

'SAINT THOMAS AND COVID-19'
2nd Sunday of Easter ~ 19 April 2020
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



The Doubting Thomas | Carl Hendrich Bloch | public domain | modified by www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com

DOUBT

This year began in doubt as so many doubted the scale and devastation that the COVID-19 Pandemic would bring throughout the world.

As we turn to the Gospel today, we recall that Saint Thomas is remembered for his doubting.

And remembered for his faithful reply when Jesus appeared to him:

'My Lord and my God'.

In some parts of the world Thomas is celebrated for his missionary work. Members of our parish family from southern India sing his praises, as they continue to spread the Good News of Jesus today.

We turn to Saint Thomas in his prayerful intercession for us.

GOSPEL OF JOHN 20:19-31

At the disciples' first encounter with the Risen Jesus, we hear these words of Jesus:

"Peace be with you.'

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

'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.'

Thomas missed the encounter,
and he did not believe the disciples when they told him about it.

Thomas said,

*'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.'*

Thomas makes no mention of the change in manner of the disciples.

*Perhaps his own doubts prevent him from seeing
the dramatic change in the other disciples since they have received the Holy Spirit?*

In the disciples' second encounter with Jesus in the house,
Thomas is present. Jesus says 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.'***

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

SOLIDARITY

Jesus reaches out to us with hope.

Jesus did not give up on Thomas.

Jesus does not give up on us during this pandemic.

Jesus came back to the early community and addressed the unbelief of Thomas.

Inspired by our encounters with Jesus in community and personally,

we pray about the daily challenges and opportunities we now face.

We pray about the wounds of our world and their healing through Jesus.

Remembering that the disciples locked themselves in the room because of fear,

and that Jesus entered the room and healed their doubts and fears,

we pray that Jesus enters into our fears today and heals and frees us to love.

The last phrase of today's Gospel passage says,

"And that through believing you may have life in his name."

Through believing, let us live our life in Jesus.

REACHING OUT TO EACH OTHER

Following the example of Jesus, we reach out to each other.

During this past week we have had the privilege of being in prayerful solidarity
with [Burnie-Wynyard Parish](#) during this tough time.

Our music team have chosen the hymns for today's Mass,
and dedicate the communion hymn to the community of Burnie.

Let us now pray for the community of Burnie.

Alleluia.

PRAYING WITH THE PEOPLE OF BURNIE IN TASMANIA

We pray with our sisters and brothers in Burnie,
for the community and its agencies,
for churches, faith groups and services.
O God, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Regional and Private hospitals,
for their staff in temporary isolation,
for their families and loved ones.
O God, hear our prayer.

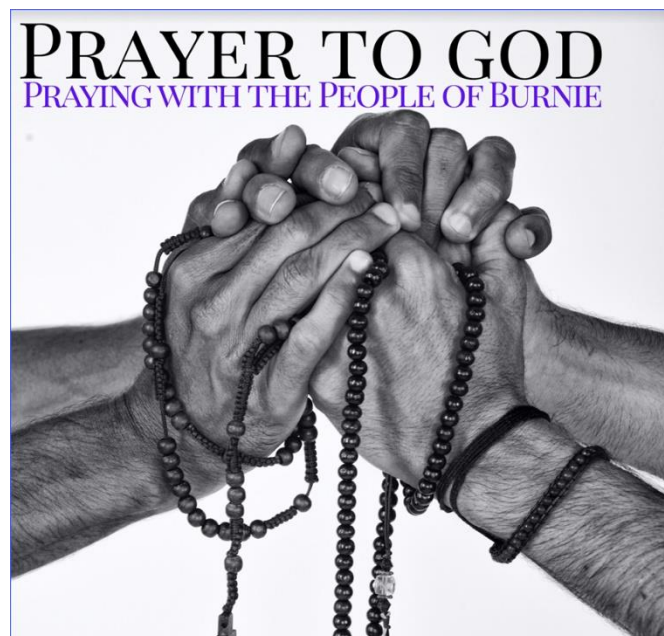
We pray for the people from AusMat
and from the Australian Defence Forces,
who reopened the A&E and Intensive Care Units.
O God, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Burnie City Council,
for community leaders, businesses and workers,
for unemployed, for children and adults.
O God, hear our prayer.

We pray together as family.
O God, sustain the community in hope.

Amen.
Fr Gerry

<https://universalis.com/Australia/20200419/mass.htm>



[printable version of prayer](#)