

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

MORE THAN JUST A TANK ENGINE

If any of the twelve apostles were to be described as the apostle for the modern Catholic with the odd struggle, then it would have to be Thomas. Thomas was not with the rest when Jesus popped in for the first time. When they told him that he had visited and what he had said, Thomas doubted. Was he booted out of the group for doubting? No, in fact he prompted Jesus to visit a second time. Many of us think that there is something wrong with us if we doubt. We allow ourselves to doubt in regard to many secular matters, but for many of us, to doubt our faith is to lose it, or to be diminished in it. Some people even mention doubts in confession, thinking it to be a sin. No, doubt is honesty, and those who say that they doubt are honest people. Doubt makes us question, questions deepen our understanding. Understanding increases our ownership of something, and ownership personalises something. In regard to our faith life, an honest doubt, far from being sinful or diminishing us, starts us on the road to internalising our faith in an authentic and personal way. Our faith can only be stronger if we doubt it. Thomas taught us that 2000 years ago, some of us still need to learn the lesson.

Thomas can still be our teacher. He wanted to see the wounds of Jesus. When he did he was not repulsed by them but was drawn to the Risen Christ with the words “My Lord and My God”. From the word go, the life of the community which claims to have Christ at its centre has meant the acceptance of wounds. Jesus was not afraid to show Thomas his wounds. How afraid are we to show our wounds to others? Why do we have these fears? If we truly claim to have Christ as our centre, then we try to imitate him by showing our own humanity in all its woundedness, then watching, often with surprise, as people seem to be closer to us because of the step that we have taken. Is it easy to trust our wounds to others? No it isn't. Is it potentially highly therapeutic? Yes it is.

Thomas is indeed the apostle for many of us. He was not afraid to show his own doubting humanity, his own wounds if you like. Nor was he unable to accept the wounds shown to him by another. Let's all try to be a bit more like this apostle as we bask in the afterglow of Easter.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

A reminder to those parishioners who are attending our initial process day with facilitator Sr. Mary Franzmann. Thanks for agreeing to come along on this day. Please note that it will take place in the Primary School Library on **Sunday April 26th** from 11.30 a.m until about 4.30 p.m. Lunch is provided.

This day will kick start a process which should go through 2009 and maybe into 2010 which should produce a parish mission/vision statement which all individuals and parish groups will be invited to be aware of in their respective roles within our local parish community.

There will be occasions throughout 2009 and into 2010 when we will be invited to come together to move this process forward. Stay tuned and say a special prayer for us on April 26th.

SETON COLLEGE

Parishioner and Principal, Chris Raju begs to inform us that Seton College, up there in the nether reaches of Cavendish Road, is having an OPEN MORNING on **Tuesday May 5th** from 9.00 a.m. till 10.30 a.m.

Seton College is a Catholic Co-Ed College and is now accepting enrolments for Year 8 in 2010, 2011 or 2012. The school accepts students of all abilities, but seeks to provide opportunities for students who have experienced difficulties with their work in the primary school years. The school can be contacted on 32915333.

ANZAC DAY

Our own church will celebrate the Anzac Day liturgy at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday. St. Stephen's cathedral has a Mass at 8.00 a.m. on this day. The local RSL has the usual march along Old Cleveland Road and service at Lang Park on Saturday morning, presided over by the new Attorney General and local Member and a local navy chaplain.

Also, Mt. Carmel Primary will be having an Anzac Day service in 'The Shed' at 11.00 a.m. on Friday 24th April led by. Lieutenant Commander Dennis Collyer and a local navy chaplain.

THANKS

Thanks again to all who participated in and helped to organise our Easter liturgies last week. Many people did many things and all added together, made for another memorable Easter.

CLOW

Those who are involved in the Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) are advised that there a celebration and training session at Holy Cross Church, Morris St, Woolloowin from 9.30 a.m. till 11.30 a.m. on **Sunday April 26th**. Cost is \$10 per person, which will be met by the parish of course. Plesae let the parish office know if you want further info.