

# STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

27th April, 2019



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER) - YEAR C

Easter Sunday is not the end of our Easter celebration. After forty days of preparation with Lent, and the Easter Triduum, from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday, it is easy to miss looking ahead on the Church's liturgical calendar. This is, after all, the climax of the Christian year with the celebration of the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Catechism calls Easter the "Feast of feasts" and the "Solemnity of solemnities." Yet, Easter Sunday is actually just the first day of the Easter Octave, the eight-day festal period, in which we continue to celebrate the momentous conclusion to the Paschal mystery and the economy of salvation played out in liturgical time.

The eight days of the Easter Octave are a special time to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection and more deeply contemplate its mysteries. The Church punctuates the special importance of this feast by assigning it the highest liturgical ranking, that is, as a Privileged Octave of the First Order. This means each of the eight days is counted as a solemnity, the highest-ranking feast day, in which no other feast can be celebrated. It begins the fifty days of the Easter celebration to the feast of Pentecost, but these first eight days of the Easter Octave culminates with the second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday.

It is entirely fitting that Divine Mercy Sunday is the culmination of the Easter Octave, for as St. Pope John Paul II stated in his Divine Mercy Sunday homily in 2001, "Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity.." Divine mercy is the grace and merit won by Christ on our behalf in His Passion and Resurrection.

The grace of Easter naturally flows into Mercy Sunday. Even before the official designation, the Church has historically designated these eight days of Easter to celebrate the Paschal mysteries of divine mercy. The early Church celebrated the Sunday after Easter as the feast day, *Dominica in Albis depositis*, "the Sunday dressed in white linen." St. Augustine is attributed to have called it "the compendium of the days of mercy." Indeed, in his Regina Caeli address on Divine Mercy Sunday on April 26, 1995, Pope John Paul II said "The whole Octave of Easter is like a single day," and that Octave is "thanksgiving for the goodness God has shown man in the whole Easter mystery." In these eight feast days, we offer thanksgiving for the divine mercy and salvation wrought for us on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The modern Divine Mercy devotions began with the Polish mystic, St. Faustina Kowalska, who dutifully recorded in her well-known diary, everything that Christ commissioned to her regarding His Divine Mercy. These devotions included the spiritual practices of venerating the image of Divine Mercy, with its simple prayer "Jesus, I trust in You!," praying the Chaplet and Novena of Divine Mercy, and establishing Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Pope John Paul II said he had felt spiritually "very near" Saint Faustina, and he had "been thinking about her for a long time," when he began his second encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia*, "Rich in Mercy," in which he calls mercy "love's second name." It is not surprising then that he later, on April 30 2000, at the canonisation ceremony of St. Faustina, designated the Easter Octave, Divine Mercy Sunday.

(Brian Kranick - catholic exchange.com)

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**STS PETER  
& PAUL'S  
FEAST  
DAY  
FESTIVAL**

**SUNDAY  
30TH  
JUNE**

### MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Mon - Fri: 8am | Saturday: 10am

Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

### PARISH PRIEST:

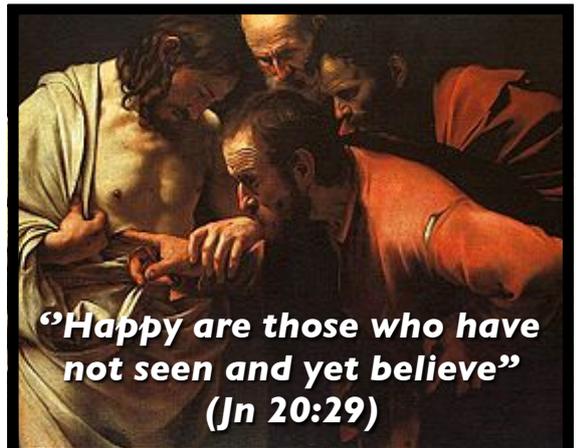
Fr Dean Mathieson OFM Cap

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Emerald Hill Mission: 0409 417 412

Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am - 3pm



**"Happy are those who have  
not seen and yet believe"  
(Jn 20:29)**

## The Easter Liturgies

Happy Easter to all!!! Thank you to all who helped to make the liturgies so beautiful and celebrate Easter so fittingly. From the Readers, to the singers, to all those who worked behind the scenes to organise and get things prepared. It was wonderful to see such large numbers participate in all of the ceremonies. May we all continue to celebrate the Easter season well, with the hope and joy that we have received.



## POPE FRANCIS' CORNER

### ON MERCY

The mercy of God is such a great thing, very great. We must not forget this. How many people [say]: "I have done such terrible things. I have purchased my place in hell, I can't turn back". But do they think about the mercy of God? Let us remember that story about the poor widow lady who went to confess to the Curé of Ars. Her husband had committed suicide; he jumped from the bridge into the river. And she wept. She said, "But I am a sinner, a poor woman. But my poor husband! He is in hell. He committed suicide, and suicide is a mortal sin. He is in hell". And the Curé of Ars said, "But wait a moment, ma'am, because between the bridge and the river, there is the mercy of God". But to the very end, to the very end, there is the mercy of God.

## ADORATION BEFORE MASS

From this Sunday (Divine Mercy Sunday) we'll continue have a time of Adoration before the Sunday 10am Mass.

