

THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY) / C

27 APRIL 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v. 1

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, love is everlasting, (*or* Alleluia!)

1. 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.**

2. The stone which the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone. / 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.**

3. 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. **R.**

SECOND READING

Apoc 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus;



it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 20:29

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

GOSPEL

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

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

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$628.00 Presbytery: \$658.00

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: M Ellis

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

Counters: No Counting

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$305.90 Presbytery: \$320.90

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Sarah

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 28 Apr: St Peter Chanel

Tue 29 Apr: St Catherine of Siena

Fri 2 May: St Athanasius

Sat 3 May: Sts Philip and James

Sun 4 May: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Feast of St Joseph the Worker - 1st May 2025



This year, the Feast Day falls on a Thursday. Please note change of Mass location for the week as follows:

Thursday, 1st May: 10am at St Joseph's

Friday, 2nd May: 10am at Holy Cross

Facebook



Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (4 Esdr 2:36-37)

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Jn 20:27)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Paul Donohoe**

** Names will be published for a month, unless otherwise requested.*

Recently Deceased: **Pope Francis, Glenroy Van Geyzel**

Death Anniversary: -

Pope Francis: 'A witness of joy and hope'



We share in the sorrow of billions of people around the world as we mourn the death of Pope Francis. The Holy Father died last night, on Easter Monday, only hours after blessing the crowds who had gathered in St Peter's Square on Easter Day. It is especially poignant that we are giving thanks for the life of Pope Francis at Easter, a fitting time to remember a man whose inspiring life and papacy were so marked by hope, joy and mercy.

Church leaders and others paid tribute to a pope who 'taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalised'.

His funeral will take place at 10am (AEST 6pm) on Saturday, 26th April 2025 at St Peter's Square in Rome.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be celebrating a Solemn Pontifical Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Monday, 28th April at 1pm. All are encouraged to attend.

**Eternal rest grant unto Pope Francis, O Lord.
And let the perpetual light shine upon him.**

Funeral of James Jackson

Rosary and Funeral Mass will be offered for Mr James Peter Jackson (Jimmy), Fr Pat's brother, at St Dominic's Church, 408 Camp Road, Broadmeadows (enter car park via Jansen Road) on Monday, 28th April 2025 commencing at 10:30am. The funeral will leave at the conclusion of Mass for burial at Fawkner Memorial Park, Sydney Road, Fawkner.

Mass for Jimmy: At St Anthony's Church, a Mass will be celebrated by Fr Pat Jackson for the repose of the soul of his brother Jimmy on Saturday, 3rd May, at 9:15am.

Amalgamation Decree

The decree amalgamating the parishes of St Joseph's, Elsternwick and Holy Cross, Caulfield South into **THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK AND HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH** will be read at this weekend's masses at both churches. **The amalgamation will be effective from 3 May 2025.**

Divine Mercy Sunday

This is a feast day that is observed in the Roman Rite calendar. It is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, which concludes the Octave of Easter.

It is originally based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Faustina Kowalska reported as part of her visions of Jesus, and is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences issued by the Catholic Church.

According to the diary of Kowalska, the feast of Divine Mercy receives the biggest promises of grace from Jesus in the Divine Mercy devotion.

A person who goes to sacramental confession (the confession may take place some days before) and receives Holy Communion on that Sunday, shall obtain the total forgiveness of sins and punishments.

This grace is similar to the grace received at baptism and greater than a plenary indulgence.

Additionally, the Catholic Church also grants a plenary indulgence (observing the usual rules) with the recitation of some simple prayers.



Divine Mercy Novena & Feast NOVENA

Nine Nights: Good Friday, 18th April to Saturday 26th April at 7:00pm

FEAST OF MERCY

Sunday, 27th April

1.00pm Confessions

1.30pm Adoration, Prayers, Hour of Mercy, Holy Mass.

Celebrant: Fr Wodek, Polish Missionary Priest
Venue: Holy Cross Church, Caulfield South



The Combined Societies of Mary.
www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com
Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207

Thank you Fr Wodek

We thank Fr Wodek for celebrating Holy Week and Easter with us.

He has also led the Divine Mercy Novena at Holy Cross Church for the last nine nights and will complete the celebration of the Feast of Mercy with Holy Mass on Sunday at 1:30pm.

Wishing Fr Wodek all the best and a safe journey home.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Taylor and Lyzeth on the occasion of their Confirmation and Communion at the Easter Vigil Mass. May the joy of Easter remain with us always.

Wonderful Easter Services

A big thank you to all who helped with the Easter Services, especially those who set up the church, took an active role in the Liturgy and the choir; making it a memorable spiritual celebration for all who attended.

Statement from Archbishop Comensoli on the death of His Holiness, Pope Francis

Easter Monday 21 April 2025

As the Church enters this time of Easter filled with the light and hope of the world, it is with deep sadness that we have received the news of the death of His Holiness, Pope Francis.

