

'IN CHRIST TO LOVE & TO OVERCOME HATRED. ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.'

2nd Sunday of Easter – 28th April 2019

SRI LANKA

We acknowledge the deep pain within our community from last Sunday's Church and Hotel Massacres in Sri Lanka.

PLACING BEFORE GOD

We place before God,
families in our parish community
who come from the Catholic parishes of
St Anthony's Shrine and St Sebastian's Church,
and those who have friends in Zion Church in Sri Lanka.
Some of you have family and friends there
in the grieving church communities.

PRAYING FOR YOU & WITH YOU

We pray for you and with you.
On Monday morning was our parish Memorial Mass for those who had died.
Today at 8am Mass in St Stephen's Cathedral,
Archbishop Coleridge and the gathered community remember those who died.

On Saturday morning Fr Pan Jordan, Rebecca Lim, Yogi Srikanth
and an organizing team drew together a community of faiths,
to remember those who died on Easter Sunday morning.

The **Memorial Inter-Faith Prayer Service**

was held at a College Hall in Indooroopilly in Brisbane.
Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and other leaders led the service.
Faith leaders prayed in words and songs of their own traditions.
All the community were invited to place flowers on the remembrance table.
There was a real sense of solidarity.
And a special opportunity to work together in love.
The hymn '*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*' was the concluding hymn.

GOSPEL OF JOHN 20:19-31

Jesus appeared to the grieving disciples on Easter Sunday.
Thomas was absent. Thomas wanted physical proof. He doubted.
He would not believe the testimony of his friends.
He would not believe the change in the disciples before him.
The other disciples had moved from deep grief to hope.
They had been blessed by Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.

Today we face concerns about security in the world.
Let us read the Gospel twice.

**Firstly, imagine yourself standing quietly next to Jesus
and watch him as we hear about both visits.**

*'When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,
and the doors of the house where the disciples had met
were locked for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood among them and said,*

'Peace be with you.'

*After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again,*

'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

***'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any,
they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'***

*But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.*

So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.'

*But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,
and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side,
I will not believe.'*

*A week later his disciples were again in the house,
and Thomas was with them.*

*Although the doors were shut,
Jesus came and stood among them
and said,*

'Peace be with you.'

Then he 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.'

Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus said to him,

'Have you believed because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples,
which are not written in this book.*

But these are written so that you may come to believe

that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,

and that through believing you may have life in his name.'

JESUS & THOMAS

We bring our fears, our concerns, our doubts, our grieving, before God,
as we place our ourselves next to Thomas,

in our second shorter passage of the appearance of Jesus to Thomas.

We take time to be moved by Jesus.

We read:

*'A week later his disciples were again in the house,
and Thomas was with them.*

*Although the doors were shut,
Jesus came and stood among them
and said,*

'Peace be with you.'

Then he 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.'*

Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus said to him,

*'Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'*

Now we are called to be still,
as we receive the greeting from Jesus

'Peace be with you.'

[Pause]

JESUS AT THE VERY CENTRE OF OUR LIVES

It was the week after Easter that Thomas met the Risen Christ.

This weekend is the weekend after Easter.

In our parish community,

we are called to recognize the Risen Christ among us.

May we recognize the Risen Christ reaching out to all people.

In Chapter 1 of the Book of Revelation

Jesus reveals to John,

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

The Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

The Greek letters alpha and omega are the first and last letters

of the Greek alphabet at the time of the writing of the New Testament.

As we gaze at our new Pascal Candle near the Baptismal fonts,

we see the letters Alpha and Omega.

Between them we see the first Greek letters for Christ.

Our Candle proclaims Jesus Christ

as the beginning and end of all we do in our church.

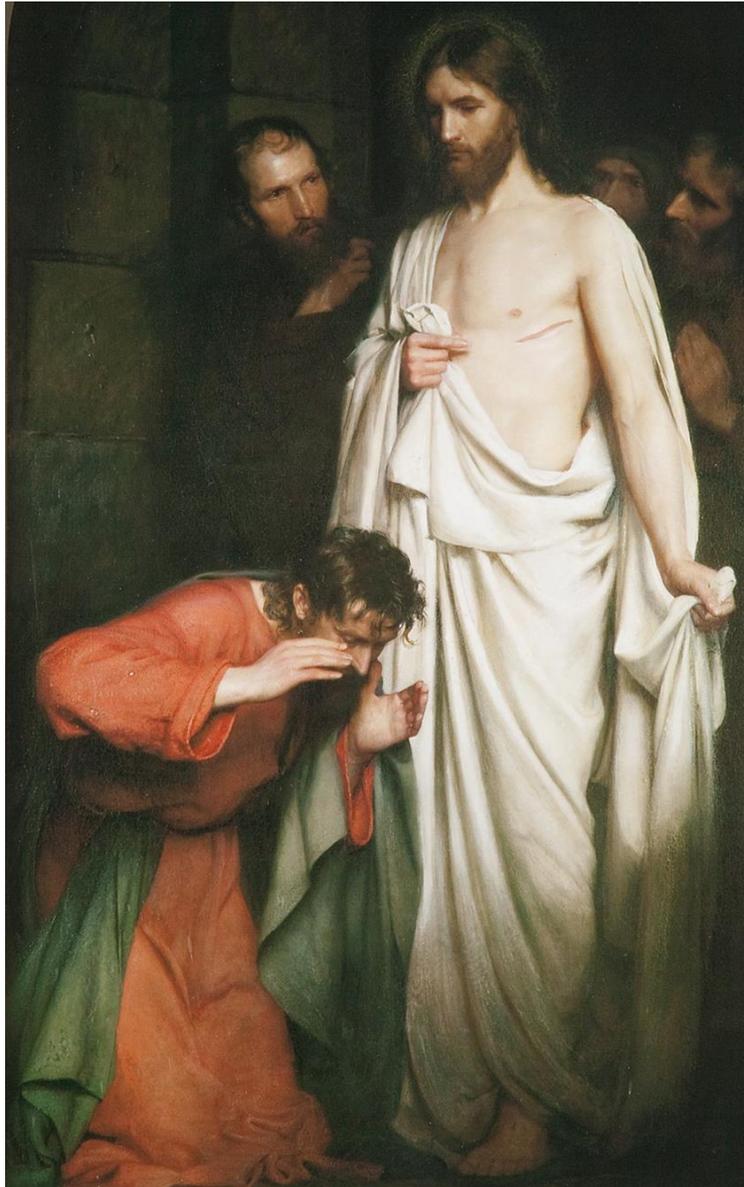
**With the terrible events of last week
and the ongoing insecurity this weekend in Sri Lanka,
we place Jesus Christ at the very centre of our lives,
and through Jesus, reach out to others in love.**

The final words of Mass today will be
'Let us go now in Christ to love and to overcome hatred. Alleluia, Alleluia.'

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/042819.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook28042019>]



The Doubting Thomas | Carl Bloch | public domain