

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Divine Mercy Sunday

FIRST READING from the Acts of the Apostles.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24. R. v.1

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. Alleluia.

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.'

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.

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.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. Alleluia.

SECOND READING from the first letter of St Peter.

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 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 a 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 John 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 reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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 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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ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

Priest: Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

Parish Secretary: Glenda Klabbers

Parish Council Chair: Michelle Haeusler

Parish Safeguarding Officers:
Karen & Damien Kelly

St Mary's School Principal: Greg Lane

St Mary MacKillop Principal: Michelle Haeusler

Parish Office: Tuesday 10.00am - 2.00pm
Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Year A

23rd April 2017

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

Phone: 50324144

Email: swanhill@ballarat.catholic.org.au

The Parish of Swan Hill comprises of the faith Communities of:
St Marys Swan Hill,
St Joseph's Lake Boga

Mass Next Weekend:

Saturday	6.30 pm Vigil	Swan Hill
Sunday	8.30 am	Lake Boga
	10.30 am	Swan Hill

Mass this Week:

Tuesday:	5.30pm ANZAC Day Mass
Wed:	10.00am Anointing Mass
Thursday:	10.30 am Funeral Mass Kealan Snowden 2pm Funeral Prayers John Howley
Friday:	11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12 noon Mass

Mass Intentions:

Tuesday:	For all our Fallen Soldiers
Wednesday:	
Friday:	



Recently Deceased: We Commend to God :

Kealan Snowden, John Howley, Fr Frank Madden.

Anniversaries: We remember: Bruce Currie, Brian O'Brien, Angela McKay, Antonio Massara, Phyll Murray, Ellen Real, Brenda Patterson, Ray Finnemore, Anna Raudino.

Prayers for the Sick: Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Jarrod Crimmins, Joy Parsons.

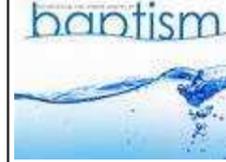
If you would like a sick person prayed for, please ask for their permission. After one month names will be deleted from the list unless otherwise advised.

An Easter Prayer God our Father, creator of all, today is the day of Easter joy. This is the morning on which the Lord appeared to men and women who had begun to lose their hope and opened their eyes to what the scriptures foretold: that first he must die, and then he would rise and ascend into his Father's glorious presence. May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of bread, and follow him in his risen life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions TODAY from 1pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament; Litany of Divine Mercy; Rosary; Prayer of Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Haydn Mahoney son of Nicholas and Sarah, Baptised on Saturday night and to Levi Jean-Louis, son of Aurelin and Cathy, Javier Milano, son of Phillip and Oscar Barresi, son of Dan and Shea, baptized on Sunday. May they grow in faith in their loving family and our Catholic Community



Baptism Preparation Program THIS MONDAY 24th April at 7.00 pm for parents of children being baptised in May, June or July.

Note Of Thanks

I would like to thank on behalf of the parish community all those who in what ever way helped with the Easter Ceremonies. If you helped prepare the church, donated flowers, read, special minister, music, and being involved. It was a great celebration of the Lord's Death and Resurrection. Thanks and God Bless

Fr Matt



THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD,
AS WE ARE LEFT TO GROW OLD
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE
SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM .

ST MARY'S MINISTRIES for 30th April 2017

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil Margaret Hoare, Mary Nolen.
10.30am: Dorothy Bishop , Brenda Grace

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Margaret Derham, Teresa McRae, Dick & Rene Devereux.
10.30 am: Frank Fogarty, Connie Alderuccio, Elma Balsarini, Ken Smith, Jocelyn Ingram.

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Josh & Glenda Klabbers,
10.30am : Jim & Rona Bookham.

Music Ministry:

Vigil: St Mary's
10.30am: St Mary's

Counters: Jocelyn Ingram, Yvonne Richardson.

