

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: 'Happy are those who have not seen yet believe.' In our Easter celebrations, we have listened to the Word and professed our faith. Now we turn to God in prayer for all our needs.

Reader: For charity towards others in the community.
All: The first Christians practiced charity and care for one another. May we too be concerned for those in our communities who need our prayers, our time and our generosity.

Reader: For an awareness that we are God's children.
All: Scripture teaches us that we are children of God. May we be aware that we are begotten by God and live by faith as God commands us.

Reader: For the gift of faith.
All: Like Thomas, may we long to see the risen Jesus. May we grow in faith recognising him in the broken bread and the wine shared—everlasting signs of God's presence with God's people.

Reader: For the gift of forgiveness.
All: Jesus commanded his followers to forgive one another. May we be people of forgiveness, accepting one another in love, no bearing grudges but striving to live in in peace with all.

Presider: God of love, we have died with Christ and now live with him. May we be eager to obey the commandments of God and to forgive one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PLEASE ASSIST OUR VOLUNTEERS AFTER TODAY'S MASS
Many hands make light work.
 If you are able please assist to sanitise the church after Mass.

ORGAN RECITAL ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PADDINGTON Sunday 25 April 2021, 2:30pm

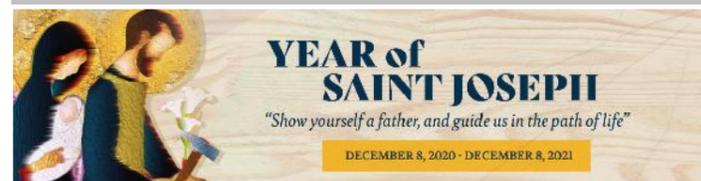
You are invited to join Thomas Wilson, the director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, and the St Mary's Cathedral Choral Scholars at St Francis on Sunday 25 April at 2:30pm.

This is the first public recital on the new 104 stop, 4 manual digital organ designed specifically for St Francis of Assisi, Paddington.

**Note donation, no bookings required.
 All welcome.**

It is intended to present organ and choral recitals on the 4th Sunday of each month, April through November.

The May recital will be given by James Goldrick and the Choir of St Francis directed by Noel Debien.



Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.



Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington, St Joseph Edgecliff and the 8:45am Mass at Double Bay
 In the care of the Franciscans since 1879

St Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford St Paddington : St Joseph Church 12 Albert St Edgecliff

Parish Office: 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 Tel: 02 9331 4043

Website: www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com Email: office@stf-stj.com

April 2021: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) Year B

Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter)

Since 2000, the second Sunday of Easter has also been known as Divine Mercy Sunday. On the occasion of the canonisation of Sr Faustina Kowalska on 30 April 2000, Pope John Paul II in his homily said, "Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr Faustina. By divine Providence, the life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of 20th century. It was between the First and Second World Wars that Christ entrusted his message of mercy to her. Those who remember, were witnesses and participants in the events of those years and the horrible sufferings they caused for millions of people, know well how necessary was the message of mercy".

We are now in 21st Century, and society has changed significantly especially in the last few decades. News and social media world give me the impression that society in general is reacting strongly with emotion. There is an outpouring of emotion whenever tragedy occurs. People show support and identify with victims. They are quick to condemn and react to any perceived injustice, but then move to other things in life. Feeling evaporates and attention turns to other emerging issues. Feeling sorry for others is important, and equally important is the consideration of how things need to change for common good. The death of Jesus ends in resurrection; Christians are constantly reminded of transformation.

Walter Kasper in his book, Mercy, examines God's mercy. He looks at empathy and compassion as a starting point for theological reflection. As disciples of Jesus Christ we continue to discover the meaning of following Jesus. Through the history of the Church we come to appreciate different forms of expression from martyrdom in the early Church, to a life of poverty by St Francis. Practising self-sacrifice, has been a way of embracing the cross, which is transformative. When we stand in solidarity with others, we move from inward looking spirituality to love of neighbour. There needs to be cultural shift and action, moving from feeling sorry to corporal and spiritual work of mercy. Change of attitude and actions can inspire and motivate social and political change. Kasper writes, Mercy is the essence of the Gospel and the key to Christian life.

