

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - 12 APRIL**



As today is Divine Mercy Sunday, we expect there would be a greater number of people seeking confession. Normally we would have confessions available before and during our Masses, but as we only have one priest available this weekend, confessions will only be available during the following times:

8:30 am - 9:55 am  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

**THE 54TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028**

In 2028, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney, a global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Pilgrims from around the world are invited to come together in worship, reflection, and celebration, united by a shared faith and a mission to carry Christ into the world.

This congress dates back to 1881, with the first in Lille France, in a response to the changes that were happening in society following the French and Industrial Revolutions. Faithful Catholics felt the need to unite in faith and devotion to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and to bring Christ into the world. The mission is the same today.



Visit the official website for more information, and register your details to stay up to date with the news and events, and volunteer your help during the congress.

“A moment to believe.”

<https://eucharist28.org/>

**PARKING NOTICE AND CHANGES DUE TO ROOF REPAIRS**

Scaffolding has been erected on the side of the church, so there will be no parking available there for 4 about weeks. We apologise for the inconvenience. Plenty of parking can be found in the surrounding streets, but please ensure to observe the parking regulations to avoid any fines.

Please remember: Parking on church grounds is strictly for St Mary Star of the Sea Masses and church events. As parking is very limited, please consider others by not leaving your car for extended periods of time, especially in the forecourt after Mass, as parking is needed for Baptisms and Weddings on weekends.

Thank you to all who have donated to our Roof Restoration Fund.

For those who would like to donate, please scan the QR code and once in the CDF page, in the drop-down menu, select “Roof Restoration Fund”. You can also find take-home flyers in the back of the church and foyer.

Thank you for your support!



**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN - OUR POLICY AND COMMITMENT**

At St Mary Star of the Sea, we are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person, ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our church. This commitment is extended to clergy, employees, and volunteers at our church, regardless of their role or responsibility to act to safeguard children and young people from child abuse.

(For more information, please read our Safeguarding Policy on our website, or on our noticeboard in the foyer).

**DAILY MASS READINGS AND RESPONSES**

All daily Mass readings and responses to votive Masses can now be accessed on our website via the QR code.



**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 APRIL	14 APRIL	15 APRIL	16 APRIL	17 APRIL	18 APRIL
<b>MONDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTER</b>	<b>TUESDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTER</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTER</b>	<b>THURSDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTER</b>	<b>FRIDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTER</b>	<b>SATURDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTER</b>
Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 351-352	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 352-353	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 353-354	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 346-347	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 355-356	Mass: 10:00 am Pg. 356-357



**ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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HOME TO THE ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

**2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**



Today ends the Easter Octave or “eight day” extension of the Day of Resurrection. However, the Easter season continues until Pentecost – observing the actual fifty day period that separated the event of Our Lord’s Resurrection from the day of the extraordinary outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel passage for this Sunday is always the same. It is St. John’s recollection of Jesus’ first and second encounters with the remaining apostles in the Cenacle – the very room where they shared the Last Supper three days before. The doors of the room were locked, St. John recalls, yet Jesus, remarkably, was able to enter. There were no longer any physical barriers for his resurrected humanity. Jesus immediately extends his greeting of “peace be with you.”

There is no bitterness in his words but rather consolation and the desire to set them at ease. Not only that, but there is a confirmation of their role and status as apostles or emissaries of Christ. “Receive the Spirit,” He says, as He makes a sign, breathing upon them – a sign of the power of the Holy Spirit which will be entrusted to them in due time. Along with this gesture He declares that whosoever sins they were to forgive would indeed be forgiven. Should they find reason to hold back, this too would be upheld by God. We see in what Christ says the verification of the Church’s authentic role in mediating in and through Christ. The Church is given real authority both to teach and to act in the name and Person of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

This truth, then, held by Catholic Christianity, has a firm Biblical foundation. Our sacraments are true channels of the grace of Christ. They are not merely signs and ceremonies, but effective acts of sanctification, enabling us to live ever holier lives, as long as we receive them with the right disposition. Here Jesus is not only referring to Baptism, but also and more particularly to sacramental confession. By confessing our sins to a priest, we are absolved, in that very act, of the sins confessed, as long as we are sorry for these sins. When Jesus indicates that it is possible for the Apostles and their successors “to retain” sins, that is, to leave sins un-absolved, He is not limiting God’s forgiveness or mercy on account of the gravity of any sin or any number of sins. Rather, He is making clear that confessors (be they Apostles, bishops or priests) are called to judge a person’s basic disposition of repentance.

