

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

16 April 2023



*Readings for
this week:* Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31



*Readings for
next Sunday:* Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35



Liturgical Jottings

The Acts of the Apostles

The first readings for the weekdays of the Easter Season are a semi-continuous reading of the Acts of the Apostles. It is like reading the family history of the first Christians. Yet beyond the telling of the events we receive insights to questions of faith in the resurrection and life of Christ for ourselves.

During the Second Week of Easter "The Acts" tells of the new life of the young church community. There is a great freshness in their gatherings, prayer and service for one another. Most evident is their love and unity which sustains them in face of persecution now and in the troubles they will later face as a community.

Easter Quote

"And the Lord departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here." -- St. Augustine

Looking at the Readings

Each year (cycles A, B & C), the passage of the first and second appearances of the Risen Lord to the apostles is read. These two appearances occur a week apart, on the first Sunday of the Resurrection and eight days later, the Second Sunday of Easter. There is both continuity and disruption in these two encounters. The scenes are almost identical: Jesus suddenly appears in the locked room and says to the apostles: "Peace be with you". The first time Thomas is absent and on listening to the others refuses to believe. The second time Thomas is present and makes a wonderful affirmation of faith.

In fact, most of Jesus' disciples initially gave signs of incredulity; Thomas was more emphatic. He expressed what others had thought. Yet it allows us to partake in their experiences of fear, doubt, witness, conversion and expression of faith in the Risen Lord.

The account of the double appearance of the Lord on the two Sundays has a definite liturgical flavour. The first day of the week is the day when the Christian community comes together to celebrate the Eucharist, the sacrament of the Lord's presence. Amid the competing noises on Sunday we must rediscover the holiness and peace of the day and hear Christ's words: 'Peace be with you'.


Pope Francis Easter Vigil Homily 2023

The women set out toward Jesus' tomb bewildered and dismayed, Yet upon arriving and seeing the empty tomb, they turn around and run to the disciples to proclaim a change of course: Jesus is risen. Sometimes we too may think that the joy of our encounter with Jesus is something belonging to the past, whereas the present consists mostly of tombs of disappointment, bitterness and distrust, of the dismay of thinking that "nothing more can be done". If we are prey to sorrow, burdened by sadness, laid low by sin, embittered by failure or simply feel weary about our daily routine – each of us knows our own plights, our paths come to a halt before a row of tombs, and we stand there, filled with sorrow and regret, alone and powerless, repeating the question, "Why?" The Pasch of the Lord motivates us to move forward, to leave behind our sense of defeat, to roll away the stone of the tombs in which we often imprison our hope, and to look with confidence to the future, for Christ is risen and has changed the direction of history. (Abridged, part 1)

On the Lighter Side

All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt. Charles M. Schulz.



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Vince Phelan
	Our sick and their carers	Bill Moroney, May Turvey, Bill Work, Teresa Mutto, Vito Prinzi

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sun 10:30 am 23 April	Debbie Worm	Rob Miller	Mary Vraca	De Lai Family	Connie Serra	Mary Gale Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 30 April	Mary Gale	Ross Kelly	Connie Serra	Marg Normington Nita Basile	Steve De Lai	Chior Trish Warnett
Sat 6:00 pm 6 May	Carol Coulston	Shelia Gregg	Peter Crombie	Joyce Caiafa Delphi Hamilton	N/A	Mary Gale
Sun 10:30 am 7 May	Rob Miller	Anne-Marie Nihill	Bernie Maher	Barry & Jan Lowe	Evert Worm	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett

Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 17 April

Weekday Mass

Mon 17th Apr No Mass
 Tue 18th Apr No Mass
 Wed 19th Apr 9:15 am Mass
 Thur 20th Apr No Mass
 Fri 21st Apr 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 22nd Apr No Mass
 Sun 23rd Apr 10:30 am Mass




Weekday Mass

Mon 24th Apr No Mass
 Tue 25th Apr No Mass
 Wed 26th Apr 9:15 am Mass
 Thur 27th Apr No Mass
 Fri 28th Apr 9:15 am Mass


Weekend Mass

Sat 29th Apr No Mass
 Sun 30th Apr 10:30 am Mass

Reconciliation 6th May

Presented by:




HOW ISLAM LED ME BACK TO CHRIST


CHARBEL RAISH

Date: Tuesday 25th April, 2023
 Time: 7:30pm
 Venue: Lecture Theatre
 University of Melbourne
 Shepparton Campus
 49 Graham Street, Shepparton

Hosted By: "To Know Him is to Love Him:
 Catechesis for Today's Catholic"



FREE Registration



<https://www.parousiamedia.com/how-islam-led-me-back-to-christ-charbel-raish-shepparton-vic/>

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 16

St Brendan's Church
 121 Knight Street, Shepparton
 2:00-3:00pm Reconciliation
 3:00pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy Benediction
 3:00pm Mass

After Mass Veneration of Divine Mercy

Celebrant: Fr Jackson Saunders

This week on the Journey (Ep 506)

On the Journey this week: Fr John Corrigan's reflection for Divine Mercy Sunday. Mother Hilda's story on St Bede, Bishop Brian Mascord's Easter message, the Divine Gardener, plus, Pete Gilmore on the faith of Thomas, the bush deacon Josh Clayton on wilderness, and more great music!

Sacred Heart Parish Quarterly Financial Report as at 31 March 2023

Each Quarter we will provide you with the quarterly financial situation and also the year to date figures. The figures in the left hand column are for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 and the figures in the right hand column are for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2022.

