

2nd Sunday Easter (C)

- It seems that after Good Friday Thomas had cut himself off from the other apostles, and walked alone. That was his big mistake.
- But we might remember that he was in deep grief.
- People who are grieving & hurt or feel a failure or have a sense of guilt about something they've done or not done have a tendency to isolate themselves. While it is understandable it is not helpful.
- In cutting himself off from the other apostles, Thomas made things more difficult for himself.
- However, it seems that he hadn't cut himself off completely.
- Whenever he met them, he would have noticed a difference in them.
- Their fear was largely gone, and had been replaced by joy and peace.
- It was clear that someone had breathed new life into them.
- They claimed that they had seen Jesus.
- But Thomas refused to take their word for it. He had to be sure.
- I can sympathise with Thomas; he was merely echoing the human cry for certainty.
- However, here on earth there is no such thing as absolute certainty about spiritual things. If there was, faith would not be necessary.
- But Thomas was being stubborn as well.
- However, he did one good thing. He rejoined the apostles.
- Now he had the support of the community.
- The great power of the community is brought home to me in the ways so often I see people strengthened by the support of community or family BUT also the opposite is true - when people cut themselves off from others.
- WE NEED ONE ANOTHER.
- A community of believers in the risen Christ, we do not travel alone, but as a community; a movement of people gathered around a dream to live by **FAITH**, be known by **LOVE**, & be a voice of **HOPE**.
- Our society needs to us to give authentic witness to values Jesus lived & preached globally to denounce the activity of leaders of nations for whom human beings of other nations have no value; and in local politics where we need to witness to values that honour the dignity of human beings, especially as we approach our Federal elections.
- There is an excellent paper put out by the Australian Bishops Conference entitled "Towards a Better Kind of Politics", & it's based on the premise that "our Christian faith calls us to be a missionary people bearing witness to the love of Jesus Christ for humanity. Our beliefs are not private spirituality, but are realised through love expressed in action".
- It is worthwhile reading about the issues we need to take into consideration when we go to the polling booths to vote.

- Faith is a journey that we should be making with one another, not a destination we arrive at on our own.
- It was only when he rejoined the community that Thomas encountered the risen Jesus, and so found faith again.
- To be a believer, or just a spiritual person, in today's world can be a lonely business. We need support.
- Here is where the community of faith becomes essential.
- It is only with the help of the community that we can resolve our doubts and sustain our faith.
- We live as members of a community of believers whose common faith strengthens the faith of each individual.
- The members of the first Christian community supported one another by gathering & praying together.
- They witnessed to the power of the resurrection that drew others to them, and as we heard in the first reading, they worked so many signs and wonders that people even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.
- Our ministry to one another consists not so much in doing things for one another, as in travelling together, listening to each other & being open to enable Christ's healing power to work through us.
- Today is also designated as Divine Mercy Sunday on which we particularly focus on the compassionate love of God extended to the broken and crucified of this world – those who need healing and being lifted up and those whose faith in the power of love needs to be made real and concrete.
- Can we experience that power in our own lives and can we then be the instrument of that power to one another and to others?