

# 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) - Year A, 18th - 19th April 2020

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

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

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 apostles 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.

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 117:2-4.13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

**R/** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

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

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

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.

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

*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 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.

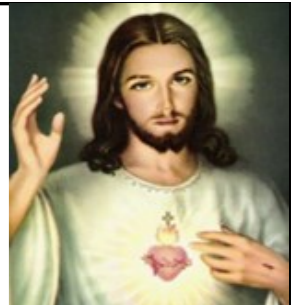
The Gospel of the Lord



## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

**Parish Contacts:** Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124  
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



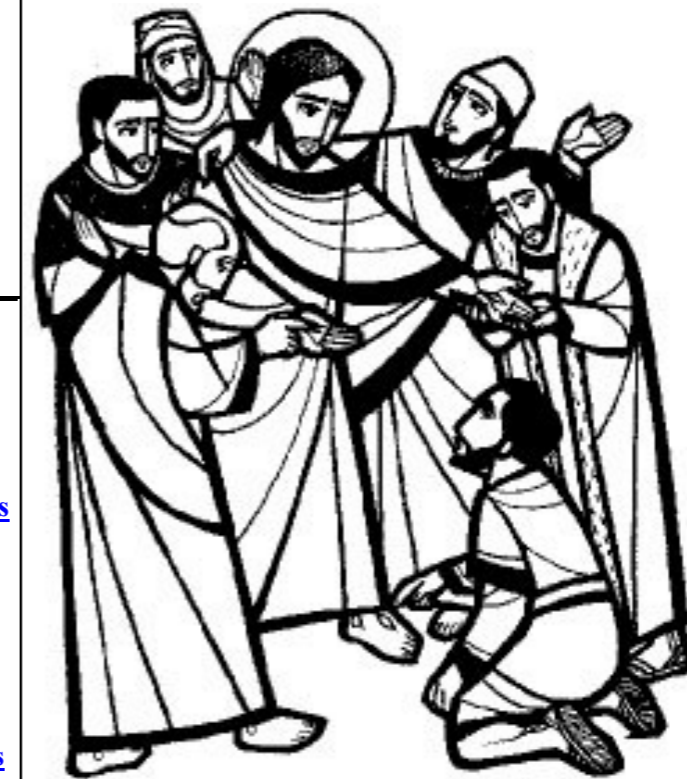
### 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) 18th - 19th April 2020, Year A

## Doubt no more but Believe

After his resurrection, Jesus continues to appear to his followers. He encourages them, he strengthens them, he calms their fears and offers his peace. In today's Gospel the Risen Lord appears to his disciples and greets them, 'Peace be with you'. But one of them, Thomas misses this encounter. When he was told that Jesus appeared and spoke to the disciples, he refuses to believe.

On the one hand we may condemn Thomas for his lack of faith. But on the other hand we admire him for his honesty and conviction. He wants to meet and experience Jesus for himself. He will not believe what the others have told him unless he can actually put his fingers into the wounds of Jesus.

When Jesus appears again to his disciples and Thomas is with them, Jesus without delay invites Thomas to put his fingers into the wounds of the crucifixion, so that he may doubt no longer. From the Gospel passage we do not know if Thomas really put his fingers into the wounds of the risen Lord. But Thomas exclaims the great prayer of someone who believes, 'My Lord and my God'.



It is natural and even ok to have doubts. We all have them. We all go through life's struggles and doubts. There may be times when we are at our lowest and weakest for various reasons. There may be times when we, like Thomas, refuse to believe that Jesus is really with us. However, just as Jesus was with Thomas, so he is also with us. He is with us when other people reach out to comfort and support us. He is with us when we

reach out to help and care for others. Jesus is present to us when gather together for the breaking of the bread. Jesus is with us when we are locked in our homes and are not able to gather for the Eucharist. He is with us when we pray as a family, when we participate in the Mass connected through TV or other media and invite him into our life through spiritual Communion. And when we struggle to believe and our faith is weak, then we can pray with Thomas: 'Lord, I believe, help my unbelief'.

#### Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

#### Priest in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

**Parish Office:** Cristina Agius

**School Principal:** Mark Tierney

**School Phone:** 9487 1001

#### Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli  
shpcatechists@gmail.com

#### Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and  
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

#### Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

#### Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),  
Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,  
Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,  
Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,  
Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solomon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

#### Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)  
0425 779 831

#### St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O'Day (President)  
Ph: 9484 2445

### Online Masses

#### St. Patrick's Cathedral

Live Streaming at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday-Friday: 1pm  
Saturday: 9am  
Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

### TV Mass

**Channel 10:** Mass for you at home, Sunday mornings at 6am.

**RAI:** Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday mornings at 8:30am

### Divine Mercy Sunday

During the Great Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II declared that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. Mercy has also become a key theme in the teaching of Pope Francis, and he declared an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which ran from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016. In the document announcing the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis explains the relationship between justice and mercy:



If God limited himself only to justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected. But mere justice is not enough. Experience shows that an appeal to justice alone will result in its destruction. This is why God goes beyond justice with his mercy and forgiveness. Yet this does not mean that justice should be devalued or rendered superfluous. On the contrary: anyone who makes a mistake must pay the price. However, this is just the beginning of conversion, not its end, because one begins to feel the tenderness and mercy of God. God does not deny justice. He rather envelopes it and surpasses it with an even greater event in which we experience love as the foundation of true justice. We must pay close attention to what St Paul says if we want to avoid making the same mistake for which he reproaches the Jews of his time: "For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified" (Rom 10:3-4). God's justice is his mercy given to everyone as a grace that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus the Cross of Christ is God's judgement on all of us and on the whole world, because through it he offers us the certitude of love and new life.

*Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus, n 2.*

### Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

**Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### How to Recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.

#### **1. Make the Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **2. Optional Opening Prayers**

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

*(Then repeat three times):* O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

**3. Our Father,** Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

**4. Hail Mary,** full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

**5. The 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.

**6. The Eternal Father,** I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

**7. (On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade): For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

#### **8. Repeat for the remaining decades**

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

**9. (Conclude with Repeating three times): Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

**10. Optional Closing Prayer:** Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

### Pray the Regina Caeli

What is the Regina Caeli? It is one of the four traditional Marian antiphons. It was Pope Benedict XIV who, in 1742, enjoined the recitation of the Regina Caeli in place of the Angelus during Eastertide, that is, from Easter Sunday to the end of Pentecost. It is recited standing as a sign of Christ's victory over death. Like the Angelus, the Regina Caeli is said three times a day, at dawn, at noon, and at dusk, in order to consecrate the day to God and the Virgin Mary. With the Regina Caeli, we turn to Mary, the Queen of Heaven, to rejoice with her at the Resurrection of Christ.

**Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.**

**For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.**

**Has risen, as he said, alleluia.**

**Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

**Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.**

**For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.**

**Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of thy son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.**

**Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### At Home Retreats Opportunities

Due to popular demand and as a response to current social restrictions, Kardina Formation is offering two new retreat opportunities.

1/ Six day stay at home retreat 3 - 9 May 2020.

The retreat will be drawn from the book *Grace upon Grace: Savouring the Spiritual Exercises through the Arts* by Marlene Marburg. You can make this a silent retreat or a retreat in daily life. You can choose to pray with one or more readings from the daily suggested readings. Each day during the week we will meet for group sharing on Zoom (no more than five people) with a spiritual director. Upon registration we will give you some simple instructions on how to access and use Zoom. The cost of the retreat including book is \$50 – \$180. Please decide according to your financial circumstances.

We will send more details when you enquire at:

[enquiries@kardia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@kardia.com.au)

2/ Full Spiritual Exercises at home over 90 days.

During this online - at home retreat, you will journey with a small group and receive individual spiritual direction. We will pray the *Exercises with Grace Upon Grace: Savouring the Spiritual Exercises through the Arts*, in two one hour prayer periods each day.

Interested in joining us? Contact Kardina for more information at [enquiries@kardia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@kardia.com.au)

### Collections

1st Collection: \$430.00

2nd Collection: \$20.00

*Thank you for your kind generosity!*



### WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

*Lopisoni Amato, Alan Castles,  
Nicola D'Orazio & Valerie McGuire*



### Thanksgiving Offering Easter Time

Thank you for your ongoing support and contribution through direct debit. Due to current circumstances, we are unable to receive your cash contributions through envelopes. As a suggestion, if you usually contribute through envelopes and are able to change to another payment option, it would be very helpful to our parish. Some of these options are; via your credit card or via Direct Debit directly to the Parish bank account using these details:

Bank: NAB

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Church

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 658787823

The financial support of our two priests and the needs of the presbytery does not come from the Church Collection (first collection), it comes from the second collection known as the Presbytery Collection.

If you wish to support the presbytery, (second collection) you may do so directly via these details:

Bank: NAB

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Presbytery

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 659026014

We do understand that due to the current situation and these very uncertain times, financial circumstances of our parishioners might have changed. Please contact us promptly if your own circumstances have changed and you need to alter your giving or need other practical support. If you have any queries about the above, please contact the Office on 94803398 for assistance.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

### Touching His Wounds Allows Him to

#### Touch our Wounds

This week on the Journey, Fr Mark De Bartista tells us that we too need to be like Thomas and touch the wounds of Jesus to draw the same strength of faith just as Thomas did. Plus, all your favourites and great music! And it doesn't stop there! Have a listen and let us know what you think!

Visit [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email. Got friends or family who you'd like to hear this show every week? All you've got to do is send them this email and they can subscribe by [clicking here](#).

The Journey is a weekly program developed by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong and is the only Catholic radio program in Australia aired on general Christian radio.