## PRE MOTHERS' DAY STALL

Next Sunday (the week before Mothers' Day) the Craft Group will have a stall after Mass, selling items they have made in the group. All are welcome for the special pre-Mother's day/Easter gathering in the hall.

There is also a raffle to raise funds for the parish. \$5 for 3 tickets. Prizes are on display at the back of the church.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

### Breath of New Life

The prophet Daniel in a vision saw "One like the Son of Man" receive everlasting kingship (see Daniel 7:9-14). John is taken to heaven in today's Second Reading where he sees Daniel's prophecy fulfilled in Jesus, who appears as "One like a Son of Man."

Jesus is clad in the robe of a High Priest (see Exodus 28:4; Wisdom 18:24) and wearing the gold sash of a king (see I Maccabees 10:89). He has been exalted by the right hand of the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm.

His risen body, which the Apostles touch in today's Gospel, has been made a life-giving Spirit (see I Corinthians 15:45).

As the Father anointed Him with the Spirit and power (see Acts 10:38), Jesus pours out that Spirit on the Apostles, sending them into the world "as the Father has sent Me."

Jesus "breathes" the Spirit of His divine life into the Apostles—as God blew the "breath of life" into Adam (see Genesis 2:7), as Elijah's prayer returned "the life breath" to the dead child (see I Kings 17:21-23), and as the Spirit breathed new life into the slain in the valley of bones (see Ezekiel 37:9-10).

His creative breath unites the Apostles—His Church—to His body, and empowers them to breathe His life into a dying world, to make it a new creation.

In today's Gospel and First Reading, we see the Apostles fulfilling this mission with powers only God possesses—the power to forgive sins and to work "signs and wonders," a biblical expression only used to describe the mighty works of God (see Exodus 7:3; 11:10; Acts 7:36).

Thomas and the others saw "many other signs" after Jesus was raised from the dead. They saw and they believed. They have been given His life, which continues in the Church's Word and sacraments, so that we who have not seen might inherit His blessings and "have life in His name."

Scott Hahn

# STS PETER & PAUL'S FEAST DAY FESTIVAL SUNDAY 30TH JUNE



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor - 29th of April

St Catherine was a great 14th century mystic, theologian, and helper of the poor and sick. She was what we might call today a 'spiritual athlete': a person who is extraordinarily tuned to the spiritual life. She experienced regular mystical experiences, including her 'mystical marriage to Christ' and the sufferings of the stigmata. She was a strong-willed and powerful woman who helped reform the universal Church in major ways. Here's one example. The papacy had been settled in Avignon, France, since 1309 because of political turmoil. In the summer of 1376, she visited Pope Gregory XI, who was residing there, and convinced him to return the papacy back to Rome. She did this by persistently demanding and urging her case, and even startled him by telling him that she knew about the private vow he had made to God that if elected Pope, he would return the papal residence to Rome. She was also relentless in her work of looking after the poor and those affected by the plague.

Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill:

Sr. Annunciata Fcj, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr. Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressa, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxas, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Giovanna Santarossa, James, Burnes, James Watkins, Bonnie Breen, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Mary Quirke, Ilse Miranda, Helen Keighery, Alison Fraser, Tony Bailey, Steven Wallace., Elaine Wallace, Richard Grant.

## 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

### 1st Reading – Acts 5:12-16

In this Easter season our first readings are not from the Old Testament. Instead we hear from the New Testament, specifically from the Acts of the Apostles. Each week we hear something of the life of the early Christian community which is still valid for us.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love is everlasting.**

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success.  
Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light.

**Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love is everlasting.**

### 2nd Reading – Revelation 1:9-13. 17-19

In this Easter season we hear passages from the Book of Revelation in which St. John interprets the role and function of the Christian community in his time and in ours.

### 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

Early in Eastertide we hear of the post resurrection appearances when Jesus strengthens the faith of His disciples, even of Thomas as we listen now.

**Next week's reading:** 1 Acts 5:27-32. 40-41  
2 Revelation 5:11-14  
Gospel John 21:1-19

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL We pray together:

Lord, we pray for our Pope, his bishops, clergy and religious that they may address pastoral issues with compassion.

Lord, we pray for the leadership in both civic and religious communities. May they all share the vision of proclaiming hope and peace promised by Jesus.

Lord, we pray that the Divine Mercy may bring peace to our world, and that we will share our goods and possessions through generosity and Christian hospitality, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, we pray for all who see in Easter a glimmer of hope for our world. May this deep sense of searching for goodwill in our time be the encouragement to witness at their level.

Lord, we remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently **Pauline Quigley**, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Nellie Harrod, Ethel Kruse, David Bourke, Peter Bond, Bishop Joseph O'Connell, Fr Tom Furey, Fr Richard Rafter.**

## Collections: April 27/28, 2019

**1st Collection: \$1493**

**2nd Collection: \$1448**

**Holy Places Collection: \$1226.80**

**1st Collection goes to the Friars, and the 2nd collection goes to the running costs of the Parish.**

	READERS	E.M.E	HOSPITALITY	FLOWERS
Sat 27	Angela			Vinolia & Hanh
Sun 28	Janet & Owen	Doris & Mario	Margaret & Nancy	
Sat 04	Andy			Ann & Priska
Sun 05	Osmond/Megan	Mario & Geraldine F	Colin & Geraldine	