	1 Jan – 31 Mar 2023	1 Jul-31 Mar 2023
INCOME		
Planned Giving	\$9,209	\$28,848
Collections*	\$5,409	\$15,789
Rental (Convent & Hall)	\$14,480	\$44,139
Other Income	\$2,460	\$8,080
Total Income	\$31,558	\$96,856
EXPENSES		
General Admin (incl Insurance)	\$2,855	\$15,168
Property Costs (incl Maintenance	\$3,123	\$17,479
Priest Stipend (incl Food, Medical, Car Running Costs, Superannuation etc)**	\$6,392	\$19,079
Wages (incl Superannuation)***	\$2,714	\$14,321
Interest on Loan****	\$5,920	\$16,822
Total Expenses (excluding Loan Payment)	\$22,604	\$89,088
Loan Payments	\$10,410	\$32,965
Total Expenses & Loan Payments)	\$33,014	\$122,053

* This does not include special collections as these do not come into our Parish Income

** Please note that Fr John Paul Pasala, Stipend etc is shared 50% with Kyabram Parish. These figures would be double if he was not also the Parish Priest at Kyabram.

*** In September 2022 our Parish Secretary voluntarily reduced her paid hours from 32 hours per fortnight down to 18 hours per fortnight and in addition took 17 days leave without pay (although entitled to annual leave) equating to eight and a half weeks were no wages or superannuation costs were incurred.

**** The Profit and Loss statement will only display the interest you pay on your loans, not the principal, which is why the loan interest is included in the expenses. However, the loan interest does not impact the cashflow.

Convent Loan

Opening Balance (1 July 2023)	\$472,106
Interest on Loan	\$16,822
Loan Repayments	\$32,965
Closing Balance (31 Mar 2023)	\$455,963

Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of year. We pay respect to their elders past,

Themes for Divine Mercy Sunday

<https://young-catholics.com>

The readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A (the 2nd Sunday of Easter) help us reflect on the boundless mercy of God. The first reading tells how the early Christian community lived in peace, sharing with each other. The psalm reminds us that God's love is eternal. The second reading speaks of having faith in the resurrection. And in the gospel Jesus shows mercy to Thomas, even in his doubts

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ – This is a central theme in the readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A, as it is through Christ's resurrection that we receive mercy and forgiveness for our sins. The readings testify to the fact that Jesus conquered death and sin, and that through his resurrection, we are able to experience new life and hope.

Divine Mercy and Forgiveness – This theme is particularly evident in the Gospel reading of John 20:19-31, where Jesus appears to his disciples and offers them peace and forgiveness. He commissions them to carry out his mission of forgiveness and mercy, and grants them the power of the Holy Spirit to do so.

Faith and Trust in Jesus – Throughout the readings, there is an emphasis on the importance of faith and trust in Jesus. This is particularly evident in the story of Thomas, who initially doubted the testimony of the other disciples, but ultimately came to believe through his encounter with the risen Christ.

Witnessing to the Resurrection – The disciples were called to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus, and this remains the mission of the Church today. Through our words and actions, we are called to testify to the reality of the resurrection and to share the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit – The readings emphasize the importance of the Holy Spirit in empowering the disciples to carry out their mission. It is through the Holy Spirit that they are able to forgive sins and to be witnesses to the resurrection.

The Mission of the Church – The readings also highlight the mission of the Church, which is to proclaim the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness to the world. This mission is grounded in the reality of the resurrection and is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

God's love and compassion for humanity – The readings reveal the depth of God's love and compassion for humanity, as demonstrated through his mercy and forgiveness. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers us the gift of new life and the hope of eternal salvation.

The power of faith to overcome doubt and fear – Finally, the readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A show us that faith has the power to overcome doubt and fear. Like Thomas, we may struggle with doubt and uncertainty, but through faith and trust in Jesus,

we can experience the peace and joy that comes from knowing the risen Christ.

Reflection Questions for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A

- How do you understand the concept of God's mercy? What does it mean to you personally?
- The Gospel reading for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A is the story of Doubting Thomas. Have you ever had doubts about your faith? How did you work through them?
- How can we learn from the wounds and scars of our own discipleship journeys? What can we do to support and encourage others who are struggling in their faith?
- In the first reading, the early Christian community is described as being "of one heart and mind." How do you see this unity being lived out in your own community or church?
- How can you extend God's mercy to others in your daily life? Is there someone in your life who you need to forgive or show compassion to?
- How can you deepen your trust in God's mercy? Are there any spiritual practices or disciplines that can help you to do this?
- What actions can you take to show mercy to the most vulnerable members of our society, such as the poor, marginalized, and oppressed?
- How does the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday inspire you to live out your faith more fully throughout the year?
- How can we work to create a world that reflects God's mercy and love for all people?

Rosary Crusade:

Named the Travelling Rosary Crusade, Mr Eddie Davies, a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross Bendigo Branch, and St Liborius Parish, Eaglehawk, goes on lengthy trips around the east coast of Australia, stopping at towns to pray the Rosary and, sometimes, to speak at a parish gathering and distribute prayer resources.

Eddie recently spoke to the National Centre for Evangelisation during his current trip from Bendigo to Armidale, New South Wales, link to article <https://nce.catholic.org.au/the-bridge/the-bridge/eddie-s-mission-to-evangelise-and-encourage>

Eddie is a visible witness to his faith when he stops at caravan parks, "My aim is to spread the Rosary and to encourage people to read the Gospel every day," Eddie says. "I try to bring the love of God to those most in need along the highways and byways, at the same time praying with and encouraging Catholics to continue their journey with Jesus."