

Anniversary's in April

Jack Hallagen, Murray Durham, Ellen Logan, Vaughan Hallagen
Brian Bird, Charlie Percy, Ivan Ujdur, John McDonald
John Stanely, Lenva Martin, Leo Frings (Geoff)
Malcolm Heaven, Michael Ransfield, Robert Frost (Bob)
Thomas Butler (Tom), Gavin Logan, James Cook
John Muelan, James Harris, Emmett McElhinney, William Field (Bill)

Real Life with John Cowen—Newstalk

This Sunday night (16th April), John Cowan's guest will be humanitarian & former Mayor of Tauranga Tenby Powell. Tenby was raised in Tauranga, where he attended Otumoetai College. Prior to attending the University of Waikato, he was an engineering apprentice at Edwards Engineering, working on fishing vessels. In 1983, he joined the New Zealand Defence Force and, in 1999, started a private investment firm with his entrepreneur wife, Sharon. He was the Mayor of Tauranga from 2019-2020 and has also served as a Director and Chairman on several private and government boards. In 2022, Tenby founded Kiwi K.A.R.E. (Kiwi Aid & Refugee Evacuation), which provides essential medicines, trauma kits, medical equipment, food and more to the people of Ukraine. Tenby and Sharon have two adult children, George and Charlotte.

Voice for Life has a monthly podcast called Pulse, which features informative commentary, interviews and news (www.voiceforlife.org.nz/home/#pulse-podcast). This month's episode of Pulse discusses the important topic of death and dying, a topic which has serious implications to consider since the End of Life Choice Act 2019 legalised assisted suicide and euthanasia in New Zealand. For more pro-life information, visit voiceforlife.org.nz.

I was talking to a friend this week who said something to me that I had never thought about before. He said that we celebrate forty days of Lent leading up to Easter with great dedication and much fanfare. We 'give things up' and 'take extra things on' to prepare ourselves for the central Feast of our faith. And it is good that we do so. Yet, we are now one week into another forty days of Eastertide, when we are invited to reflect on the great

victory Christ gained for us by his death and resurrection. Why is it, my friend said, that these forty days of Eastertide slip past us each year, almost totally unnoticed? It's a good question, and one worth thinking about. The great American broadcaster, Walter Cronkite, speaking about what sells newspapers, said, "if it bleeds, it leads", meaning that we are more interested in hearing about tragedy and suffering than we are hearing about joy and hope. Might this be why we seem to enter into Lent far more enthusiastically than we enter into Eastertide. We tend to associate Lent with the Cross and the suffering of Jesus for us. It is the 'bleeding' Cronkite talked about. Eastertide is seen as our celebration of the Resurrection, and somehow it falls flat as a Church season. Without the reality of the Resurrection, Christianity would not exist. Without the Resurrection the Kingdom preaching about by Jesus would have died on Calvary with Jesus. As we move through this Eastertide and reflect on the appearances of Jesus to his disciples and friends, let us remember that we are a "Resurrection" people. We carry within us a joy and hope which nothing, even death itself, can stop. It doesn't 'bleed' but we must not let it slip by us. In our lives, as Christians, the Resurrection must always 'lead' and we must witness to the joy and hope it offers to us and our world.

b.maher@oblates.ie

Mass Times

Week Day Masses

Saturday—9am @ St Joseph's

Tuesday—9am @ St Joseph's

Thursday—9am @ St Patrick's

Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass—5.30 @ St Patrick's

Sunday Mass—9.30am @ St Joseph's



Parish Priest • Fr Paul Kerridge
Phone • Office 8586416 Presbytery • 8589383
E-mail • cat.chb@xtra.co.nz
Website • www.holytrinitychb.com
Facebook • The Holy Trinity Parish CHB

