



SEASONS

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza

Divine Mercy Sunday -Year A

April 16th 2023

SVdP Meeting

Monday 17th April at 7.30 pm

Funeral for Maureen Mirabella

Tuesday 18th April 1.30pm

**311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
Phone: 9787 7777**

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Office Days/Hours:

Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm

Friday 9.30am to 4pm

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford

Ruth Hilton Joe Sayah

Emma Chapple Sandra Taylor

Kathy Raccanello

See your happy team on the Notice Board!

Church Services from 16th April

No Mass on Tuesday Evening or on Wednesday

Thursday Mass 10.00am
Friday Mass 10.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm
Sunday 8.00am
Sunday 10.00am

Reconciliation

Saturday 4.30pm

St Thomas More acknowledges the Bunurong people as the Traditional owners of the land on which we live, work and worship. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.

Dear Friends,

A reflection from 'My Catholic Life'

A Whole Ocean of Graces

Saint Faustina reports in her Diary what Jesus told her about Divine Mercy Sunday:

"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow" (Diary #699).

That day is today! It is the Feast of Divine Mercy! Today's feast is among the newer feasts in our Church. Though Jesus' desire that this feast be celebrated on the eighth day of Easter was spoken to Sister Maria Faustina Kowolska back in 1931, it was not solemnly instituted until the year 2000. On April 30 of that year, Saint Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina and inaugurated the Feast of Divine Mercy as a universal feast within the Church. Because this Feast is so recent within the Church, we can be certain that we still have much to learn about the message of this Solemnity as well as the numerous messages about God's mercy revealed in Saint Faustina's Diary.

Among the many messages contained



within her Diary, Jesus revealed to us that this Sunday, the eighth and final day of the Octave of Easter, is a day like none other. Though grace and mercy are continuously poured out from Heaven upon us, Jesus is very clear that today is unique. Today, "a whole ocean of graces" is poured forth upon souls who approach the font of His mercy. Sit with that image for a time. "A whole ocean of graces." What does that mean?

Symbolically speaking, a whole ocean is meant to depict the infinite. Try to imagine what it would be like to have the entire ocean poured upon you—it's beyond comprehension! Thus, God is saying that the infinity of grace is given today. The question for us all to ponder is this: How receptive am I to those infinite graces?

By analogy, imagine that your life was like a thimble, and an ocean of water was poured upon you. As a thimble, you could not contain all that was given. Therefore, we should realize that God wants to stretch our capacity to receive His mercy more abundantly by widening our capacity for mercy. What if your soul were like a large pond? Still, the waters of the ocean could not be contained within that pond. What is it that is capable of receiving an entire ocean of mercy? Only an ocean can contain an ocean.

(Continued on Page 3)

**We
pray
for.....**

Those who have passed away recently...

John Jacobson,

Maureen Mirabella: Funeral Tuesday 18th April at 1.30pm



Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Eileen Dalley, Nora Hanmer, Donald Young, James Breen Snr. Harry O'Beirne, Laurie Pendlebury, James Bourke, Terence Phillips, Chas Pay, Patricia Bourke, Dr Harry Hodgson, Harold Hoare, Robbie Sinclair, Frank Bracken, Jos Gobel

The sick... Adrian Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, John Spirason, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Betty Corke, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Rosalie McKiernan, Julian Collins, Sue Emerton, Jimmy and Gary Lakeman, Anneliese Rose, Charlie Ebsworth, Noel Anstey, Mary Doherty, Barbara Hunt, Annette O'Brian and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and the parishioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequimomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.

The Parish Welfare officer for April is Margaret Gallagher 0410 210 500

Let us hold true to our..

**St Thomas More Mount Eliza
Parish Prayer**

Creator God, whose Spirit leads our
Parish of St. Thomas More,
be with us this day.

Help us to know your gifts in our lives,
to be proud of your calling us to be part of
our parish, to know and acknowledge –
your belief in our potential,
and to trust you enough
to be open to your will.

