

## “Encountering Divine Mercy: A Personal Invitation”

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, the Gospel draws us into a quiet, powerful scene: a room filled with fear, doors locked, hearts unsettled. The disciples are not brave or triumphant—they are anxious, wounded, and unsure of what comes next. And it is precisely there, in that fragile space, that the Risen Jesus comes and stands among them. His first words are not words of correction or disappointment, but of deep reassurance: *“Peace be with you.”*

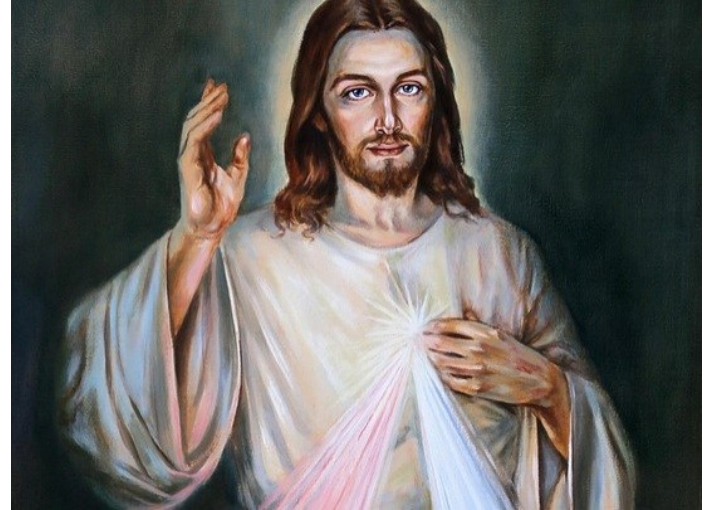
This is the heart of Divine Mercy. God does not wait for us to have everything together. He does not enter only when we are strong, confident, or faithful. He comes into our locked rooms—into our fears, our doubts, our regrets—and meets us there with peace.

Many of us carry our own “locked doors.” Perhaps it is a burden of guilt, a hurt we cannot let go of, a fear about the future, or a quiet sense of unworthiness. Like Thomas, we may struggle to believe, to trust, to hope again. And yet, this Gospel reminds us that doubt does not push Jesus away. In fact, it draws Him closer.

Thomas is not rejected for his doubts; he is invited deeper. Jesus meets him personally, gently, and lovingly. “Do not be unbelieving, but believe.” It is not a command spoken in harshness, but an invitation spoken in mercy. And when Thomas encounters that mercy, his heart opens, and he makes one of the most beautiful professions of faith: *“My Lord and my God.”*

This is what Divine Mercy does—it transforms hearts. It does not shame us; it restores us. It does not condemn us; it lifts us. Mercy is not weakness; it is the very strength of God’s love reaching into our brokenness.

As a parish community, we are invited today to receive that mercy anew—and to become channels of it for others. Jesus breathes on His disciples and gives them the mission of forgiveness. This means that mercy is not something we keep for ourselves. It is something we are called to share—in our families, in our relationships, in our daily encounters.



A kind word instead of a harsh one.

A willingness to forgive instead of holding on to resentment.

A listening ear for someone who feels alone.

A compassionate heart for those who are struggling.

These are the simple, powerful ways Divine Mercy continues to flow in our world today—through you and me.

Let us not be afraid of our doubts, our wounds, or our imperfections. Instead, let us bring them to Jesus with trust. He stands before us today, just as He stood before the disciples, and says again: *“Peace be with you.”*

May this peace settle in our hearts.

May this mercy renew our lives.

And may we go forth as witnesses of His love—carrying His mercy into every corner of our world.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Fr Sebastian

### Two Mass Time Adjustments

The monthly Mass for Peace (with Anointing afterwards) will shift from 10.30am to 9.15am on First Saturdays starting 2nd May

The monthly Memorial Mass has now ceased on Last Tuesdays at 7.00pm. It will shift to 9.15am on Second Saturdays starting 9th May

(Note: Mass on other Saturday mornings is pending a current survey regarding the involvement of senior servers)

### High School Aged Youth Gatherings

#### 1st Sunday nights of the month from May

- The new monthly Sunday night time for High School Aged Youth activities in the parish will begin on **Sunday 3rd May** - straight after the 6pm Sunday Mass through until 8.30pm. (*not 12th April in the school holidays as previously listed – but first Sunday nights of the month from May*)
- Printed and online details will be available for three weeks leading up to the date.

# Faith B4U...

## Hospitality Volunteers Needed

One of our long time volunteers has decided to step back from the hospitality ministry. We are looking for people who can take on and share this very valuable ministry. It would involve approx 30-40 minutes after the **10.30am Mass on Sundays**. It may be once a week, fortnight or monthly, depending on how many volunteers would like to join.

All volunteers must complete Safeguarding training which can be done online in your own time. For more information please contact the parish office at [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

## Greystanes Maltese Seniors

**Monday 13 April @ 10.30am**, St George Preca Centre.

**Consulate General of Malta updates and Q&A**

Members & friends always welcome.

