



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Prayer during the coronavirus pandemic

God of Salvation,
We turn to you with a
prayer for protection and
healing as the coronavirus
is spreading. Help those
who are affected and have
become sick.

Grant patience to those
who live in quarantine.
Give strength to those who
care for the sick.

Inspire scientists in their
research.

Strengthen between us the
sense of togetherness.

Let no one be abandoned,
make everyone feel safe
together and with You,
because You are
compassionate.

Through the intercession
of Blessed Mary of the
Apostles and Fr. Francis
Jordan, we thank you,
present and faithful God,
You who live and love for
ever and ever.

Amen.

Salvatorians



Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

God became a human being for us to redeem us, to rescue our souls.
Therefore let us seek only the honour of God and the salvation of souls.



17 April 2020

Dear Parishioners,

At this holiest time of the year, the reality of the COVID-19 predicament we are faced with became very apparent when we celebrated the Sacred Paschal Triduum for the first time without our valued parishioners in our Churches. In many ways, this Easter is like no other, but in the deepest way this Easter is the same as every Easter before and every Easter to come. It brings the message of the resurrection of Christ, which is the source of the Church's hope, of our hope, especially in the present situation. The resurrection of Christ is not simply an event from the past – it is a present reality. It is in our hearts, in the heart of the Church. This is what makes us united, even when we are separated.

We are now in the Easter season, when we hear about the apostles and disciples of Jesus who were scared after the death of Jesus and their reaction to those who

continued next page...

had met with the Risen Lord. In their times of doubt, they shared the stories of these encounters to strengthen their faith. In this weekend's Gospel, we read that Jesus entered the locked Upper Room with the disciples, saying twice "Peace be with you" and giving the promise of the Holy Spirit to come.

I see this time of isolation and uncertainty for us as similar to the time the disciples faced following Jesus' death. We, too, are scared, but I invite you to hear the same words "Peace be with you", as we, too, wait for the Holy Spirit to come to us during this difficult time so that we can go out from our homes. Inside each of us is an Upper Room, where we experience the living presence of God. Wherever we are, whenever we take the time to find and speak and listen to God, we can encounter Jesus. Just like the apostles, each one of us needs to spend some time in the Upper Room of our own hearts, drawing close to God in prayer. Your Upper Room might be in your office, your car, or a quiet nook in your house, a place where God speaks to you anew each day.

I encourage you all to trust in these words of Jesus "Peace be with you" so that we can move beyond our fears. With Jesus, we can fight the fears in our lives that seek to keep us in our Upper Room. Whether you are afraid because of poor health of your own or of those you love, because of the loss of a job, for the future of your children or grandchildren or for financial stability, allow the consoling words that bring peace to our hearts bring you out of your Upper Room of fear and have confidence that the Risen Christ will take care of you. My prayer is that you might experience a renewed sense of God's presence in your life.

Thank you for your messages of support after the livestreaming of the celebrations of the Paschal Triduum. I am grateful that our parish was able to bring these Easter celebrations to you in your homes and we were delighted to hear the creative ways that you were able to come together in your households and families uniting with us to celebrate these liturgies.

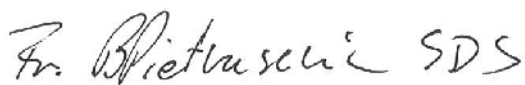
We will continue to livestream our weekend Masses, 5pm on Saturdays and 10am on Sundays from both our Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale and our Maria Regina Church, Avalon, so that we can spiritually come together, maintain our life of prayer and worship and strengthen our communion with one another. Perhaps you are in a slightly better position than we are – as you can see us when we livestream our Masses but we can't see you!

Fr Richard and myself continue to be available to offer you the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to anoint the sick. Fr Richard, Bishop Bernard and myself will continue to celebrate the Holy Mass privately and will fulfil any scheduled Mass intentions this way. Please continue to arrange a time for these Sacraments and Mass intentions through our parish office.

Thank you for your Easter greetings and your prayers, for your understanding of the current situation and for your donations which continue to financially support our parish. For those of you that are in a position to support us financially, donations can be made by Visa or MasterCard via our website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/archive/donations-and-giving>

May the joy of the Easter season continue in your families. You are in our prayers and hearts.

May the peace of our Risen Christ be with you.



Fr Bronek Pietrusewicz SDS
Parish Priest



Vinnies

**Vinnies
changes
lives
everyday.**

Show your support and
give to our annual appeal



"TINNIES FOR VINNIES"

Thank you to our generous parishioners for their past donations to 'Tinnies for Vinnies'. By your generosity, our stockpile is overflowing. As such, we will not be needing anything for the month of March. You make a difference in the lives of our clients.

Sue Bowra

For the needy, help is
available by contacting
the Brookvale Centre
9905 0424 during
business hours.

Did you know that if you are new to
our parish you can register your
details through our website or if
your contact details have changed
you can update them.

Simply go to
www.pittwaterparish.org, click on
the "Welcome" menu item and
select "Parishioner Registration"
from the dropdown menu.
If you have any problems, please
contact the parish office on
9157 0999.