We unite with all the People of God in praying for the eternal rest of his soul and entrust him to the tender loving mercy of the Father.

Pope Francis, who came from the peripheries of the world, has been a father of the poor, and a witness of joy and hope. May the Lord, he so faithfully trusted in, now welcome him into eternal life.

St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne will be open early Tuesday morning to receive those who may wish to visit for prayer and remembrance.

In the coming days, more information will be available regarding opportunities to come together in gratitude, and to pray for the Holy Father.

May he rest in God's gracious and gentle peace.

Mary, Our Blessed Mother of God, pray for him.

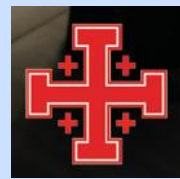
St Francis of Assisi, pray for him.

All Holy Men and Women, Saints of God, pray for him.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne

Good Friday Collection for Holy Land

Donations can still be made to the Holy Land Commissariat, using the envelopes which can be found at the church foyer.



Young Adults Hosting Mass: Saturday 26 April

Once again, the young people from our 3 parishes have come together to host Saturday's 6:30pm Mass at St Joseph's. It is our parishes' blessing to witness a renewed energy to our parish community. They will be our future leaders and contributors, enriching the church's overall spiritual life and ministry. Keep up the good work!

Post Easter Activity

Bowling at Zone Bowling, 1866 Princes Highway Service Road, Clayton. Next Sunday 4th May from 12:45pm. Parental permission or attendance is required if you are under 18. Visit Zone Bowling's website for price info.

CatholicCare Sunday Appeal

A special collection will be taken up next weekend 3-4 May. CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to help the most vulnerable. You can donate using the appeal envelope or online: www.catholiccare.org.au

All gifts \$2 and above are tax deductible

Prayers for Mother's Day

Our Mother's Day book can be found on the altar-rail in front of Our Lady's statue in the church.

Please write the names of all mothers for whom you would like prayers to be offered on Mother's Day.

There will be a special blessing for all mothers at the weekend Masses on 10th and 11th May.

Boss: This is the third time you are late for work this week. Do you know what that means?

Me: That means it's only Wednesday.

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 Thomas, '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.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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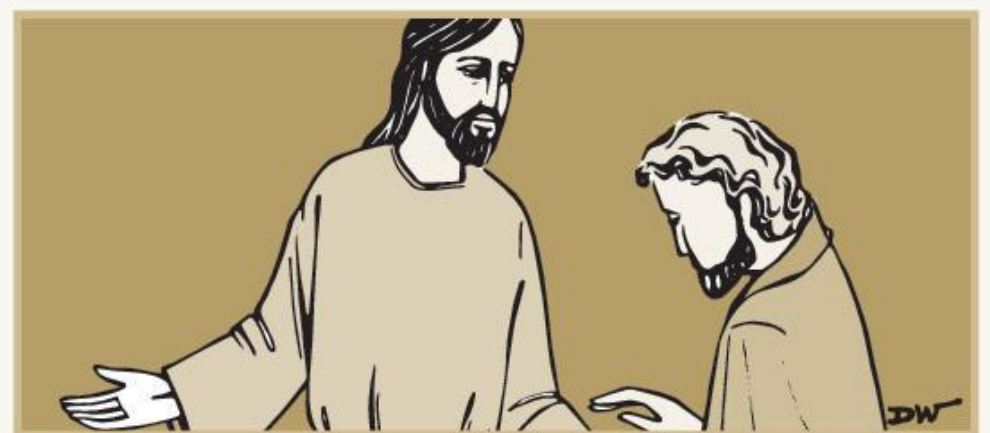
Breaking Open the Word

THE BREATH OF LIFE

Fear surrounds Jesus' disciples in this story from John's Gospel set on the night of his resurrection. They are closed in a room out of fear of the Jewish authorities. The Risen One comes into their midst, into the centre of their fears, and proclaims, 'Peace be with you.' Jesus offers his frightened disciples peace at a time when they feel a sense of potential annihilation by the very ones who had manufactured Jesus' execution.

His 'peace' is more than an encouragement not to worry; it is a prayer, his gift, for their wholeness and holiness. The prayer is accompanied by his breathing upon them—an echo of an earlier 'breathing' when Jesus 'breathes down' his spirit on to his mother and the Beloved Disciple at the moment of death. This is John's Pentecost scene. For John's audience, 'breathe' was a sign of life. Here, in the room's enclosure, Jesus' breathes onto his disciples his life which offers forgiveness.

The story concludes with Thomas and it is not about his 'doubting'. It is rather about his connection with the other disciples. Disconnected from them, he does not believe. When he reconnects with them a week later and Jesus reappears, Thomas comes to faith in the Risen Jesus. Two points emerge from this powerful story: Jesus' presence dispels fear; Easter faith is restored and deepened through belonging to a community of believers.



Fr Michael Trainor