

# 2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

## 10th - 11th April 2021, Year B

**First Reading:** Acts 4:32-35

*The whole group was united, heart and soul.*

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

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

**Second Reading:** 1 John 5:1-6

*Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

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:** John 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.

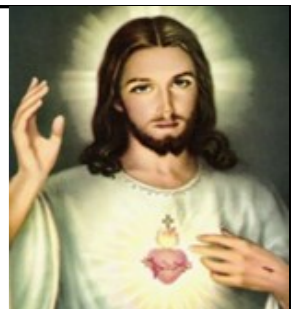
The Gospel of the Lord.



## 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



### Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

### Parish Priest:

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD  
Ph: 0428 715 282

### Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD  
Ph: 0478 963 248

### 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  
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 and Natalie Baran

### Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)  
Ph: 0425 779 831

### St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)  
Ph: 0432 405 417

### Parish Mass Schedule

#### Weekend Masses:

**Saturday:** 6:00pm  
**Sunday:** 9:00am (Italian),  
10:30 am, 6:00 pm

#### Weekday Masses:

**Monday to Friday:** 9.10am

**Healing Mass:** 1st Thursday of  
the month at 1.30pm

#### Devotional Practices:

**Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament:** Wednesday after  
9.10am Mass

**Holy Rosary:** Thursday (English)

#### Reconciliation:

Weekdays: 30 minutes before  
Mass or by appointment

#### Baptisms & Weddings:

By appointment only

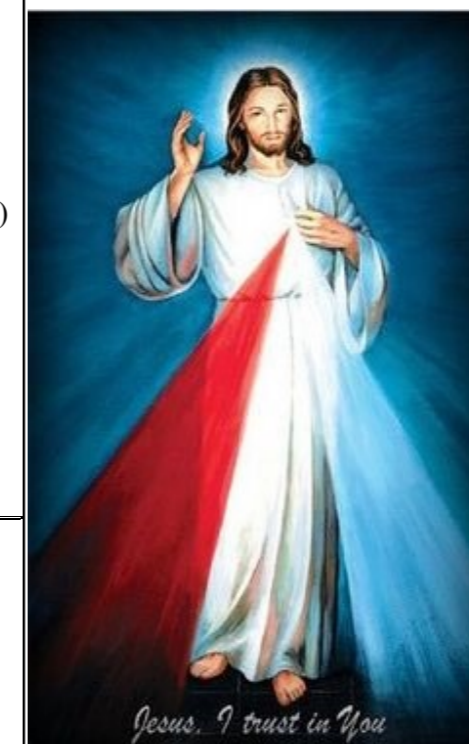
## 2nd Sunday Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

### 10th - 11th April 2021, Year B

### Mercy in Action

Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. If you have listened carefully to the prayers and readings, you will realise why the Second Sunday of Easter has that title. The opening prayer addresses the Father as "God of Mercy." In the Psalm we repeated several times, "His mercy endures forever." Besides mentioning the word, our readings illustrate mercy in action. But before going into the Scripture lessons, we need to ask this question: What does "mercy" mean?

To understanding the meaning of mercy, it will help if we examine its etymology. Our English word, mercy, goes back to the Latin: misericordia, which is composed of two words. "Cordia" is familiar to us from such words as "cardiologist" and "cardiac." It means heart. The first part, "miseri" refers to suffering. Mercy, then, means to have a heart for those who suffer or, more precisely, to have a heart willing to suffer for others.



Today's readings reveal that kind of heart in Christ and in his followers. When Jesus appeared to his disciples that first Easter, he said, "Peace be with you." As you can imagine, that greeting meant more than "hello" or "good morning." Jesus, in fact, desired to communicate to them something of enormous value. The peace which Jesus won for us had cost him his blood, his very life. What that peace involved, Jesus tells us clearly: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them..." To his apostles Jesus communicates the Holy Spirit with the power to free men from their sins. That freedom or absolution comes through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

From the Acts of the Apostles we glimpse mercy in action. The early Christians were so filled with the Holy Spirit that "no one claimed any of his possessions as his own." Rather, they "distributed to each according to his need." It was not Karl Marx who invented the principle: "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." Marx lifted it from the New Testament, but made the mistake of thinking that it could happen

by political coercion. His followers created a human inferno, but their failure should not cause us to reject the ideal. Part of mercy involves the effort to provide every human being with access to this world's blessings.

The reading from Acts, then, calls our attention to the corporal works of mercy: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and so on. St. John's letter, on the other hand, focuses on what are called the spiritual works of mercy such as: convert the sinner, counsel the doubtful and bear wrongs patiently. By doing those things we fulfill the Christ's commandments and help to extend his victory. "Whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith."

Ultimately mercy results not so much from human effort as from God's free gift. As Shakespeare said, "It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven." During the this time of Easter, we ask God to open our hearts so that we might receive into our hearts his Mercy - his Holy Spirit. <http://stmaryvalleybloom.org/divinemeracy.html>

**Explanation of the Image of Divine Mercy**



In February 1931 Sister Faustina saw Jesus dressed in a white garment. He held one hand raised in blessing and the other hand touching his garment at the breast as in this picture. From that point in his garment two rays of light emanated, one red and the other pale. Jesus requested that we venerate this image which is usually called the Divine Mercy Image. Venerating a sacred image or statue means performing some act or making some gesture of deep respect toward it because of whom it represents; in this case, Jesus. Concerning the image, Jesus said,

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapter and then throughout the world. (Diary §47)

Later Jesus explained, The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonised Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. (Diary §299) (see Second Reading, Year B; 1 John 5:6)

Jesus made it clear that he desires this image to be venerated. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory. (Diary §48)

When St. Faustina first told her confessor about Jesus' request for this image he misunderstood and presuming that it meant something like what we read in Gen 1:27 that we are made in the image of God.

