

Dear fellow parishioners, again I find myself sitting at the Sydney Police Centre thinking of the week past and the week ahead in the light of this Sunday's readings. I particularly like this reading involving Thomas. There are so many things going through his mind. He was one of the apostles who betrayed Jesus in the courtyard, he is feeling remorse and is just coming to terms with the death of Jesus. In amongst this some lunatic has told him Jesus is not dead but alive. How do you make sense of his death?

There is so much for Thomas to process and despite the almost impossible odds against it - Thomas is able to come to terms with the forgiveness he needs from Jesus in the presence of his friends - the early Church, the Christian brotherhood.

This last week for me has largely been attending to the needs of police in the hotels holding our fellow citizens in quarantine. For police this is in its own way taxing work not because it is busy but the reverse. If there is one thing that makes an officer's life difficult is to do nothing. They joined the police to make a difference to the world. But they are essential and needed. In some ways during this Easter period they too share the confusion of Thomas. How do you share hope when it is not tangible and seems the purpose of their efforts seem so fleeting?

Yes, we too, find it difficult not being in presence with one another as the Church. It is hard to see Christian hope without the presence of Christ in the sacraments. Even so, we are in the presence of one another through baptism and confirmation. Yes, we know it is not perfect, but we support one another with the belief that the risen Christ is truly amongst us.

Fr Paul O'Donoghue