Fr Anthoni ofm

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY : APRIL

St. Faustina was a nun who, in the 1930s, received a series of private revelations centred on God's mercy. One revelation involved praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a prayer taught to St. Faustina by Christ during her visions. Using Rosary or Chaplet beads, say the following:

Sign of the Cross.

1 Our Father.

1 Hail Mary.

The Apostle's Creed.

On Decade beads:

On the Our Father Bead:

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.

On each of the 10 Hail Mary Beads:

For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Conclude (3 times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One,
 Holy Immortal One,
 Have mercy on us and on the whole world.



WEEKEND MASS COLLECTIONS

The practice of two collections will resume at Sunday Mass. COVID safe practices will continue to apply. We need volunteers to assist with the collection, if you are able to help please check in with the volunteers at the door.

First Collection: (After the Homily). For the upkeep of the Friars.

Second Collection: (After the Prayers of the Faithful). For the support of your parish including building maintenance, operating costs, church and altar supplies and support of parish ministries and programs.

Easter Offering: This week you will find Easter Offering envelopes in your bulletin, this is a special offering to the clergy over the Easter period. You can support the Franciscan Friars in our parish by contributing through this envelope if you were unable last weekend.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL—CHRISTMAS APPEAL: PADDINGTON

A cheque for \$1,771 was this week delivered to Centre 360. This represents 20% of the donations our St Vincent de Paul appeal received at Christmas. Thank you for your support. - Marion O'Farrell

RCIA

Our RCIA program is currently on hiatus. We will advise of the return date in an upcoming Parish Bulletin

BE A MAN: AN ONLINE COURSE ON MASCULINE THEOLOGY

The Life, Marriage and Family Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney invites you to Join author of *Esto Vir* (Latin for Be A Man) Fr Paul Chandler on Zoom as we journey deep into God's plan for masculinity. This is a very exciting free opportunity for men: Fr Paul has a PhD in Masculine Theology, and all you need to purchase is Fr Paul's book! Dates: 21 April; 5 May; 19 May; 26 May; 09 June (All Wednesdays) Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Visit www.sydneycatholic.org/beaman to register.

You will receive a Zoom link in your confirmation email. Cost: Free!



WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass and take home one of our Welcome Packs to find out more about your new community.

Welcome Packs are available by contacting the Parish Office.

OUR PARISH

Anthoni Selvaraj ofm - Parish Administrator
Francisco Basnayake ofm & Joseph Nguyen ofm - Assistant Priests
Ruth Rawlinson - Parish Manager
Alanna Sparks & Cate Stivala - Parish Secretary
Tanith Bryce - Cantor, Edgecliff
Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne - Music Dir. & Organist Paddington
Nicole Smeulders - Cantor Paddington
Emma-Gai Gold & Alanna Sparks - Safeguarding Support Officers
Louise O'Brien - Principal, St Francis of Assisi Primary School



WEEKLY SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

No Bookings required. Contact free check-in is required at the door.

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Monday to Friday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 11:00am & 5:30pm

Reconciliation prior to the Friday evening Mass (from 5pm).

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Monday to Friday: 9am

Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:30am & 10:00am

Reconciliation from 5pm Saturday prior to Vigil Mass.

Are you or a loved one unable to attend Mass at this time?
 If you would like to receive a visit in your home please contact the Parish Office.

We remember those in need of our prayers: our deceased, those in hospital, nursing homes, the homebound and defence force personnel.

Recently Deceased: Bramwell Wright, Jim Alivia, Marcelo, Marika Gubasci, Jose Herrera, Eva Beck, Wilga Wilschefska, Sue Gherdovich, Ken Finn, Patrick Donovan, Carol Ashford, George Farah, Betty Byrne, Peter-John Young, Maureen Marston, John Ryan, Sandra Soady, Ian Johnstone, Kholofelo Dzvukamanja, Sesarina Bau RSC, Elaine Boys, Aquino Lanjoan, Mary Cook RSC, Marie Arakelian, Maria Orner, Tina Chen Visage, Pauline Babicci OSC, Frances Spicer, Bessie Leadbeatter, Maria Pullin, Barbara & Edgar Matthews, William Whitehair, Maurice Scully, Tony Fraser, Barry Watts, Holy Souls.