When I told this to my confessor, I received this for a reply: "That refers to your soul." He told me, "Certainly, paint God's image in your soul" When I came out of the confessional, I again heard words such as these: My image already is in your soul. I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the First Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy. (Diary §49)

On another occasion Jesus said, No soul will be justified until it turns with confidence to My mercy, and this is why the first Sunday after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy. On that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy. I am making you the administrator of My mercy. Tell the confessor that the image is to be on view in the church and not within the enclosure in that convent. By means of this image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it. (Diary §570) [https://frtommylane.com/homilies/years\\_abc/divine\\_mercy\\_sunday.htm](https://frtommylane.com/homilies/years_abc/divine_mercy_sunday.htm)

**Last Week's Collection: 04/04/21**

1st Collection for our Church: \$3950.00  
Direct Debit for March: \$995.00  
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$2655.00  
Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land: \$937.00

*Thank you for your kind generosity!*



**Weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:**

Visit <https://bit.ly/39VHCmM> where you can listen anytime!

**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.**



**Sacred Heart Primary School 2021 Enrolments**

Enrolments for the 2021 school year are open as of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March. For a school tour, please contact the school principal on 9487 1001 or via the school website <http://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au>

At Sacred Heart School, our students are at the heart of every decision we make.

Every day is Open Day and prospective students and their families are warmly invited to tour our school.



**Welcome!**  
This weekend through Baptism we welcome **Massimo Marco Zito and Nina Scriba** into our Parish family

**LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne As of 6:00pm Friday 26 March 2021:**

- All people must carry a face covering when they leave home unless they have a lawful reason not to. Whilst it is not mandatory to wear a face covering indoors or outdoors it is strongly recommended that people wear a fitted face covering if the 1.5m personal distancing cannot be maintained.
- Weddings, funerals and religious gatherings can occur with no limits on the number of guests or attendees, working within density limits. To ensure people can keep 1.5 metres distance the 'venue' must apply the two square metre rule. Anything conducted in a private home must apply the gathering limits for private homes.
- Religious gatherings can be held indoors or outdoors.
- Record keeping remains an important and critical tool for keeping all in the community safe.

Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting a COVID-19 test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.

Full guidelines can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3uBL1io>



**Pope Francis' Message World Day of Vocations 2021**

**Good Shepherd Sunday - 25th April**

**Saint Joseph: The Dream of Vocation**  
*'God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he*

*recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes.'*

*'The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of "the saints next door". At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.'*



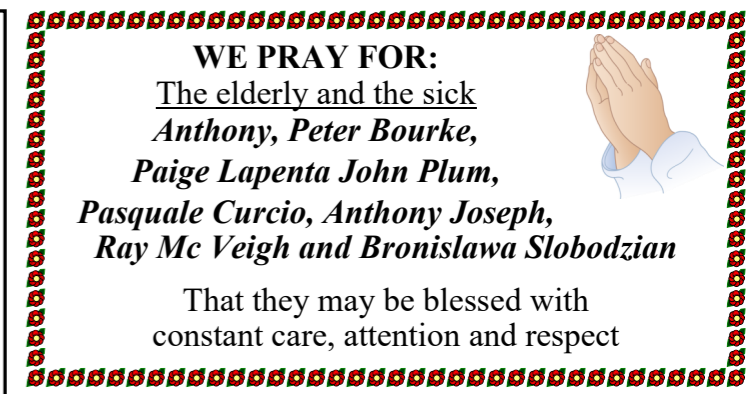
**Thank you!**

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2021. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

[www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) #projectcompassion Ph: 1800 024 413 Caritas AUSTRALIA

Roster for weekend of 17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2021		
	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	Renato Tonini Marlene Vergou	Charlotte Bainy
Sun 9.00am (Italian)	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 10.30am	Marilene Fortuna Jessica Suppiah	Giovanna D'Intino
Sun 6.00pm	Damian Casamento Margaret Bannan	Robert Dullard



**WE PRAY FOR:**

**The elderly and the sick**  
**Anthony, Peter Bourke,**  
**Paige Lapenta John Plum,**  
**Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph,**  
**Ray Mc Veigh and Bronislawa Slobodzian**

That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect

**Newly Baptised in Christ**



This Easter, those who have been journeying through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) finally received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) and were officially welcomed into the Catholic Church. Some had already been waiting for some

time, with last year's COVID lockdowns putting a halt on the celebrations.

The preparation of catechumens (those to be baptised) and candidates (a baptised person who will be confirmed) takes place through a series of meetings in the parish where those seeking are introduced to Jesus through the Scriptures, Church teachings and testimonies.

The oils that were blessed and consecrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli during this year's **Chrism Mass** were used as a symbol of strength and purification.

*Our warm congratulations to all those who were baptised and welcomed into the Catholic faith this Easter. May our loving God continue to bless and strengthen you on your journey of faith!*



**'Gifts Differing Understanding Your Personality Type'**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 10am-3pm.

This reflection day explores the Myers Briggs personality types, and how these influence our communication, relationships and spiritual life. Participants can complete the Personality Type Indicator form on the day. Facilitated by Peter Malone, msc at Heart of Life, Kildara Centre, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern. Cost \$60.

Book and pay via website at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)  
Email: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or phone 9890 1101

Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter!

**Cleaning Roster: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Anna O'Neill and Lucy**  
*Thank you for your help!*

