

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.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his

name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and those you have brought to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OF EASTER

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...
R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Jn 20:27
Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may

have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia!

R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE GIFT OF PEACE

Today is the extension of Easter Sunday. It is such an important and central feast in our Liturgical calendar that we celebrate it for a whole week, and Easter itself, over six weeks. Today’s Gospel from John is the appearance of the Risen Jesus to his frightened disciples. They have locked themselves in a room for fear of the religious authorities, that what happened to Jesus might also happen to them. To their surprise, the Risen One stands in their midst.

Three things now take place. First, Jesus speaks. His first words are ‘Peace be with you.’ These words gifted to John’s audience are also gifted to us: the gift of peace, of ‘shalom’, heals all division. Second, Jesus sends his frightened disciples, now filled with joy, John notes, on mission. Their mission is the same as that of Jesus, ‘As the Father sent me, so I send you.’ And third, he breathes on the disciples. Jesus’ breath, the symbolic presence of God’s life and Holy Spirit, empowers the disciples to accomplish their Easter mission.

The final part of the Gospel is taken up with Thomas, his incredulity at the presence of the Risen Jesus reported to him by the others. When he is finally reconnected to the community of disciples—and this is the point of the story—Thomas, too, comes to Easter faith, declaring Jesus, ‘My Lord and my God’. This beautiful Gospel underscores for us the presence of the Risen One amid our fears, his empowering of us, and our need to be always connected to our discipleship communities.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 763. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY) / A

12 APRIL 2026

I AM SENDING YOU. When we gather for Eucharist each Sunday the risen Christ comes among us and offers us his gift of peace. Our celebration gives us joy and strengthens our faith. But we cannot stay inside the church with its doors locked. At the end of Mass we are sent out, commissioned to bring the love and mercy of Christ to all who continue to bear in their bodies the wounds of crucifixion.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON 1 Pet 2:2
Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. Your are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood

they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
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.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his 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. I was thrust, 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.**
3. 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 Pet 1:3-9
A reading from the first letter of St Peter
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 had 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 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.
R. Thanks be to God.

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
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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

ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia **ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Fr. Vincent Nguyen
Parish Website: <https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong> **Facebook:** St Mary's Parish Dandenong
Parish Phone: 9791-4611 **Email:** dandenong@cam.org.au **Address:** 160 Foster Street, Dandenong
PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel **FINANCE OFFICER:** Deslene de Niese
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm (**Mondays office closed**)
PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER: Mr. Miguel Matamala
St. Mary's Community Centre Tel: 7064 3928 or 0402 155 192



St. Mary's Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner
St. John's Regional College Phone: 8793 2000 Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 9.15am
Saturday Evening: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 9.15am
Friday (9.45am –12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANNOINTING MASS

Last Friday of every month 9.15 am

DAILY ROSARY

After morning Mass Mon-Sat (Fridays will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE OR HOUSE BLESSING

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing.

REGULAR GROUP MEETING ST MARY'S PARISH

LEGION OF MARY:

Saturday mornings after 9:15am mass in the Fellowship Room followed by Rosary

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP :

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church

ST MARY'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB:

3rd Wednesday of month lunch meet at Dandenong RSL.12pm

BINGO AT ST MARY'S

St. Mary's Bingo is on Tuesdays at 12noon & Saturdays at 6.30pm in St Mary's Community Centre, New St, Dandenong

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Jesus' proclamation, 'Peace be with you', is more than a greeting, Pope Leo XIV says. Rather, it is a gift which 'truly brings about a lasting transformation in those who receive it, and consequently in all of reality.'

Having 'conquered death and broken down the walls of division that separate humanity', Jesus shares his peace with us so that we may share it too. 'His presence, his gift and his victory', the Pope says, 'continue to shine through the perseverance of many witnesses through whom God's work carries on in the world, becoming even more visible and radiant in the darkness of our times.'

'In order to overcome the darkness,' the Pope reflects, 'it is necessary to see the light and believe in it. This is a call that Jesus' disciples are invited to live in a unique and privileged way.'

'Peace is a breath of the eternal', the Pope reminds us. Indeed, he adds, 'Saint Augustine urged Christians to forge an unbreakable bond with peace, so that by cherishing it deeply in their hearts, they would be able to radiate its luminous warmth around them.'

