



ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

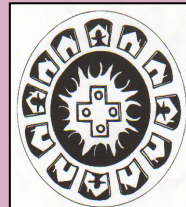
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*Christ in community...the
heart of our faith*

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

19 April 2020



*Readings for
this week:* Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31



*Readings for
next Sunday:* Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35



Liturgical Jottings Baptismal Water

The Easter Vigil is the Great Night for Baptisms but due to the virus precautions baptisms and the RCIA have been postponed. The Blessing of Easter or Baptismal Water and the Font, if celebrated at all, were without the people participating. The Old & New Testaments have many images of water. Water is a great physical symbol, carrying many spiritual meanings: washing away sin, dying and rising from the font, refreshment, life and power. Together with the words and the intentions of the Church the one baptised is reborn with sins forgiven, initiated into faith and community. During these times each baptism will have fresh water blessed each and every time.

Looking at the Readings

The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them. © Dianne Bergant CSA.

Good Idea for the Week

We expect cards at Christmas, but not at Easter. Letter drop your neighbourhood with a Resurrection card about Jesus' peace, love and forgiveness or an Anzac Card to others not of Christian faith, expressing hope, peace and mateship.

Pope Francis Easter Homily last year

Dear brothers and sisters: let us put the Living One at the centre of our lives. Let us ask for the grace not to be carried by the current, the sea of our problems; the grace not to run aground on the shoals of sin or crash on the reefs of discouragement and fear. Let us seek him in all things and above all things. With him, we will rise again.

On the Lighter Side

If I agreed with you we would both be wrong.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

When a teacher sends you out of the classroom you know you have won the argument.



Divine Mercy Sunday

**Pope John Paul 11 made the second Sunday of Easter
"Divine Mercy Sunday."**

**Jesus said to St Faustina "tell the whole world about
my inconceivable Mercy. I desire that Feast of
My Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls and
especially for poor sinners. On that day the very
depths of my tender mercy are open.**

**I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls
who approach the fount of My Mercy. On that day are
opened all the Divine floodgates through which graces
flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to me.
Let us prepare spiritually for this great feast."**

**"After eight days Jesus came in and
stood among them."**

Closed doors and locked-in fears are no barriers for
Jesus. He enters our homes and hearts to bring us
peace. Just as he did for the disciples, Jesus sends
us out to build communities of love and forgiveness.

~ Liturgy Brisbane

Dear Friend,

Thanks to technology our physical isolation did not stop
us from celebrating the Easter ceremonies with our
priests and bishops around the country. Indeed, the
number of options available meant we could have spent
all weekend at various services.

While grateful for the option of Mass at home, it also
underscored for me the communal nature of our services.
Truly I didn't know what I had until it was gone – the
emphatic responses from the crowd of massgoers, the not
so emphatic singing, the smiles and whispered
conversations, the feeling of being part of a group of
like-minded others.

That sense of community has always been a feature of
our Church. In his homily notes for this week,
Fr Brendan Byrne says that while the First Reading
from the Acts of the Apostles gives a rather idealised
view of early Church life it communicates a sense of the
power of the Spirit. 'One sign of the Spirit's presence is
the continuing increase in numbers of converts, drawn by
the sheer attractiveness of the communal life of believers
and the spirit of joy and thanksgiving palpable among
them.'

This week let us use all the resources available to foster
that community of spirit.

Blessings

Michele Frankeni
Australian Catholics assistant editor

'Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and
villages "curing every disease and illness." At
your command, the sick were made well. Come
to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread
of the coronavirus, that we may experience your
healing love...'

Excerpt from "A Coronavirus Healing Prayer"
www.divinemercy.com.au

*You can find more resources for
Divine Mercy Sunday from this website.*

**Mass with Bishop Shane at St Kilian's Church
Bendigo will continue to be livestreamed on
Sundays at 10am
www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au**

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE DROP OFF POINT

Access to the mail slot at the front of the Parish
Office is temporarily compromised due to
plumbing issues.

Any envelopes can now be put through the
opening in the FRONT DOOR of Fr Joe's
Presbytery.

**A sincere THANK YOU to those who have used this
option to pass on your contributions.**

CARITAS AUSTRALIA

If you have a **Project Compassion Box**, you can
bank your coins in the Sandhurst Caritas Account and
email caritasjustice@sandhurst.catholic.org.au for a
receipt. Details are **Name: RHayesKStone**
BSB: 083-760 Acc No: 66-451-1663

If you have **Project Compassion Envelopes**, you can
leave them at the St Brendan's Presbytery or post to
PO Box 130 Numurkah 3636 **OR** you can **donate**
online at www.caritas.org.au.

Recently Deceased: Harry Bertoli, Kevin Benson,
Michael Bowden, Barbara Bogdan,
Concetta Di Giammatteo, Jack Skahill (Bendigo),
Aileen O'Dwyer (Kilmore).

Anniversaries: Ede Bertoncini, Kevin Clurey,
Kevin McLaughlin, Bill Love.

**Fr Joe will pray intentions at a Private Mass -
please phone or email shepparton@cdos.org.au**