

**ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CHURCH, WADALA (E)**  
**Community Link – April 2020**

My dear Parishioners,

Greetings and wishes come your way from me and from all the priests in the parish. We continue to pray for you and your families and we ask the good Lord to keep all of you safe and in his protective love during these days. All of us on the Parish Team thank you for the prayers, concern and support you offer us in many and different ways.

I personally thank all of you my dear parishioners who have responded to my appeal to reach out to the poor families of our parish. Thanks to your goodness and generosity we were able to supply food grains to 200 catholic families of our parish. We have also been able to provide food grains to 100 non Christian Migrant families of the Kokri Agar area with the help of the Diocese, namely the Centre for Social Action. In this way we have responded to the families in need with some very necessary and material help. For this I am also grateful to the SCC Animators who have helped us to contact families in need and to reach out to them. Many SCC animators have gone out of their way to visit the poor families in their areas, thus making the Church very present in the various corners of our parish in this hour of need.

The parish Church is closed and we do miss seeing and meeting all of you. At the same time it is difficult for you to live your Christian faith in these times. As our dear Pope Francis said last week, the Church is not something that is experienced only online. Spiritual Communion is a help and support up to a certain point. At its core, our Christian faith is concrete and is lived in the community. The danger is that we might become too closed in with our family and our homes or with our computers and phones, as we live our faith, online. The Church as it is functioning just now is a Church in difficulty, a Church in crisis. But this is not permanent. Hence we cannot forget the Role of **the Community**, and of the **Sacraments**. We are Church, Together. We are a people of God who are a family.

And so my dear people, let us maintain our sense of unity and connectedness to one another within our families at home, and as a parish family. We remember that we are part of the Universal Church and the Mystical Body of Christ. Hence let us worship, and pray and live our relationship with the Lord together with others. May the good Lord continue to protect you and keep you in his love always.

Yours affectionately in Christ,

Fr. Savio D'Souza sdb.

(Parish Priest.)

## GOSPEL SHARING IN THE SCC MEETINGS: April - 2020

### STEP 1. Opening Hymn

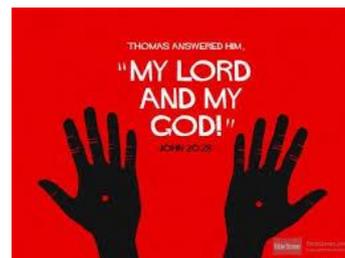
#### CHORUS

Welcome Holy Spirit, We are in your presence.

Fill us with your power, Live inside of me.

You're the living water. Never drying fountain.

Comforter and Counsellor, Take complete control.



### STEP 2. Read the Gospel Text John 20:19-31.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refused to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The word of the Lord.

### STEP 3. We pick out words and phrases which struck us and repeat them 3 times.

### STEP 4. We remain silent for 2 minutes and allow God to speak to us.

### STEP 5. We share on what struck us in the Gospel Passage.

#### REFLECTION

Jesus Christ Himself is our model of perfect love and worship for God, but the saints teach us much about the human struggle that has to be undergone to achieve it. Saint Thomas' story in the Gospels provides us with a story of failure that mirrors our life situation. Thomas is an ordinary person, knotted up in his own fears and doubts. Perhaps we all carry something of his DNA? It is the struggle of faith against the limitations of human reason, against hopelessness and the limitations of our own experiences. The stories of all the saints are filled with stumbling blocks, failures and doubts. The saints, starting with Peter and Thomas and working all the way to John XXIII and John Paul II, do not lecture us on perfection. As we are stuck indoors like the disciples, we too experience doubt and worry. We have fears and anxieties looming like a shadow over us. In such a situation, the saints beckon us to take heed of their struggles even as we deal with our own. They remind us that only the enduring love of Jesus can dispel the darkness and bring us into the light. So let us use this time well, build our relationship with Jesus, stay focused upon Him and BELIEVE with a FAITH renewed by the Resurrection.

### STEP 6. Concluding Hymn.

I am the Lord, that healeth thee  
I am the Lord your healer  
I sent my word and healed your disease  
I am the Lord your healer.

You are the God, that healeth me  
You are the God my healer  
You sent your word, and healed my disease  
You are the Lord, my healer.



### STEP 7. Discuss the task to be carried out IN OUR FAMILIES for the month of April.