**Contact Marisa Previtera, OAM, JP on 0414 863 123**

## Ministers at the Altar/Acolytes/ Eucharistic Ministers

Thanks to everyone who came together at the beginning of the month to reflect, grow, and discuss how we carry out these important ministries of the Eucharist within the Mass. Follow-up gatherings will occur to review the new procedures in smaller groups. Please email which session you will be attending to [lisa.bright@olqp.org.au](mailto:lisa.bright@olqp.org.au) or call the parish office on 9631 8135. The dates are:

### Weekend of 18/19 April

After Vigil Mass at 6pm for half an hour

Before 10.30am Mass at 10am sharp

Before 6pm Mass at 5.30pm sharp

### Weekend of 25/26 April

After 7am Mass and before 8.30am Mass - at 8.00am sharp

**And a backup** for anyone away for school hols/Anzac weekend on **Sunday 3rd May**

Before Sunday 6pm Mass at 5.30pm sharp

With gratefulness for your ministry.

## Let us pray...

**FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.**

Chantel Adrien, Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Benjie Santiago, Barbara Stanton, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Muna Zora

**FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.**

John Attard, Parvin Gardiner, Benjamin Saadat, Yvette Sharma, Julie Simari

**FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.**

Teresa Cutajar - 15 April @ 10.30am, Sandra Faccioli, Johanna Neville - 14 April @ 10.30am

## Safeguarding Face-to-Face Training

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on 2 May at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood. More training opportunities are available throughout May at different parishes.

Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

## Did you know...

Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation is entitled *Dilexi Te* which are the words of Christ himself: "I have loved you". It was begun by Pope Francis in the last months of his life, and is about love for the poor. The desire of both Popes is that 'all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor' (*Dilexi Te 3*).

## Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12 May

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our **Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers**. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at **7:30pm on 12 May 2026, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta**.

Liturgical ministers are asked to please arrive by 7pm and be seated by 7:15pm.

To register the number of guests and ministers attending **please register by Thursday, 7th May**. To register please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or **0460 037 795**.

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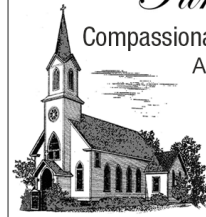
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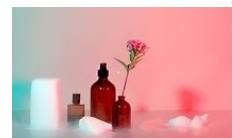
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# Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

## Two Parish Team Employment Positions

The application process with role descriptions will occur from a week after Easter, but these announcements aim to enable any local expressions of interest. You are welcome to write to Fr Paul via [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au) to briefly and initially share the interest, qualification and experience that might make you a happy match for the role.

- 1. Full-Function Bookkeeper:** (for our small number of employees and the parish's finance processes). Parishioner Sharon Finn is retiring after her long and valued service and will assist a good handover with a new employee. We seek a person keen to work on two short days a week (with flexibility) who values the Church's mission and brings a kind, collaborative, interested spirit. Applicants need to be MYOB-proficient and take oversight of the general ledger; end-to-end accounts, payroll and super, BAS and monthly financial reports.
- 2. Co-ordinator of Volunteers:** (for our parishioners across the various areas of ministry and service). Parishioner Lisa Bright has been developing this role most valuably and is now moving on to a fuller position working for a religious congregation. Such a role didn't exist in the Church until quite recently but is now fundamental to the mission of parishes. Handover support will exist for a good period AND this role works directly alongside others in the parish team. In brief, this role looks after the on-boarding care and compliance needs for volunteers - and the records, communication and promotion that helps keep them updated and valued. It involves essential processes and accountabilities, but the difference to some co-ordinator of volunteer roles is that this is part of the ministry leadership of the parish. Hence at the heart of this role is i. 'the why' of what we all do in ministry and service ii. the recognition of how people's different gifts can find 'the what' to do in the parish's areas of ministry and service - and iii. a keenness for resources and initiatives that can nourish 'the what and the why'. It is initially a two day a week casual role with the chance to move (according to the capacities and interests the person may bring) to a permanent part time 2-3 days role.

## Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm for enquiries regarding marriage annulments.

Please contact the Tribunal office on **8838 3480** or email [tribunal@parracatholic.org](mailto:tribunal@parracatholic.org).

## Positions vacant

**Catholic Chaplain** - Catholic Care Western Sydney & the Blue Mountains

More details at: [parracatholic.org/jobs](http://parracatholic.org/jobs)

## New Choir Members Always Welcome

If you'd like to join the Parish choir, please contact the Parish Office.

We meet on a Monday night at 7:30pm in the church.

### This Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

Acts  
2:42-47

#### 2nd Reading

1 Peter  
1:3-9

#### Gospel

John  
20:19-31

### Next Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

Acts  
2:14, 22-33

#### 2nd Reading

1 Peter  
1:17-21

#### 3rd Reading

Luke  
24:13-35

## Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

**Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick** - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 9:15am (starting 2nd May)

**Memorial Mass** - Second Saturday of each month (except December) at 9:15am (starting 9th May)

*No Memorial Mass April 2026*

### Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, [olqp.org.au](http://olqp.org.au), every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

**Rosary in the church:** Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 6:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

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