



# PARISH NEWSLETTER

## PARISH PRIEST: *Father Joseph Kanatt MCBS*

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Sandgate Brighton Catholic Parish

Archdiocesan Safeguarding Office: 3324 3752

Local Safeguarding representative: Caren Rosenberg-O'Brien 0491 634 855

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (8:30am – 3:30pm)

**CLOSED WEDNESDAYS**

Parish Secretary: Liz Kelly

## Second Sunday of Easter Year A – 19 April 2020 (Divine Mercy Sunday)

### Second Sunday of Easter Year A

This is the second Sunday of Easter and the Divine Mercy Sunday. On this special Sunday, the Church continues to relish in the joy the risen Christ. We are called to celebrate the risen Christ the first fruit of all those who have fallen asleep, the hope of Christians, and the *Cause of Our Joy*.

The Corona Virus is still with us and still we are undergoing challenging times. So we need to have our trusting faith in the risen Lord. The opening prayer on this weekend addresses the Father as "God of everlasting Mercy." God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, by sending His only begotten Son to become our Saviour and Lord by His suffering, death and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments, which were instituted to sanctify us.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter is also known as the 'Divine Mercy Sunday.' Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Sr. Faustina in the 1930's and promised that he would bestow his Divine Mercy to any sinner that totally repents his/her sins, no matter how grave and our Lord would not refuse any soul that seeks his mercy. So this Sunday invites us to contemplate the mercy of God. We experience this Divine Mercy very tangibly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and also in Grace the gratuitous gift which God gives to us out of His compassion and merciful love. We know that it is not possible to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation physically but we can receive the forgiveness and grace by spiritually receiving the Sacrament by doing the act of contrition and seeking the mercy of God.

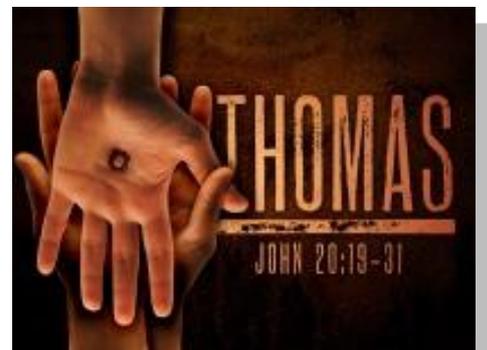
In today's gospel, Christ presented himself to his disciples. During this very important visit, He dispelled their fears and doubts. He restored their peace, and commissioned them as ministers of the sacrament of reconciliation.

It suffices to note that it was not easy for Thomas to believe that Christ has risen. As we witness to the risen Christ, we shall certainly encounter those (some Thomas) who will doubt our testimony. Let us not be bothered by their unbelief and stubbornness'. This is because; God himself will convince them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All we need is, to simply to pass on the message and leave Christ the risen Lord to convince them. So, like the Disciples of Christ, let us continue to announce the good news to the whole world that Jesus Christ our Lord has truly risen from the dead.

It is also to be noted that while the first gift of Easter is joy, the second one is peace. Anything that comes against joy and peace in our lives is not good for us. The person therefore, who fails to forgive his/her neighbour does not only lose his/her identity as a Christian but robs oneself of true peace. In the same vein, the one who doubts his/her faith loses true peace of mind and body. As ambassadors we are to represent Jesus and become dispensers of his peace.

Fr. Joseph Kanatt MCBS  
Parish Priest





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## FIRST READING: (Acts 2:42-47)

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.

## SECOND READING: (1 Peter 1:3-9)

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 spoiled 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 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.

## GOSPEL: (John 20:19-31)

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 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. 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.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** This Sunday, parishioners are invited to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm from home. There is a booklet attached to assist you.

**ANZAC DAY:** Next Saturday, 25 April, is Anzac Day. Fr Joseph will be offering a private Mass at 9am. All parishioners are invited to join in prayer for those who have and continue to serve to protect our freedom.

**PLANNED GIVING:** All parishioners are encouraged to continue their Planned Giving during this time.

- For those who contribute via envelopes or loose contributions, these contributions can be put into the locked letterbox at either 118 Brighton Road,
- Sandgate (Fr's letterbox) or 23 Greenwood Street (Parish Office). These letterboxes are cleared daily.
- Payment by credit card can be made via the parish website [sandgatebrightoncatholic.org.au](http://sandgatebrightoncatholic.org.au) [More ... Giving/Policy, Donations Bequests Payments, Donate Here – Parish Operating A/c]. This will take you to a BPoint page which automatically provides a receipt to your nominated email address; or
- Payments by phone can be made via the Parish Office through the Finance Officer every Thursday.

We appreciate all parishioners' consideration for the need to maintain financial security of the parish during this time.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** The weekly envelopes for Project Compassion can be left in Fr's letterbox at 118 Brighton Road, Sandgate or the Parish Office letterbox at 23 Greenwood Street, Brighton. All donations are gratefully received.

**PARISH BUDDY PROGRAM:** Thankyou to all those who have been keeping in regular contact with our most vulnerable parishioners. If you are or know someone who may like to receive a weekly call, please email the Parish Office.

*"In this life, we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with great love."  
Mother Teresa*



