

FIRST RECONCILIATION: On Wednesday, 10 April at Sacred Heart Church, 5pm. **Go to Confession as a Family**— Aside from practicing how to go to confession with your child, practice actually going to confession as a family. As parents, we are the first educators for our children when it comes to our Faith. However, the best way to really teach our children about the Faith is to practice it by living it out in our every day life. Showing your child that you can take the time to go to confession makes a deeper and longer-lasting impression than all the hours you might spend talking or reading about it with them.

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL: Thank you to our Parishioners who gave generously to the **Good Friday Holy Land Collection**. Over \$635 was raised.

PROJECT COMPASSION: To date \$1598.05 has been raised! If you still have boxes and envelopes at home, please bring them in and place in the Mass collections or deliver to the Parish Office.



A sincere thank you to **Jan Morris** and her band of helpers for setting up and providing the bountiful banquet for the Paschal Meal on Wednesday of Holy Week.

... And thank you again to our musicians and choir; for all who attended the Holy Week services; for our selfless Parishioners who worked tirelessly, alongside Fr George, to prepare, serve and present the liturgies so meaningfully.



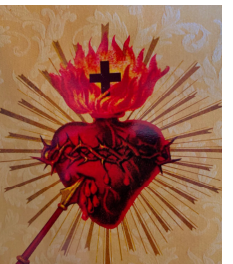
This flower is called Peristeria Elata, it's an orchid from Brazil, which carries the dove of Peace and only blossoms during Holy Week. They say, it should be sent from person to person sending the blessings of the Holy Spirit and Divine Providence to them. Blessings to everyone this Easter season! Amen



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



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Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>
Priest: Fr George Azhakath
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am
Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am
Reconciliation: Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass
1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am
Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass
Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600
Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

2nd Sunday of Easter - YEAR B - 6 & 7 April 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!” (Ps 118)

The readings for this Sunday are about mercy, trusting faith and the forgiveness of sins. The opening prayer addresses the father as “God of Mercy.” In the **Responsorial Psalm** we repeat several times, *“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for His mercy endures forever!”* (Ps 118) Besides mentioning the word, our readings illustrate mercy in action. How did God reveal His mercy? He did 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** from the Acts of the Apostles gives a summary portrait of the life of the early Christian community before the Jews and the Romans started their persecutions. It was a community which practised sharing love, compassion and the mercy of God as taught by Jesus. It was also a witnessing community deriving its strength from community prayer, “the breaking of the bread” and the teachings of the apostles which were read at the worship service.

The **second reading** is from the epistle of Peter. He reminded the early Christians that Jesus Christ had shown them great mercy by giving them a new birth to a living hope of an imperishable heavenly inheritance through his resurrection. He warned them of the trials waiting for them and challenged them to keep their faith. These reminders also apply to us in our world. In today's **gospel** we recall Jesus' appearance to the disciples on that first Easter evening which vividly reminds us of the Sacrament of Reconciliation—the sacrament of divine mercy—in 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”.*

The **Gospel** also emphasises the importance of faith in the all pervading presence of the risen Lord, the source of divine mercy, in the Christian community. We believe without having seen. We are invited to accept liberation from doubts and hesitation by surrendering our lives to the risen Lord of mercy.

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.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial 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.

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 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 1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John

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

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel John 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

Entrance Antiphon: Like newborn children you should thirst for milk, on which your spirit can grow to strength, alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Jesus spoke to Thomas: Put your hand here, and see the place of the nails. Doubt no longer, but believe, alleluia.

WORD AND LIFE this week....

1) We need to celebrate and practise 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 receive Divine Mercy. The gospel command, “***Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful***” demands that we show mercy to our fellow human beings 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 practise mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God’s merciful judgment.

2) Because of our faith, culminating in self-surrender to God, we need to love and serve: Living faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each one 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, to establish seven Christian communities (known later as “St Thomas Christians”) and, eventually, to face and suffer 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 need to come to know Jesus intimately in daily, meditative reading of the Bible. (b) We need to strengthen our faith by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal and community prayer. (c) We need to share in the divine life of Jesus by frequenting the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. Mother Teresa said: “***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) We need to live a transparent Christian life— “*I will not believe unless I see*” This “*seeing*” is what others demand of us. They ask that we reflect the Risen Lord Jesus in our lives by selfless love, unconditional forgiveness and humble service. The integrity of our lives bears a fundamental witness to others, who want to see the Risen Lord alive and active, working in our lives. Christ’s mercy shines forth from us whenever we reach out to the poor, the needy and the marginalised, as Mother Teresa did. His 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 brothers and sisters, thus recognising the glorified wounds of the Risen Lord in the suffering of others.

4) Like St Thomas we need to use our scepticism to help us grow 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 grow in our faith. This process will naturally lead us to a personal encounter with Jesus through prayer, studying the Word of God, and frequenting the sacraments. However, we must never forget the fact that our faith is not our own doing, but is 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.***”

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

We continue to 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, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Barry Morris, Christopher Morris, John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, John Nader, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave, David McWilliams and Paul Ryan.

BIRTHDAY: Our Sunday Altar Server **James Gillett** celebrates on 6 April. Happy Birthday James and we hope you had a splendid day celebrating with family and friends.

BAPTISM: Congratulations to the McDonald family as their son Bentley is Baptised this Sunday. Please keep their family and Bentley in your prayers as he begins his faith journey.

CONDOLENCES: To Clair and Ray Holmes on the passing of their daughter Sue Holmes Murphy who was on our sick list. Sue sadly passed away on Holy Thursday and her funeral service will be held at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday, 9 April at 10:30am.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Confession, Adoration and Benediction this **Sunday, 3pm.**

DONATIONS: Received donations for concreting BBQ/morning tea area \$3150. The Paschal Meal collection \$310. Thank you for your continued generosity.