

## NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, John Harnett, Ross Hay, Bernard Carroll, Taine Woodford, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Rick Christensen, Emma Spinks, John Mehl, Therese Masserot and Jenny Hopkins.

**BIRTHDAY:** Peter McGarry celebrated his 93rd Birthday on 14 April. We hope you had a lovely day celebrating with family and friends Peter.

**BAPTISMS:** This Sunday we welcome Elodie Rzepa, Harry Strahan and George Jamieson into the Parish. Please keep the children and their family in your prayers.

**CONFIRMATION:** Enrolment emails will be sent out on 11 May. Commitment Masses will held on the weekend of 20-21 May with the Sacrament of Confirmation taking place on **Sunday, 25 June at 10am Mass.**

**CONDOLENCES/FUNERAL:** Parishioners will be saddened to learn of John Hayes's passing last Saturday. John's funeral will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Church on Thursday, 20 April at 11am.

**OFFICE HOURS NEXT TWO WEEKS:** The office will be open on Tuesday, and Wednesday, 18 and 19 April and **closed Friday, 21 April.** The office will be also be **closed on Wednesday, 26 April** and open on Thursday and Friday, 27 and 28 April.

**HOLY WEEK/EASTER:** Thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes over the last two weeks as they supported me during the Holy Week processions, liturgies and Masses. Thank you to all who generously undertook the set up and contributed the lamb, bread, salads and breads for our Paschal Meal and the celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Holy Thursday. Thank you also to the Liturgical Committee who arranged for readers, Eucharist servers, Apostles and collectors during the Easter services and the musical accompaniment. Your time and generosity is very much appreciated and valued immensely. Thank you again and may God Bless you all—Fr Anthony Riosa, SSS.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, 16 APRIL:** Confession with the Blessed Sacrament exposed followed by Mass at 3pm today. All welcome.

**GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL:** Thank you to all who gave so generously to the **Good Friday Holy Land Collection** and Easter Offering. We will keep you updated on the Project Compassion Caritas appeal when all the boxes and envelopes have come in.

## NOTICE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE



# Thank You!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online.

**Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.



# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537

Phone: 4474 2024 Email: [moruya@cg.org.au](mailto:moruya@cg.org.au)

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr Anthony Riosa, SSS

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm

**Mass Times:**

**Moruya:** Sat: Vigil 6:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:30pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

**Tuross:** Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month at 3:00pm/3rd Thursday of the month 9:00am

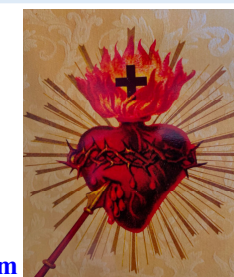
**Reconciliation:** Sat @ Moruya: 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-9:00am before Mass

5:15pm-5:45pm before Mass

**Devotions:** Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** 40 mins before weekday Mass

**Schools:** St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

**Caring Groups:** Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993



Second Sunday of Easter

- YEAR A -

April 15 & 16 2023



## Divine Mercy Sunday

**“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
For His mercy endures forever” (Ps 11)**

**“Rejoice, all you creatures, for you are closer to God in His infinite  
mercy than a baby to its mother's heart” (Diary of St Faustina, verse 423)**

Jesus said to Saint Faustina “I desire that you know more profoundly the love that burns in My Heart for souls, and you will understand this when you meditate upon My passion. Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners. I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give him the grace of conversion. This is the prayer”:

**“O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a  
fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You” (Diary of St Faustina, verse 187)**

*This picture contains the message “Jesus, I trust in You!” (Jezu ufam Tobie). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.*

The **readings** for this Sunday are about mercy, trust and the forgiveness of sins. The opening prayer addresses the Father as “God of Mercy”. In the Psalm we repeat several times “His mercy endures forever”. “Give thanks to the Lord, He is good; for His mercy endures forever!” Besides mentioning the word, our readings illustrate mercy in action. How does God reveal His mercy? He does so, 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 in each celebration of the sacraments.

The **first reading** explains how the Risen Lord continued to show his divine mercy to the sick through the healing and preaching ministry of his apostles in the early Church. The Apostles' faith enabled them to minister the Lord's healing love through “signs and wonders”. The Book of Revelation was written to comfort and bolster the faith of the persecuted Christians by reassuring them of the presence of the merciful Lords in their lives. The **second reading**, taken from this book encourages Christians to fight fear with faith, and trepidation about the future with trust and hope.

In today's **gospel**, as we recall Jesus' appearance to the disciples on that first Easter evening, we are vividly reminded of the Sacrament of Reconciliation—the power to forgive sins which Our Lord gave to his apostles. “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them. And whose sins you retain are retained” (Jn 20-23). Today's **gospel** also emphasises the importance of faith in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord of mercy. To believe without having seen is every latter Christian's experience.

# Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading Act 2:42-47

A 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

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24, R. v.1

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

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 Pt 1:3-9

A 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

**All: 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

**All: And with your spirit**

**P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

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

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

We are invited to receive liberation from doubts and hesitation by surrendering our lives to the risen Lord of mercy. Let us ask God our Father today, to open our hearts so that we may receive His Mercy in the form of His Holy Spirit.

**Entrance Antiphon:** Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

**Prayer after Communion:** Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you. O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

## THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

**1) An invitation to celebrate and practice mercy:** One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to observe Divine Mercy. The gospel command "*Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful*" demands that we show mercy to our fellow man always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others by our actions, our words and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgement.

**2) Faith, culminating in self-surrender to God,** leads us to the service of our fellow man. Living faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each of our loving service. ("*Faith without good works is dead*" James 2:17). It was this faith in the Lord and obedience to his missionary command that prompted St Thomas to travel to India to preach the gospel among the Hindus, establish seven Christian communities (known later as St Thomas Christians) and eventually face martyrdom. The Fathers of the Church prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic faith of St Thomas the Apostle: A) we must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by the daily and meditative reading of the Bible. B) We must share in the divine life of Jesus by frequenting the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. Mother Teresa presents it this way: "If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action".

**3) A challenge for the transparent Christian life**—"I will not believe unless I see". This "seeing" is what others demand of us. They ask that we reflect Jesus, the Risen Lord, in our lives, by selfless love, unconditional forgiveness and humble service. The integrity of our lives is a fundamental witness to others, who want to see the Risen Lord alive and active and working in our lives. Christ's mercy shines forth as we remain open to those who struggle in faith, as did the Apostle Thomas in today's Gospel. We should be able to appreciate the presence of Jesus, crucified and raised, in our own suffering and in our suffering, thus recognising the glorified wounds of the Risen Lord in the suffering of others.

**4) Like St Thomas let us use our skepticism to help growth in faith.** It is our genuine doubts about the doctrines of our religion that encourage us to study these doctrines more closely and thus to growth in our faith. This will naturally lead us to a personal encounter with Jesus through prayer, study of the Word of God, and frequenting of the sacraments. However, we must never forget the fact that our faith is not our own doing, but a gift from God. Hence, we need to augment our faith every day by prayer so that we may join St Thomas in his proclamation: "*My Lord and my God*".

**5) Let us have the courage of our convictions to share our faith as St Thomas did.** We are not to keep the gift of faith locked in our hearts, but to share it with or children, our families and our neighbours, always remembering the words of Pope John XXIII "*Every believer in this world must become a spark of Christ's light*".