



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY) / A

12 APRIL 2026

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.

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.**

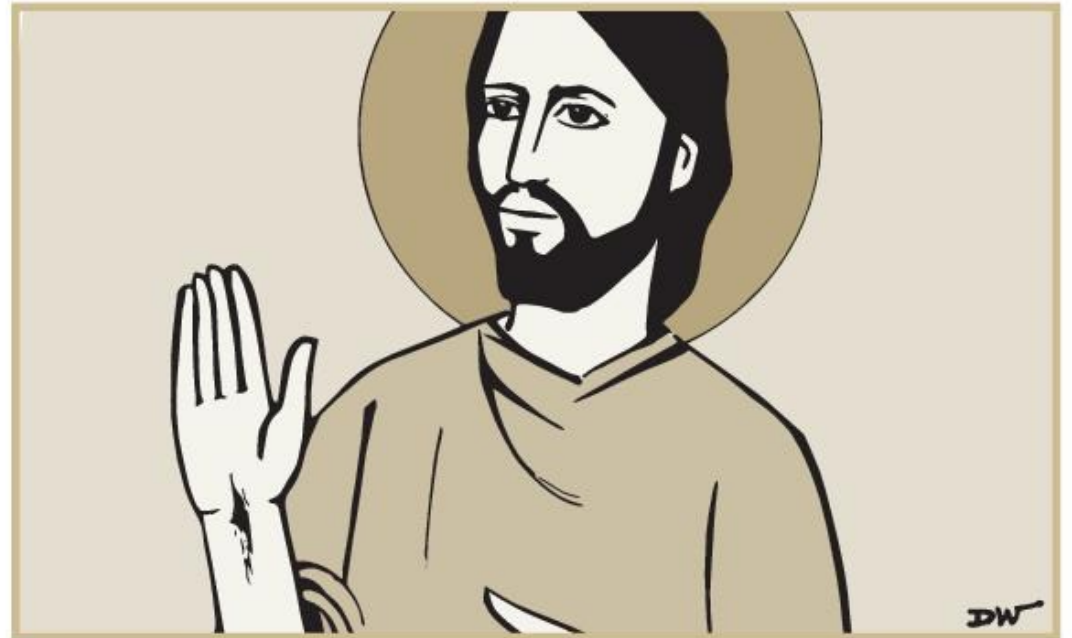
SECOND READING

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.

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



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC
Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

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

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

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-mins before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$1041.50 Presbytery: \$1091.50

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm S Bettoni

Sunday 9:00am D Duffy 10:30am M Dinh

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 19 Apr: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Thanksgiving



Additional Weekday Masses

We are happy to announce that starting this coming week, we will be celebrating the following extra Masses in addition to our existing schedule:

Tuesdays: 10:00am at Holy Cross

Wednesdays: 10:00am at St Joseph's

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag.

Contact the Parish Office to apply. A refundable deposit will be required. Concessions available on application.



Returning Your Project Compassion Boxes



Easter continues for quite a few weeks and, in a way, the celebration never stops.

Please return all your Project Compassion Boxes during Mass collections, latest by Sunday 19th April.

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

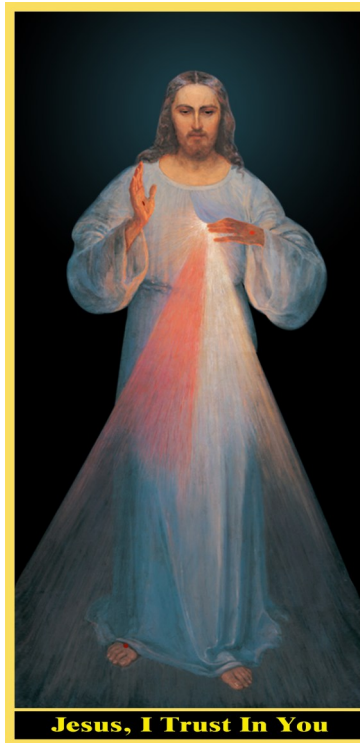
Those who are ill*: -

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: John Mulholland

Death Anniversary: -

Divine Mercy Feast at Holy Cross Church



Jesus, I Trust In You

Come and be part of "The Greatest Gift of God to Our Time". The World is in desperate need of God's Mercy.

Let us implore the Mercy of God on ourselves and on the whole world.