Mass Intentions: James Alexander Adamovitch, Dionosio Solis, Jim Evans, Jaiil Tanous, Marion Orr, Jack & Maureen Brett, Patricia Brett, Nan Kelly, Molly & Herbert Odillo Maher, Terry Bostock, Nell Atkinson, Elizabeth Considine Conley, Jacques Bernard Pienovi, Andrew Georgiou, Giuliano family, Bryan & Ashleigh Paton, Margret Austin, Janice Hui, John McCue, Manfred Lemech, Piper Family, Geoffrey & Patricia Hughes, Suzanne Carver, Conception Family, Marie Therese Whelan, Margaret-Mary Kiernan, Helen Boyd, Richard Connolly, The Kelly Family, Elson & Marie Sang, Eibhlin Killen, Ian Stewart, Catherine Murnane, June Fabbro, Dr George & Anne Duncan, Frank & Anne McDonald, Frank, Lena & Anne Kaine, Herbert Graham, Mee-Na Cheok, Peter Meagher, Betty Burnett, Helen & Jeffrey Moy, Tony Ponte, Anne Stabb, David Roderick, Nancy Rickard Jane, Holy Souls.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, contact the police. You can also contact the *Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office*: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or on 93905810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



Archdiocese
 Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
 Franciscan Friars Australia



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Parish
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www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com
www.sydneycatholic.org

Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful reparation for those who have suffered clerical and institutional sexual abuse.

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / B (DIVINE MERCY)

11 APRIL 2021

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.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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 of 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

EXPERIENCING THE RISEN LORD

The picture of the early church which Luke paints for us is a striking one. Everything is shared in common and it seems that Luke is at pains to highlight the radical difference the encounter with Jesus Risen made in their lives. What must other people have thought about this new group in Jerusalem? One minute they were a rabble, a rudderless ship after their leader Jesus was killed. Now they were found united sharing their faith and their goods. They were now respected, and their leaders were fearlessly giving witness that Jesus was not dead but alive. At times people look at the difference between the early church’s experience and our experience and wonder why things seem to have gone off the boil. What keeps us from letting the new life of Easter change our lives? Part of the answer lies in our own hearts. We can be afraid of allowing Jesus to enter into our lives and change us so radically. As John knows all too well, it’s not the world that is the biggest obstacle for the person of faith, it’s our own heart and the defences we have established there! There is a journey that must be made that no one else can make for us. The witness of the other disciples cannot substitute for Thomas his own experience of Jesus as the Risen One. When Jesus stands before him there is no more need for defences, no need to test what he knows to be true. Now, he too, can begin to live.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE. Our belief in the teachings and resurrection of Jesus prompts us to be a part of the Christian community. In turn, our experience of Christian community strengthens our faith. It was only when Thomas was with the other disciples that he met the risen Christ and came to believe in him. It is a simple truth that faith builds community and community builds faith.

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. You 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 4: 32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP 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. (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.**

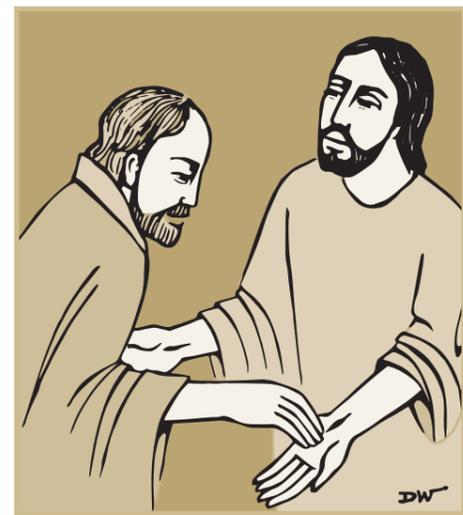
2. The Lord’s right hand has triumphed; / his right hand raised me up. / I shall not die, I shall live / and recount his deeds. / I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, / but not doomed to die. **R.**

3. 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.**

SECOND READING 1 Jn 5: 1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John
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.

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 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,’