or re.teamacda.org.nz

Wednesday 16 May
St Patrick's, Pukekohe
7.00-8.30pm

Thursday 17 May
Pompallier Centre, Ponsonby
7.00-8.30pm

Saturday 19 May
St Therese's, Morewa
Lunch 12 noon, session 1 - 2.30pm



IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK

Mass of the Neophytes 5:00pm Vigil Mass of the Ascension
Saturday 12 May Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph
Validated parking available All are welcome

Gathering for Parish Social Justice Animators

Parishioners interested in assisting their Parish to follow in the steps of Jesus who stood with the poor and marginalised in society are invited to a gathering **9am-1.30pm** on **Saturday 14 April** at Pompallier Diocesan Centre 30 New St Ponsonby to meet, share experiences and enjoy some stimulating input from exciting speakers. Morning tea and lunch will be provided at no charge. Please contact Peter Garrick peterg@cda.org.nz or phone 360 3037 to confirm your place.

Mercy Spirituality Centre 104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz or www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

ECOLOGY Series: Exploring Ecology and Eco-Spirituality with Dr MARY BETZ Tues 10 Apr 10am-12noon. \$15. incl. morning tea. This session will remind us of the connectedness of all creation, and our role as kaitiaki (guardians). We will reflect on our own spiritualities in light of the thought of spiritual writers, eco-theologians and *Laudato Si!*

Who is my Neighbour? with Sr BRIDGET CRISP rsm Thurs 12 Apr 10am-12 noon. \$15 incl. morning tea. The crisis facing the Pacific

WEEKLY CHURCH ROSTERS

Readers

8 APR Gill Benton Shelley Johnson

15 APR Margaret Mabey Margaret Quinn

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST &

Sacristans

8 APR Yolanda Kirkbeck Olivia Pharaoh

15 APR Jenny Cooper Frank Schnuriger

PRIEST'S ASSISTANT

8 APR Margie Humphrey

15 APR Geraldine Sumner

MORNING TEA

8 APR Team Liturgy

15 APR Team Leadership

CHURCH CLEANING

APRIL WK 3 Indian Group

MAY WK 1 Gill Benton / Frank Schnuriger / Mary Wenzlick

FLOWERS

APRIL Olivia Pharaoh

MAY Mary Connors Margi Humphrey

through the lens of *Laudato Si...* What are the challenges that humanity is facing from climate change and how can we support our neighbours in the Pacific? Bridget has been following the impact of climate change in the Pacific and will be sharing some of her experiences

Individually Guided Six-Day Live-In Retreat – ONE PLACE LEFT

with Sr ANNE WARREN chf. Sunday 15 Apr, 7pm to Sat 21 Apr, 3pm. \$590. This is an opportunity for those who would like a personally guided retreat with an experienced Spiritual Director. *See our website for more details. Bookings essential.*

Holy Cross Seminary invites all clergy and parishioners to celebrate with the seminary staff and students the Founders Day Mass. Mass will held at Sacred Heart Church, 16 Vermont Street, Ponsonby, at 5.00 pm on Monday 30 April. Principal celebrant will be Bishop Paul Martin, newly ordained Bishop for Christ-church. All the bishops from the New Zealand Bishops Conference will also be in attendance.

ALONE AGAIN? Widowed, Separated or Divorced? The Beginning Experience is a non-profit organization with the motto "a weekend away for a lifetime of change". The retreat will help you work through your painful loss. Participants find new hope, increased emotional health and renewed energy. From Friday evening 18-20 May 2018. Cost \$295 or early bird price of \$245 if paid by 14 April. Includes accommodation, meals and materials. Contact Carol on (022) 089 0458 or leave a message on (09) 360-3054. For further information visit www.beginningexperience.org.nz.

Marist College, Mt Albert, Auckland, 90TH JUBILEE on 12-13th May 2018. Register on-line at: <http://www.maristcollege.ibdn.nz>

CALENDAR

APRIL

Tues 10th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Wed 11th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Thurs 12th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Fri 13th	12:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sat 14th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sun 15th	8:30am—Sunday Mass
Sun 22nd	9:30am—St Francis Church AGM/Goal Setting

PARISH INFORMATION

Fr Valarian D'Souza— Parish Priest

Email: dsouzavally@gmail.com

Fr Albert Pandu—Assistant Priest

Email: alberts.pandu@gmail.com

Friary

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500

Ph. 868 6169

Pastoral Care

Sister Paula Cronin

2/103 Clarence Street, Thames 3500

Ph 868 6310 **Mobile:** 021 206 8062

Email: sisterp3@outlook.com

Parish Office

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500

Robyn Smith (Administrator)

Ph. 868 9407 **Mobile:** 027 291 5165

Email: stfrancisthames@xtra.co.nz

www.coromandelcatholic.org.nz

St. Francis School

Principal: Geraldine Sumner

Ph. 868 7655

Parish Leadership Team

Margaret Mabey Ph. 868 9818

margmabey@xtra.co.nz

Ministry to the Sick/Elderly

Eileen Campbell (Coordinator) Ph 8687473

Catholic Women's League'

Lois Wright Ph 868 6600

1st Thursday of the month at Parish Centre

LITURGICAL TIMES

Sunday Mass

8.30 am

Tuesday–Thursday & Saturday Mass

9.15 am

Thursday

9.15am. Mass, Exposition, Benediction & Reconciliation.

Friday

12.15pm

Reconciliation

During Exposition, Thursdays
Saturdays after 9.15 am Mass.