



SEASONS

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

2nd Sunday of Easter –Divine Mercy Sunday-Year B

April 7th 2024

Diary

Infant Baptism Preparation

Thursday 11th April 7.00pm

Infant Baptism

Sunday 14th April 11.30am

**311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
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Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

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

Parish Priest:

Rev. Fr. Patrick Bradford

Secretary: Ann Hancock

Office Days/Hours this week

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 April 8th

No Mass—Tuesday to Friday

Reconciliation

Saturday 4.30pm -5.00pm

Sunday 7th April

Divine Mercy Devotions

1.45 Confessions

2.45 Chapelet

3.00pm Mass

Usual Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

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,

This weekend we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. This feast is intricately connected to the Easter weekend and the octave of Easter that we've just celebrated. The readings and themes for this Sunday invite us to personally experience God's mercy for us through prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reflection:

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. It is based on the private revelations of St. Faustina Kowalska, which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy. It also has links to the Bible and the readings of this day.

When Was it Made Part of the Church's Calendar?

In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina and, during the ceremony, he declared: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called "Divine Mercy Sunday".

In the various readings, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings [Homily, April 30, 2000].

If this is Based on Private Revelation, Why is it on the Church's Calendar? In his theological commentary in The Message of Fatima, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger wrote:

Private revelations often spring from popular piety and leave their stamp on it, giving it a new impulse and opening the way for new forms of it.

Nor does this exclude that they will have an effect even on the liturgy, as we see for instance in the feasts of Corpus Christi and of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



From one point of view, the relationship between Revelation and private revelations appears in the relationship between the liturgy and popular piety: The liturgy is the criterion, it is the living form of the Church as a whole, fed directly by the Gospel.

Popular piety is a sign that the faith is spreading its roots into the heart of a people in such a way that it reaches into daily life. Popular religiosity is the first and fundamental mode of "inculturation" of the faith. While it must always take its lead and direction from the liturgy, it in turn enriches the faith by involving the heart.

What Does the Church Do to Encourage the Celebration of Devotion to the Divine Mercy on this Day?

Among other things, it offers a special blessing called a plenary indulgence. This is granted to those who make their confession, receive holy community and pray for the pope. It is available to anyone who on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!").

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

Those who have passed away recently... Gudelia Galvez

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Maria Scicluna, Eileen Dalley, Nora Hanmer, Donald Young, James Breen snr.
Harry O’Beirne

The sick... Dawn Daff, John Wareham, Maggie Campbell Carmel Gowans, Frances Glare, Sr Elizabeth Brown-Russell, John Miller, Fiona Leyden, Annette O’Brien, Maree Bracken,

(Names of the sick will be published for one month, unless otherwise requested. If you would like a Mass to be offered for a loved one’s intentions, envelopes are available at the back of the church.)



Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord - March 25th postponed to April 8th



Project Compassion

Thank you for your wonderful generosity!

Please remember to bring back your envelopes or boxes to the church.

Thank you for supporting our parish

Presbytery

Supports our Parish Priest and the priests of the Archdiocese

Church

Facilitates regular parish expenses.

Payment terminal in the Foyer of the Church

You can also support the Parish by electronic transfer into our NAB Bank Account for both accounts: **BSB 083-347**

Church Account no. 638 078 704

Presbytery Account no 637 953 335

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.



Women's Fellowship Group

Women's Fellowship Group every first Friday of the month 7pm-9pm, for women 18 years and over.

Please contact Kathy Raccanello for details: raccanellokathy@gmail.com

Children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.

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What is the Divine Mercy Image?

The Divine Mercy image is a depiction of Jesus based on a vision that St. Faustina had in 1931. There have been a number of paintings made of this image. A basic explanation of the image is:

Jesus is shown in most versions as raising his right hand in blessing, and pointing with his left hand on his chest from which flow forth two rays: one red and one white (translucent). The depictions often contains the message "Jesus, I trust in You!" The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus (which is the Life of Souls), and pale for the water (which justify souls) (from Diary - 299). The whole image is symbolic of charity, forgiveness and love of God, referred to as the "Fountain of Mercy". According to the diary of St Faustina, the image is based on her 1931 vision of Jesus

What is the Chaplet of Divine Mercy?

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a set of prayers used as part of the Divine Mercy devotion.

They are usually said using a standard set of Rosary beads, often at 3 p.m. (the time of Jesus' death), but with a different set of prayers than those used in the Marian Rosary.

How is the Divine Mercy Devotion Linked to the Scripture Readings for the Second Sunday of Easter?

The Divine Mercy image depicts Jesus at the moment he appears to the disciples in the Upper Room, after the Resurrection, when he empowers them to forgive or retain sins. This moment is recorded in John 20:19-31, which is the Gospel reading for this Sunday in all three yearly Sunday liturgical cycles (A, B, and C). This reading is placed on this day because it includes the appearance of Jesus to the Apostle Thomas (in which Jesus invites him to touch his wounds). This event occurred on the eighth day after the Resurrection (John 20:26), and so it is used on the liturgy eight days after Easter.

How Did Jesus Empower the Apostles to Forgive or Retain Sins?

That part of the text reads:

[21] Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."

[22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

[23] If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." He thus gave them a special empowerment with the Holy Spirit to forgive or retain sins.

How Does this Relate to the Sacrament of Confession?

It relates directly to it. Jesus empowered the apostles (and their successors – priests and bishops with the Holy Spirit to either forgive or retain (not forgive) sins. Because they are empowered with God's Spirit to do this, their administration of forgiveness is effective, it really removes sin rather than just being a symbol of forgiveness a person is already thought to have obtained. Because they are instructed to forgive or retain, they must discern which they are to do. This means that they need to know about the sin and whether we are truly repentant of it. As a result, we must tell them about the sin and our sorrow for it. Hence: confession.

St Faustina Kowalska 'Daughter of Divine Mercy'



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 4:32-35**

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 117**

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

Second reading **1 John 5:1-6**

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

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**

After eight days, Jesus came in 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

1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15,17-19

2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48