Rātini Kupu

16th Paenga –whāwhā, 2023
Divine Mercy Sunday

16th April, 2023

On the First Sunday after Easter the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast based upon the private revelations of Jesus to St. Faustina. In extending this Feast to the entire Church, Pope John Paul II re-emphasized the resurrection context of Easter, citing St. Faustina's diary: "Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy." In describing this feast, Blessed John Paul II says: "Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ, a gift which it offers to all humanity." The first epistle of St. John declares to the entire world that "God is love;" and in his encyclical letter *Rich in Mercy*, Blessed John Paul II wrote "Mercy is love's second name." If we understand mercy in the Biblical sense, then without any fear of error contrary to the faith, it can be said, as John Paul II said, that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. This Biblically formulated relationship between love and mercy is expressed by St. Faustina when she says: "Love is the flower, mercy the fruit." Divine Mercy is the form that God's eternal love takes when He reaches out to us in the midst of our misery and our brokenness. Whatever the nature of our need might be — sin, guilt, suffering, or death — He is always ready to pour out His merciful, compassionate love for us, to help us. Where there was only despair, loneliness, and heartache before, comes joy, fruitfulness, and abiding love. The message of Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us and wants us to approach Him in constant prayer, repenting of our sins while asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world. He wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others, extending our love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us. We must realize that God does not do anything in portions. He is infinite and the amount of His Divine Mercy available to us is infinite. The only limiting factor is us. The more we trust in Jesus, the more graces we will receive and the more all will come to share His joy. This is the message Jesus is giving us through today's devotion to his Divine Mercy, a mercy which he tells us is unfathomable and which he wants us to spread throughout the world through our own actions and love for others. **In Holy Trinity Parish it will be celebrated at St Joseph's at 3 pm.** www.dailyworld.com



The expression “Doubting Thomas”

comes from this remarkable Easter story. The apostle Thomas, one of Jesus’s inner circle, was slow to believe in the resurrection. He demanded concrete evidence before he could believe that the risen Jesus had appeared to his fellow apostles. His story offers some comfort to those of us who are always nagged by doubts. With the memory of our Lord’s crucifixion fresh in their hearts, the nervous disciples had locked the doors of their meeting room. They had locked themselves for fear of Jewish reprisals. They were afraid that what was done to Jesus could be done to them. The turning point came when Jesus appeared among them and breathed the Holy Spirit into them, filling them with new purpose. “As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.” In the power of the Spirit they left their self-imposed prison, to go out and spread the message of Jesus. In today’s reading from Acts St Luke shows them witnessing to the resurrection both in word and by the quality of their living. Some people who cannot believe profess to envy those who do. They would like to experience the certainty of believers and share the faith of their parents. And indeed, most ordinary mortals have moments of doubt during our spiritual journey. Thomas’s recovery from his doubts offers a valuable insight into God’s mercy and kindness. Are we sometimes like those disciples, indecisive, inactive, unwilling to promote the faith. The “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” have dented our confidence. Are we tempted to abandon our faith journey, unable to see a way forward? Our past failures make us hesitant to try again. Today’s gospel offers a solution. The Lord himself has power to revive our courage and our faith. No locked doors, nor even locked hearts, can keep him out. At first, Thomas refused to believe that the others had seen him. He demanded definite and demonstrable, tangible proof. Jesus gave him the proof he needed. “Put your finger here,” he said, “and feel my wounds.” He forgives our fears and doubts too, and offers us a fresh start. We need to say in our turn, “My Lord and my God. Today we meet with the risen Christ,

just as St Thomas did. Sharing in the Eucharist is our statement of loyalty, our act of personal and shared faith.

In praying the Eucharist together we help each other’s faith and strengthen our Christian community. It was because the members of the early Church in Jerusalem met in public for prayer and seemed such a joyful little community, that so many others came to believe and the church grew steadily in those early, Spirit-filled days. No-one else can do our believing for us. Eventually Thomas came to believe in the resurrection, when he saw the risen Jesus with his own eyes. The story ends with a message for all who have received the gift of faith: ‘Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ Our faith is a gift from God. But it is not an inert gift that can we lock away like some precious heirloom. It is a living gift that needs nurturing, to grow and mature. Like other life-forms, faith can wither from neglect. We need to pray about it, think about it, and express it in actions arising from love. This does not mean that we will never have any doubts. But if like Thomas we continue seeking, we too will come into the presence of Jesus and say “My Lord and my God!” *associationofcatholicpriests.ie*

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy—The Book of Job – a Book of Hope?

... with Kieran Fenn fms.
Monday, 24 April, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$25 (incl. study material)

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/03/28/the-book-of-job-a-book-of-hope/>

YouTube Recordings

Muffin Talk radio programmes are available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz



Thank you for your support of the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2023 and for leading your parish community during this Easter season. Your support allows us to continue our development, emergency and education work here in Aotearoa New Zealand and across the world. Its not too late to donate—go to caritas.org.nz if you can help.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus’ Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John’s Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke’s Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn’t recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion. From readings such as today’s Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas’s doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus’ appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas’s human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen. Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are “blessed” because we believe without having seen. www.loyolapress.com