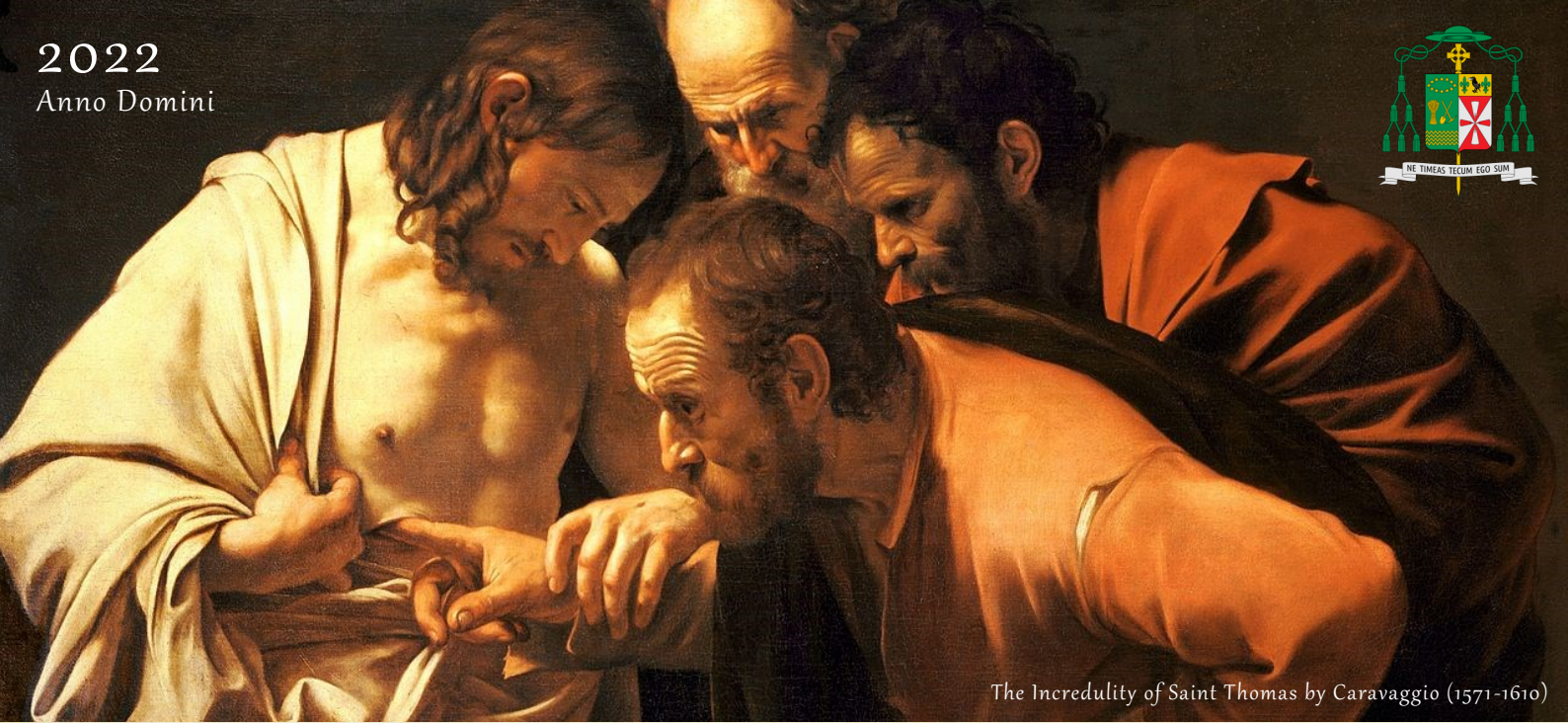


2022

Anno Domini



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas by Caravaggio (1571-1610)

# An Easter Message

THE MOST REVEREND COLUMBA MACBETH-GREEN OSPPE DD

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We human beings love to have security in our lives. This security might be the freedoms we enjoy in this beautiful country Australia. There is also security in the predictability of things like climate and the economy. Sometimes it is the little things we take for granted, like our next meal or the electricity that we have to charge our mobile phones. Trusting that the Government has all the big things like health, the economy, law and order under control adds even more to our sense of security.

Security allows us to plan and have hope in the future because we have a strong and stable foundation in the present. Security allows us to dream of a future that in all likelihood would be realised – in other words security can give us hope for the future.

People in Australia have had their security rocked and in some cases shattered. Things we took for granted like freedom of movement, peace and the ability of our governments and institutions to cope with any big problems. We have had drought and floods, Covid 19 with its lock downs, jabs and fighting over toilet paper, and now we have a major European war in Ukraine! As a result, there seems to be a general loss of hope and optimism for the future!



Many of the Disciples of Jesus were living pretty secure lives. Through the teachings of Our Lord and His signs and miracles they had come to believe that He was the promised Messiah that would free Israel from the Romans and re-establish the Davidic Kingdom. Naturally they probably would have expected to play a major part in this new Government in Israel. They were the Disciples of Jesus, the Messiah, so their future was secured.

Then the unthinkable happened and their security was rocked to the core – Jesus, the Messiah, the Lord of lords, dies on a cross! What were their hopes and plans for the future now? What were they to do?

Then on the Third Day Jesus gloriously rose from the dead! Jesus in His death and Resurrection conquered sin and death and gave His disciples then, and us now, real security. We can only find eternal and everlasting security in Christ. The temporal things of this world that give us a sense of security are fragile and will disappear. Our new lives as Christians, as people of the Resurrected Lord, know to 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God' (*Matthew 6:33*), that we through Baptism are the Adopted Sons and Daughters of God the Father and the Brothers and Sisters of Jesus, God the Son, in the Love of God the Holy Spirit. We not only get to share the Divine life of the Holy Trinity we are also called to share in Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. If we accept God's call to share His Divine life by rejecting sin in our lives and striving to love Him by keeping His commandments and asking for His Mercy and Forgiveness then after our death we too will rise with Him in glory to our eternal home in Heaven. This is our security! This is the source of our hope! This is the Hope that has got faithful Christians throughout the centuries through the most difficult times of war, famine, persecution, natural disasters, and it is this hope that will give us the security in our lives to get through our own challenges.

May Christ our Risen Lord be with you all this Easter,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Columba Macbeth-Green". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

The Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE DD  
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF WILCANNIA-FORBES