In the midst of our blessings
may we rejoice and be thankful.
When our hopes disintegrate
and our dreams are shattered,
open our hearts to forgiveness
and give us strength
and courage to move onwards.

Enable us to act in ways
that will be life-giving for all
in our parish, our Church and our world
so that all people will come to know
the life and freedom that Jesus
came to give us.

Written during the 20th Anniversary of our Parish.

Women's Fellowship Group

Let's get together ladies! Every first Friday of the
month from 7pm to 9pm (after dinner) for women
18 - 100 years plus!

A chance to connect, chat, laugh and share.

Next get together Friday 5th May

(Where: at my home - Please email me for details if
you're interested in attending
(raccanellokathy@gmail.com).

If you can, please bring something to share
with everyone.

Hope you can come!

Kathy

Parish social Function for April

“Join us valued friends, in Westernport;
Gateway to the West”

Toscana Italian –Kitchen & Wine Bar
126 Marine Pde, Hastings

Friday 21st April at 12.30

RSVP to Geoff Hone 0439 378 072
by 17th April

Safeguarding Committee

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider
the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest
priority.

(From Page 1)

For that reason, God desires to first prepare our souls to receive an infinity of mercy by transforming us into vessels of infinite capacity.

Saint Teresa of Ávila, in her spiritual classic, "Interior Castles," teaches us that the soul is, indeed, capable of infinite capacity for the simple fact that God dwells within. The soul is like an interior castle with many interlinked dwelling places through which we must pass so as to arrive at the central chamber. She teaches that the goal of the spiritual life is to travel through these various dwelling places to the center of our souls where the infinite God dwells so that we can be present to Him there. Therefore, we must understand that our souls are indeed capable of receiving the infinite waters of mercy, because God created us with this ability when He chose to live within us. The key to being able to fully receive this fullness of mercy is to seek out the infinite God, dwelling within. How is this done?

The heart of the path laid out in the Diary of Saint Faustina is as follows: Go to Confession and receive Holy Communion so as to obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. However, as many of the great spiritual writers explain, such as Saint Teresa of Ávila, there are many levels we must pass on our spiritual journey so as to be able to encounter God in His fullness. This, of course, includes encountering God's mercy given to us in Holy Communion and Confession. Those who receive these Sacraments while dwelling only in the first dwelling places, for example, will never benefit from them to the extent that those who dwell in the seventh and central mansion where the King dwells in fullness. Thus, mercy is given in its fullness but unless we make the transforming journey to God through conversion and purification of our souls, we will never be able to receive the ocean of graces God bestows.

Reflect, today, upon this ocean being poured forth upon you. How much of this mercy are you able to receive right now in your life? As you humbly admit your limited openness to God's grace, know that God patiently waits for you, dwelling in His fullness deep within you, waiting for you to make the journey to Him. Commit yourself to this journey by prayer, fasting, penance, the reading of Scripture, the celebration of the Sacraments and spiritual reading. There is an ocean of the fullness of life waiting for you. Dive in and allow His mercy to deepen your capacity to receive Him most fully.

My Lord, You are The Divine Mercy, the source of all grace and the Bestower of this grace in superabundance. I thank You for the infinity of Your generosity and pray that my soul will be more fully disposed to receive You. Please stretch the capacity of my soul through my ongoing journey of purification and conversion so that I will receive all that You wish to bestow. Jesus, I trust in You.



Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in Him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and
in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace to people of good will.
we praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
We give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading **Acts 2:42-47**

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common.

Responsorial Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love is everlasting.

Second reading **I Peter 1:3-9**

You did not see Christ, yet you love Him.

Gospel Acclamation **John 20:29**

Alleluia, alleluia

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel **John 20:19-31**

Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The mystery of faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Next Sunday's Readings **3rd Sunday of Easter**

Ist Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33
2nd Reading: I Peter 1: 17-21
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