There is no sin, however grave, that cannot be forgiven. There is no number of sins beyond which forgiveness is no longer possible. Jesus forgave both Peter’s cowardice and Thomas’ lack of faith. The only thing that would prevent a person from being forgiven is not really desiring forgiveness or not acknowledging their sin and their intention to reject that sinful way of acting. So we believe in the limitlessness of divine Mercy. Such is the substance of the devotion whose promotion was entrusted to a humble nun of the 20th century, Sr. Faustina Kowalska (now St. Faustina).

As Pope Benedict taught in his Easter Sunday message: “Dear men and women whose spirit is sincerely open to the truth, let no heart be closed to the omnipotence of this redeeming love! Jesus Christ died and rose for all; he is our hope – true hope for every human being. Today, just as he did with his disciples in Galilee before returning to the Father, the risen Jesus now sends us everywhere as witnesses of his hope, and he reassures us: I am with you always, all days, until the end of the world (cf. Mt 28:20). Fixing the gaze of our spirit on the glorious wounds of his transfigured body, we can understand the meaning and value of suffering, we can tend the many wounds that continue to disfigure humanity in our own day. In his glorious wounds we recognize the indestructible signs of the infinite mercy of the God.”

Let us never doubt that God is willing to forgive us when we have the misfortune of falling even into a more serious sin. Let’s make use of confession even for our lesser failings. Let’s always be willing to take up the good fight against sin, for love of God and our neighbour.

33 Howard Street, West Melbourne 3003  
P: 9328 3474

Email: [info@stmaryswestmelbourne.org](mailto:info@stmaryswestmelbourne.org)  
[www.stmaryswestmelbourne.org](http://www.stmaryswestmelbourne.org)

**PARISH PERSONNEL**

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Andrew Paris

**Priests in Residence:**

Fr Anthony Bernal  
Fr Peter Fitzsimons

**Parish Office Administrator:**

Yvonne Kee.

**Communications:**

Michelle Komadina

**Sacred Music Centre Director:**

Andrew Mariotti.

**RCIA Coordinator:**

Mimi Lee

**Office booking hours:**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday :  
10.00 am – 2.00 pm.

**For urgent matters, you can contact:**

Fr Andrew on 0404932862

**MASS TIMES**

**Sunday:**

10.00 am  
5.00 pm

**Monday to Friday:**

7.00 am  
12.30 pm

**Saturday:**

10.00 am

**CONFESSIONS**

**Saturday:**

9.30 am – 9:55 am  
10.35 am – 1100 am

**Sunday:**

9:15 am  
4:15 pm

**Monday to Friday:**

Before and after 7:00 am Mass  
12:00 noon – 12:25 pm  
1:05 pm – 1:30 pm  
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
and any other time when requested if possible

**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS**

Please check our website for more information.

**DEVOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.**

**Eucharistic Adoration:**

Thursdays 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm.

**Legion of Mary:**

4:00 pm Mondays at the presbytery.

**Holy Rosary:**

Mon – Fri & Sun before Mass  
Saturday after 10am Mass

**Theology Lectures:**

Sundays 11:30 am.

**Young Families:**

Every Sundays after 10 am Mass

**Faith Formation Program:**

Check our website and noticeboard for more details

## Hymns

**Entrance: The day of resurrection!  
(CWBI 367)**

1. The day of resurrection!  
Earth spread the news abroad;  
the paschal feast of gladness,  
the paschal feast of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from earth to hea-ven's height  
our Saviour Christ has brought us  
the glorious Lord of light.

2. Our hearts be pure from evil  
that we may see aright  
the Saviour resurrected  
in his eternal light;  
and hear the message plainly,  
delivered calm and clear:  
"Rejoice with me in triumph,  
be glad and do not fear."

3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful  
and earth her song begin,  
the whole world keep high triumph  
and all that is there-in;  
let all things in creation  
their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen,  
our joy that has no end.

Text: John of Damascus (c. 675-749)  
tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)  
adapt. Anthony Petti (1932-1985)  
© 1971 Faber Music  
Tune: ELLACOMBE

**Offertory: O sons and daughters, let us  
sing! (CWBI 349)****Ant. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

1. O sons and daughters, let us sing!  
The King of heav'n, the glorious King,  
o'er death today rose triumphing,  
Alleluia!