Feast of Mercy

Complete Forgiveness of both Sin and Punishment

Sunday, 12th April

1:00pm Confessions - 6 Priests

1:30pm Adoration, Prayers, Hour of Mercy, Holy Mass

* 1st Class Relics: St Faustina, St John Paul II, Bl. Fr Sopock.

* Inspiring Divine Mercy Polish Priest Fr Gregory Szumera, Professor from Czestochowa.

Combined Societies of Mary ~ Joy Hunt 95092207
www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com



Building the Synodal Way Together



We are invited to continue growing as a Church that listens, learns, and walks together. The Synodal Way calls each of us - clergy, religious, and lay - to participate actively in discernment and dialogue, guided by the Holy Spirit. In the coming weeks, we will focus on deepening our commitment to:

- Listening with an open heart to the experiences, hopes, and concerns of others.
- Engaging in meaningful conversation, grounded in respect, humility, and prayer.
- Strengthening our sense of communion, recognising Christ at the centre of our shared mission.
- Discerning pathways forward, so that our parish and wider Church can respond more faithfully to the needs of our time.

Reflection question: How can we deepen our understanding of synodality in our parish life?

The first meeting of the Diocesan Synod Commission will be held on Thursday 9 April. We ask for your prayers as we gather to discern and plan for the work of the Synod.

If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod email: Synod2026@cam.org.au

Small Group Discipleship

We are seeking adults who feel called to walk with teenagers - mentoring them in faith, building relationships, and witnessing to Christ.

If interested, please register for an online information session with international speaker Everett Fritz, President and Founder of Andrew Ministries.

The information session is scheduled for Saturday 18 April 2026, 11am - 12noon. Online link provided upon registration with Elsternwick@cam.org.au or Glenhuntly@cam.org.au

Please prayerfully consider this invitation. Come, discern and be part of forming the next generation of disciples. All welcome!

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 25th April



The Youth & Young Adults' Group will host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.

Light supper and fellowship after Mass at St Joseph's Presbytery, followed by a discussion on "Defending Our Catholic Faith".

Please encourage young people of our 2 Parishes to attend.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please register only ONE organization for our amalgamated Parish, using the following details:

Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

2. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Congratulations again to Blair and Josie for receiving their Sacrament of Baptism-Confirmation-and Eucharist and to David for receiving his Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil Mass at Holy Cross Church, Caulfield South.

We are all invited to join them to enter the period of Mystagogy; to unpack their experience and further explore what is contained in the Sacraments as they continue in their personal lives of faith.

Sessions resume Thursdays from 16 April, 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick.

Permanent Diaconate Information Session



The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and the 50s, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service.

This 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.

If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison, Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with your full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome.

Event Date: **Saturday 2 May 2025 10.00am-11.30am**

Venue: **Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne**

The Feast of the Divine Mercy

This is the 2nd Sunday in the Liturgical Season of Easter.

This is also the 8th day after the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ.

"The eighth day, symbolic of our last day on earth, entering into eternity to clean us up and that we're spotless.

"On this one day, Jesus promises the floodgates of his mercy are open."

"Jesus says on this one day, you can be forgiven not only of all sin, but also of all punishment," he continues.

"It is wiped clean, and your soul will never be cleaner than it is on your original baptism.



In Saint Faustina's diary, Jesus explains how to obtain the unique graces on Divine Mercy Sunday:



"The soul that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day, all the Divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened.

Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though his sins be as scarlet...Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of My Mercy." (Diary, 699)

What makes the Divine Mercy Sunday grace so unique?

To obtain a plenary indulgence throughout the year, the individual must be detached from all sin, which is very difficult.

However, Jesus does not require complete detachment from sin with the special graces he offers on Divine Mercy Sunday. This is the only time complete detachment from sin is not required.

Divine Mercy Sunday - Plenary Indulgence

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.

In Reparation for and Healing From Abortion

25 April 2026, 9am and every 4th Saturday, St Patrick's Cathedral. Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone (Wellington Pde, East Melbourne).

Contact: Helpers of God's Precious Infants - 0407 090 367

Spiritual Adoption of the Unborn Child

The Spiritual Adoption of the unborn child is a means open to us all. It is an invisible golden spiritual thread that joins all pro-lifers everywhere - the love of the unborn child and his/her mother, father and family.

Copies of Spiritual Adoption prayer cards can be obtained from: Family Life International, PO Box 205 Broadway, NSW 2007 or call 02 9519 9111.

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.

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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