'Peace is more than just a goal', the Pope wants us to understand, because 'it is a presence and a journey' we are all called to share.

Permanent Diaconate Information Session - **2 May 2026** - The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 50+, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. It is an opportunity to further discern your vocation. Wives most welcome. The session will be on Saturday morning, 2nd May, 10.00am–11.30am in person at The Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne. Email: Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with full name and parish. All are welcome.



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.

Why listening matters in the Church

Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the Christian tradition, listening is an act of humility and faith. We believe that God can speak through the experiences, joys, and struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us that listening is a form of love and a path to wisdom.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: James Leime Lohitai, Fr Grant O'Neill, Christopher Sly,
Anniversaries: *Alessandro Presta, Cecilia Dinh, Martha De Souza, Peter Netto & Bruce Netto, Maria Concetta Lamanna*

Sick: Kulandhai Therese, Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch, Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatrebornes, Sandra Wills, Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D'Costa, Satty Lee, Ping Lo, Robyn, Fr Brendan Lane, Anne Richards, Gervais Tourmentin, Ashleigh Wills, Anthony Morri, Lyma Payne, Eva Salvacion Satuito, Fr Michael Willemsen, Vreni Bien, Robyn Campbell Rosario Giaquinta, Joanna Van Der Ven, Ricky (*The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed*) in the Marian.

"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge for all souls, especially sinners. On that day, the depths of My mercy are open, and I pour out graces on all who approach. Let no soul fear to come to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet."

— St. Faustina, Diary 699

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 12, 2026

DANDENONG DEANERY Theme The Voices That Echo the Glory of God through Peace & Mercy on Wednesday **29th April 2026** at Graduate's Restaurant, St John's Regional College, Caroline Street, Dandenong. At 5.30pm for 5.45pm start. Cost is \$48 per person (incl. 3 course meal wine & Beer) Guest Speaker is Dalal Smiley Well-springs for Women CEO. RSVP phone Paddy 0422 296 961 e-mail: dandenongdeanery@live.com.au. by Friday 24th April 2026

A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple. No group sharing is required. The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. To be held on **April 24 - 26th** St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South. Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm. Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or E:vicbookings@wwme.org.au, W: wwme.org.au

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thanksgiving: \$1506.00 **Presbytery** \$652.00 **Good Friday Collection:** \$2933.00
Support our Parish If you would like to make direct payments to our bank accounts, the details are:
St Mary's General Account: (Thanksgiving & Donations) NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 483196852
For contributions to support our priests and the Archdiocese:
Presbytery Account: NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 460761193

St. Mary's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adult

GOD AND BEER MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2026

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM FOOTY, FAMILY AND FAITH: At the next God and Beer, Steve Lawrence will speak on the theme of Catholic Leadership: what it means to lead with faith, courage and integrity in today's world. Drawing on his experience in being a husband and father, faith ministry, education and leadership formation, Steve will explore how ordinary Catholics can become the kind of leaders who strengthen families, parishes and communities.

ABOUT STEVE LAWRENCE: Steve Lawrence has spent decades forming and mentoring Catholic leaders. He has worked extensively in Catholic Youth Ministry and played a key role in World Youth Day Sydney 2008 as Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis. Along with his wife, Annie, he led the Emmanuel Community School of Mission in Rome, training young missionaries from around the world, and now leads the [Altum Leadership Group](#), which focuses on inspiring and equipping leaders in Catholic institutions. Oh yeah and he played in a [premiership for Hawthorn](#), no big deal. This promises to be an evening of good conversation, fellowship, and faith. We hope you'll join us!

Topic: Leadership Lessons from Footy, Family and Faith **Speaker:** Steve Lawrence

Date: Monday 13th April **Time:** 6.30pm dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk

Venue: Notting Hill Hotel, [Steakhouse Room](#), 260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd., Notting Hill

Tickets: [Free \(but limited\) - click here](#) For videos of past God and Beer events [visit this link](#).

GOD AND BEER: An initiative of the Knights of the Southern Cross to bring together people of all ages from across the south-east suburbs of Melbourne each month.