2. That Easter morn, at break of day,  
the faithful women went their way  
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia!

3. An angel clad in white they see,  
who sat and spoke unto the three,  
"Your Lord has gone to Galilee."  
Alleluia!

4. That night th'apostles met in fear;  
among them came their Lord most dear,  
and said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia!

5. When Thomas first the tidings heard,  
how they had seen the risen Lord  
he doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia!

6. "My wounded side, O Thomas, see;  
Behold my hands, my feet," said he;  
"not faithless, but believing be."  
Alleluia!

7. No longer Thomas then denied,  
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God," he cried.  
Alleluia!

8. How blest are they who have not  
seen,  
and yet whose faith has constant been,  
for they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!

9. On this most holy day of days,  
to God your hearts and voices raise,  
in laud, and jubilee and praise.  
Alleluia! Ant.

Text: O filii et filiae; Jean Tisserand (d. 1494) tr. John  
Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.

Tune: O FILII ET FILIAE as in Airs sur les hymnes sacrez,  
odes et noëls (1623)

**Communion: Godhead here in hiding  
(CWBI 162)**

1. God-head here in hiding,  
whom I do adore,  
masked by these bare shadows,  
shape and nothing more.  
See, Lord, at thy service  
low lies here a heart  
lost, all lost, in wonder  
at the God thou art.

2. Seeing, touching, tasting  
are in thee deceived;  
how says trusty hearing?  
that shall be believed:  
what God's Son has told me  
take for truth I do;  
truth himself speaks truly,  
or there's nothing true.

3. On the cross thy God-head  
made no sign to men;  
here thy very manhood  
steals from human ken:  
both are my confession,  
both are my belief,  
and I pray the prayer  
of the dying thief.

4. I am not like Thomas,  
wounds I cannot see,  
but can plainly call thee  
Lord and God as he;  
this faith each day deeper  
be my holding of,  
daily make me harder  
hope and dearer love.

5. O thou our reminder  
of Christ crucified,  
living bread, the life of  
us for whom he died,  
lend this life to me then;  
feed and feast my mind,  
there be thou the sweetness  
we were meant to find.

6. Jesus, whom I look at  
shrouded here below,  
I beseech thee send me  
what I long for so,  
some day to gaze on thee  
face to face in light  
and be blest for ever  
with thy glory's sight. Amen

Text: Adoro te devote;  
attrib. St Thomas Aquinas (c. 1227-1274)  
tr. Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889) alt.  
Tune: ADORO TE DEVOTE

**Recessional: Regina Caeli Laetare  
(CWBI 405)**

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia:  
quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia:  
resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia:  
ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Text: Latin 12th cent.  
Music: Chant mode VI

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**PARISH SYNOD CORNER****A Synod is not a parliament -**

The Church is not a democracy where  
truth is decided by majority vote. A Synod  
is not about winning arguments or  
pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual  
process of listening deeply—to God, to  
Scripture, to tradition, and to one  
another—so that decisions are shaped by  
faith and mission, not ideology.

## Mass Readings: 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of  
the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread  
and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apos-  
tles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in  
common; they sold their goods and possessions and  
shared out the proceeds among themselves according to  
what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in  
their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their  
food gladly and generously; they praised God and were  
looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to  
their community those destined to be saved.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24**

*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.' R

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,  
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. R

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. R

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in  
his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by  
raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure  
hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be  
spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being  
kept for you in the heavens.

Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the  
salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end  
of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though  
you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all  
sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your  
faith will have been tested and proved like gold –

only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even  
though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have  
praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you  
love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled  
with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because  
you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith  
looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

**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**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week,  
the doors were closed in the room where the disciples  
were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among  
them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed  
them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with  
joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,  
'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are  
retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was  
not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said,  
'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the  
holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger  
into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into  
his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples  
were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The  
doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among  
them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thom-  
as, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me  
your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.'  
Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who  
have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the  
disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These  
are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the  
Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have  
life through his name.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:****The Newly Married**

*Jacob Ciantar & Sarah D'Amico  
Brandon Sottile & Kayla Cassar  
Simon Sciola & Elysa De Santo*

**The Newly Baptised**

*Mackenzie & Hunter Gallon  
Roman Agostinelli  
Raf Mohn*