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STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)	\$ 1810.40
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>	
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	\$ 908.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	
Envelopes	\$ 0.00
Credit Card	\$ 0.00
Direct Debit	\$ 217.80
Loose Plate	\$
Project Compassion: to date	\$ 1,119.75

Thank-You!

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READINGS NEXT WEEK 30th April Year A

1st Reading : Acts 2:14, 22-33

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

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Our Diocesan Community Magazine

There are copies of the ODC Magazine to collect in the foyer.

Some great articles from all around the Diocese. From Fr Marcello's Farewell page 23, New director of Centacare Mr Tony Fitzgerald, and many other items.

A Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Victoria

is available at the back of the church from the Bishop's in regards to Euthanasia.

Car Park

Just a friendly reminder that the car park in the church grounds is for those with a Disabled sticker, or people being dropped off and picked up. We ask that you do not park on the grass, as we have had to replace the sprinklers a couple of times. Thanks for your assistance with this.

One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies

A global prayer event will be held on May 5-7 for people to participate wherever they are at the time, by praying at least one rosary for an end to abortion. For more information and to register go to www.saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org

"Lessons from the Long Paddock" E-Conference

On Tuesday 6th June will be the date for the next econference focus is on the Spirituality of the Outback. Bishop Columba Macbeth Green OSPPE, (Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes) and Fr Frank Brennan SJ will be the main presenters. More information in later bulletins.

Mission Conference 2017- One Heart Many Voices

May 15-17 will be the Mission Conference, is for those who are inspired to strive creatively for justice, peace, reconciliation and God's Mission of Mercy. It is a unique opportunity to listen, converse, and experience the many and diverse voices that are an expression of the one heart of mission. The conference will explore the complexity and issues surrounding leadership, formation, theology and the practice of mission. For more information go to www.mohmv.com.au.

Ballarat Diocese Webpage

[Www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

This webpage contains current news and information on the diocese and parishes. E-news is available to all members of the diocese and those who are interested in the life of the Ballarat Diocese.

If you wish to subscribe or have an article for E-News email enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au

House Blessing

**May this house be a place of happiness
And health of contentment generosity and hope.
A home of creativity and kindness
May those who visit and those who visit
And those who live here know only blessing and peace.
Amen**

EASTER WATER

please feel free to bring your own container and help yourself to the water of new life in the Easter font for blessing of homes people, etc, in fact anything.

Reflection

by Michael Tate

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

mtate@bigpond.com

NEW DIOCESAN BUSINESS MANAGER:

After many years dedicated service to our Parishes, Mark Bromley is retiring from his current role to take up a new part time position.

Bishop Paul Bird has announced as his replacement Andrew Jirik who was born and raised in Swan Hill parish and is an experienced finance and accounting executive whom we hope and pray will serve our diocese well for many years.

Fr Frank Madden RIP

Fr Frank Madden died on Friday, April 20th age 90. Fr Madden was ordained in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on July 27th 1963. Fr Madden had spent the last years of his life as a senior priest of the Diocese, living in his home parish of Koroit. He had previously served as Parish Priest of Peshurst and prior to that in Horsham (1982 – 1997) where the iconic church of Ss Michael & John was built during the mid-1980's. In 1972 Fr Madden was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Ballarat.

WORDSEARCH

Try to find these words:

afraid	appeared	doubting
faith	finger	forgive
greeted	receive	scars
spear	Spirit	Thomas

O S P I R I T H F A I T H H G
T G V T O V D O U B T I N G Q
M V W I Q W Q W Z S C A R S B
V H F I N G E R F U D C M U Y
V Q Y H O O I S P E A R S A S
T O D A L M L H L W Y S N Q J
A P P E A R E D F O R G I V E
C O K V O W L F Q R B C G E A
R D P C W U I M E E H K B Z A
F J G R E E T E D C W G Q J F
M X D E T Q N T L E C C F E R
N K L K Q L G L L I R W S R A
M T S O J E P M Q V O B H G I
S Z T M T E K P Z E J G B W D
L Y K R S T H O M A S O I N V