



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

"BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD..."


18 Hamilton Street, Shepparton 3630
PH 03 58 312 194
Email : sheppartonsouth@cdos.org.au

Parish Priest : Fr Peter Taylor


St Mel's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

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.

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St Mel's Parish is

"A welcoming and caring community that helps all people grow stronger in our Catholic Faith."

REFLECTION - From Fr Peter

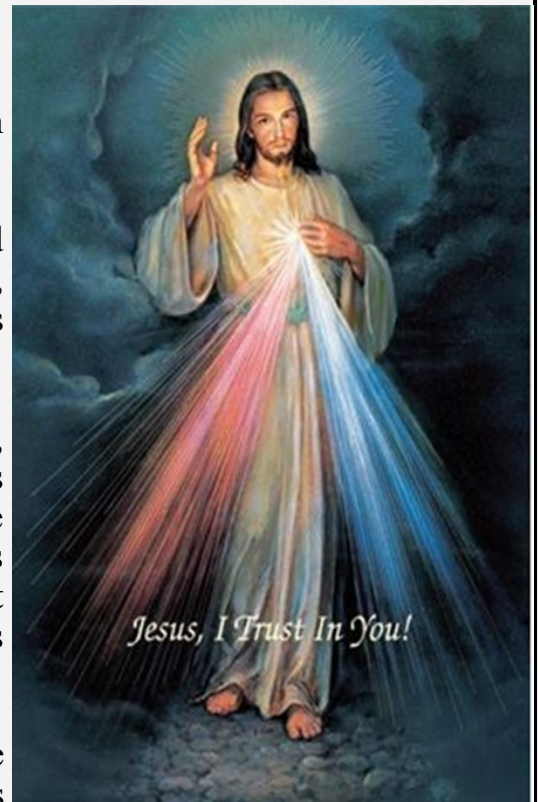
Post Easter draws our awareness to the appearances of the risen Jesus to his disciples. Thomas appears on the scene.

The preceding days since the resurrection Thomas is not heard of. Someone gets into his ear telling all that has happened, so Thomas wants his evidence. Despite his closeness with Jesus as a disciple Thomas' lack of belief persists.

Sometimes, like Thomas, despite all the evidence, testimony, and enthusiasm of believers, faith won't take root unless a personal encounter of the risen lord takes hold. Given the lockdown of community life and our personal isolations we carry, it might seem a little difficult to get into the "post Easter" reflections of the disciples and the appearances Jesus has on them.

The Second Sunday of Easter brings reflection of faith to the Divine Mercy presence Jesus brings. We often say - 'God is merciful and the nature of God is Divine and Human.' So to speak of 'Divine Mercy' takes us back to the time of St. John Paul II when he instituted this Second Sunday of Easter as an opportune time for all human beings to reach out through the heart of Christ crucified.

The image of the Divine Mercy is placed before us. You will see if you live stream this Sunday's Mass from our Church. This image is one of charity, forgiveness, and the love of God as the 'fountain of mercy'. Given this time of COVID -19 where uncertainties can influence, it's good we try and put aside these and see where our trust calls us to be open to and God's love reaching out to us.



ANZAC DAY Is remembered on Saturday April 25th. It is anticipated a live streaming of Mass for **ANZAC DAY** will be from our Church at 9.00am.
Fr Peter



The Parish Office - The office remains closed for contact with people. Please phone the office if you need to leave a message and we will get back to you. Fr Peter is available for calls or urgent visitation. *Fr Peter's mobile number is 0409 521 039.*

To all our parishioners, stay safe and stay well.

**EVERY DAY
MAY NOT BE
GOOD.
BUT THERE IS
SOMETHING
GOOD IN
EVERY DAY.**

THANKYOU - to Sev Cortese for the ways he has used technology in support of us here, with the restrictions we are following. Sev, along with others have given real connections, going by the numbers who logged in for the Holy Week ceremonies. Well done Sev!!!

Fr. Peter

This Sunday we pray for recently deceased:- Kevin Benson, Jack Skahill (Bendigo), John Kantor Snr and Kevin Grogan and for the Anniversary of Giuseppe Primerano, May & Joseph Ferguson, Piacere.