# Second Sunday of Easter — April 7, 2024

## From the Desk of Fr. Leo

A woman lay dying on a street corner in India. Pale and emaciated, with a child at her breast, she was the victim of starvation. No one seemed to care. No one bothered to stop or stoop down to help her. When at last a merciful heart bent over to inquire, it was too late. But there was no complaint on her lips. With her finger pointing upward, she gasped; "There is One who will take care." And with that she died. What a remarkable example of deep faith and trust in God!

If Jesus demanded anything from his followers it was faith in his person and in his message. How easy it had been to accept him when he cured the sick of all kinds of ailments, fed them when they are hungry, and taught them of the Kingdom in such a dynamic manner that it fired them with new hope! But that he had risen from the dead was something that even St. Thomas, one of the twelve, had to see before he accepted it. Bluntly he set his conditions. But Jesus did not disdain to take up the challenge. He did let St. Thomas do exactly as he had demanded: his finger into the nail-prints, his hand into his side. The evidence was insurmountable. And it resulted in that grand profession of faith acknowledging Jesus for what he really is: Lord and God; bringing to a climax the long series of witnesses to the person of Jesus, running through the entire Fourth Gospel.

Jesus demands faith in himself from anyone who wishes to be his follower. He has been sent by the father to be humankind's Savior, Redeemer and Divine Brother. All the hopes of each individual and of humankind as a whole lie in him. It is faith in Christ that enables a person to go through the vicissitudes of life with hope and endurance, and come to the aid of his fellowmen and women as Christ commanded. Faith opens up vast new vistas and lets the Christian participate in Christ's paschal mystery which gives meaning to his present sufferings and hope for the glory to come. Faith is the one solid anchor in this ever-changing world. Without it, humankind is plunged into pagan darkness, or into the bleak incertitude of the skeptic. Christ alone is Light and Peace. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

When God showers us with blessings, such as health, a happy family, a suitable job, it is not difficult to bless and thank him, believing in his love and goodness. But when suffering or sickness befall us, a setback in business or some public calamity, mankind's faith in that same love and goodness is often sorely tried. Then is when the Christian who is truly Christian at heart and not merely in name, proves the genuineness and depth of his or her faith. Blessed are those who have not seen, yet have believed.

***Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion***

## Mass Intentions for the Week

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| **Tues.** | **April 8** | **11:00AM** |
| Special Intentions | | |
| **Wed.** | **April 9** | **11:00AM** |
| Special Intentions | | |
| **Thur.** | **April 10** | **11:00AM** |
| Vilma Jacob (health) | | |
| **Fri.** | **April 11** | **11:00AM** |
| Bill Valli† | John Collins & Ardith Bertorello | |
| **Sat.** | **April 12** | **4:30PM** |
| Sid † & Trudi Jensen | | Family |
| **Sun.** | **April 13** | **9:00AM** |
| Jose Peralta † | | Family |
| **Port Costa** | | **11:00AM** |
| People of the Parish | | |

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