

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday ANZAC Day  
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10.30am  
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6.30am  
Thursday Rev Josie @ church @ 10am  
Sat 14/5 Busy Bee @ 8am onwards  
Sun 15/5 Progressive Lunch @ 11am

**BUSY BEE** – on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 8am. Please put your name on the Notice Board if you're able to come along and help out. There are plenty of options of what you can do, and what you may need to bring equipment wise. Greenwood has a green rubbish pick up coming so it's a great time to get stuck into the gardens around our church.

**PROGRESSIVE LUNCH** – on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 11am. Please put your name on the Notice Board if you'd like to come along for a delicious meal. Cost \$5. We'll start with soup at the church, then carpool to Scott's home for main course, before returning to the church for dessert. BYO your own wine. Coffee, tea, water will be provided.

**Please pray for:** Paul; Frances; Isla; Ivan; Peggy; Layla-Grace; Barry; John; Lyn; George & Maureen; Kate; Eve; Cameron; Mike; Garth; Bev Mc; Hazel; Cornelis



*Happy birthday to Simon Laws on 27<sup>th</sup>;  
Heather Croker on 30<sup>th</sup>*

<b>Wardens -</b>	Phil Goulding	Phone: 9247 4978
	Judith Smith	Phone: 9246 3745
<b>Parish Priest –</b>	the Reverend Josie Steytler	Phone: 0421 115 438

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## Welcome to Worship



**Easter 2**

24<sup>th</sup> April 2022

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**We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...**

### Our Mission is to

- **Know God personally**
- **Love and respect one another deeply**
- **Disciple and serve those around us**

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**Sentence:** Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."  
*John 20:27*

### Collect of the Day

Living God,  
for whom no door is closed,  
no heart is locked:  
draw us beyond our doubts,  
till we see your Christ  
and touch his wounds where they bleed in others.  
This we ask through Christ our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

#### Today:

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

#### Next week:

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:6-14  
John 21:1-19



## Easter 2 – John 20:19-31

*“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. And when he said this he breathed upon them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit...” Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”*

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter (for all three years of the Lectionary cycle) is Act 2 of John’s Easter drama.

**Scene 1** - takes place on Easter night. The terrified disciples are huddled together, realising they are marked men because of their association with the criminal Jesus. The Risen Jesus appears in their midst with his greeting of “peace.” John clearly has the Genesis story in mind when the evangelist describes Jesus as “breathing” the Holy Spirit on his disciples: Just as God created man and woman by breathing life into them (Genesis 2: 7), the Risen Christ re-creates humankind by breathing the new life of the Holy Spirit upon the eleven.

**Scene 2** - the disciples excitedly tell the just-returned Thomas of what they had seen. Thomas responds to the news with understandable scepticism. Thomas had expected the cross (see John 11: 16 and 14: 5) – and no more.

**Scene 3** - the climactic third scene takes place one week later, with Jesus’ second appearance to the assembled community – this time with Thomas

present. He invites Thomas to examine his wounds and to “believe.” Christ’s blessing in response to Thomas’ profession of faith exalts the faith of every Christian of every age who “believes without seeing”; all Christians who embrace the Spirit of the Risen One possess a faith that is in no way different than that of the first disciples. The power of the Resurrection transcends time and place.

We trace our roots as parish and faith communities to Easter night when Jesus “breathed” his spirit of peace and reconciliation upon his frightened disciples, transforming them into the new Church.

The “peace” Christ gives his new Church is not a passive sense of good feeling or the mere absence of conflict. Christ’s peace is hard work: the peace of the Easter Christ is to honour one another as children of the same Father in heaven; the peace of the Easter Christ seeks to build bridges and find solutions rather than assigning blame or extracting punishment; the peace of Christ is centred in relationships that are just, ethical and moral.

Jesus’ entrusting to the disciples the work of forgiveness is what it means to be the church: to accept one another, to affirm one another, to support one another as God has done for us in the Risen Christ. What brought the apostles and first Christians together as a community – unity of heart, missionary witness, prayer, reconciliation and healing – no less powerfully binds us to one another as the Church of today.

All of us, at one time or another, experience the doubt and scepticism of Thomas: While we have heard the good news of Jesus’ empty tomb, all of our fears, problems and sorrows prevent us from realising it in our own lives. In raising his beloved Son from the dead, God also raises our spirits to the realisation of the totality and limitlessness of his love for us.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus appears to his disciples and shows them his hands and his side; later he invites the doubting Thomas to touch the marks made by the nails and the gash from the soldier’s lance. We all have scars from our own Good Fridays that remain despite our small resurrections. Our “nail marks” remind us that all pain and grief, all ridicule and suffering, all disappointments and anguish, are transformed into healing and peace in the love of God we experience from others and that we extend to them. Compassion, forgiveness, justice — no matter how clumsily offered — can heal and mend.