LIBRARY

The books which are reviewed here each
week are from our Parish Library situated
at Maria Regina Church, Avalon.
The Library is opened at Maria Regina
Church, Avalon before and after the
weekend Masses, Saturday 6 pm and
Sunday 9 am, and on week day Masses,
except Tuesdays, at 9.15 am. You can
browse our full collection of books and
DVDs on the Parish website. Go to
Resources > Library > Our books. If these
hours don't suit you and you would like
to borrow or have an inquiry you may
phone me on 99183973 (Home)
0401613643 (mobile).

Trish Newman



We Pray for
Recently Deceased

Marie Lawsen

If you would like the names of your
relatives or friends and offerings
included, please drop the envelope in
to the Parish Office by Midday on
Wednesdays. Thank You.

**Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them
O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light
Shine Upon Them.
May they Rest in Peace. Amen.
May Their Souls And The Souls
Of The Faithful Departed,
Through The Mercy Of God,
Rest In Peace. Amen.**

Deceased Anniversary

**Keith Lennox
Paul Lennox**

Prayers for the Sick

Tayla Riddle
Giovanni Returra
Bill Eyre
Manny Zarb
Philip Maddrell
Gail Reiher
Imelda Vince
Eric Domagas
Vicky Villaluz
Ben Castillo
Moiria Howie
Carol Brennan
Jomar
Christine Hills
Ross Perkins
Donald McRae
Mary O'Connor
Sara Zofrea
Beryl Peo-Duncan
Joe Romeo
Graham Baker

The names on this list will be
removed after four weeks unless
otherwise requested or advised.
Thank you

*Congratulations to
Judith O'Grady who
celebrates 60 years of
marriage on 18 April.*



SOUL
PITTWATER
[instagram.com/soul_pittwater](https://www.instagram.com/soul_pittwater)

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse
victims, survivors and their families, the failures of
the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond
justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the
consequent breach of community trust.

**THANK
YOU**

I wish to take this opportunity
to say thank you for your
contributions and support
throughout the year. Your
financial contributions in our
Planned Giving Programme
and your generous donations
throughout the year to
Charitable Works Fund are
greatly appreciated.
I also wish to extend a warm
welcome to any new
parishioners to Pittwater
Parish.

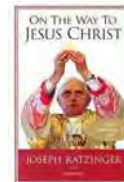
**Fr Bronek SDS
Parish Priest**

LIKE US ON
facebook
The Catholic Parish
of Pittwater

BOOK REVIEW

On The Way To Jesus Christ

by Joseph Ratzinger
Pope Benedict XVI



This series of
meditations
studies the true
Jesus, the Jesus
of the Gospels
who is quite
different, demanding and bold
and is certainly not convenient
for us. The Jesus who makes
everything OK for everyone is
not a real figure. The true
Jesus answers the deepest
question of our existence,
which - whether we want to or
not - keeps us on the look-out
for God, for gratification that is
limitless - for the infinite.

**Sunday Masses from
our parish will be
live-streamed from
2nd Sunday of Easter:**

**Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm and
Sunday Morning Masses 10am**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCBpLC9Gn8yp4qW-TU0GDZsw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpLC9Gn8yp4qW-TU0GDZsw/videos)
or search **Pittwater Parish**
on Youtube

or follow the link on our Parish
Website

Please check our website for
links to the other celebrations
www.pittwaterparish.org or
our facebook page
for updates.

Watch the daily Mass on
Demand at

[https://www.youtube
.com/user/cathnews](https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews)

We hope that this will
help the faithful to
celebrate the Holy Mass
online wherever they are



If you are experiencing
Domestic Violence,

**Ring 1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732**

PLANNED GIVING

The money contributed to
our parish via our second
collection helps us to meet
the running costs which our
Parish incurs, including wages,
electricity, telephones,
insurances, rates, building and
equipment repairs and
maintenance, to name but a few.
As we are unable to donate via
our second collection at present,
our parish will not receive the
funds which are truly needed to
cover our relentless stream of
expenses. Whilst you are unable
to attend Mass, if you are able to
make your regular donation by
way of automatic direct debit
from your credit card, please
complete the form included in
this bulletin. **Or donations can
be made on our website:
www.pittwaterparish.org
through the donations and
giving tile.** If you would prefer
not to give by credit card, please
contact the parish office,
9157 0999 for other ways that
you can contribute.



SAFEGUARDING

We the people of the Catholic Diocese
of Broken Bay and the Catholic Parish
of Pittwater are committed to
fostering communities of safety and
care for all people, especially for
children and others in the community
who are vulnerable. Our commitment
is underscored by our faith in Jesus
Christ.



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Planned Giving Direct Debit Agreement Form for Contributions Via Credit Card

☐ I am an existing Planned Giving contributor

☐ I am new to Planned Giving

Or Donate at
www.pittwater-parish.org
Donations and
Giving Tile

Full Name			
Address:			
Telephone:		Email:	

Payment Agreement

<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
Debit Amount:	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Until Further Notice

Debit from Credit Card

Card Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Card Holder Name:					<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard							
Expiry Date:					/	CCV:	<input type="text"/>						

This authorisation is to remain in force until notice is received in writing for it to be changed.

Signatory of Nominated Account:		Date:	/	/
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Thank you for supporting our planned giving programme.

Please return the completed form to the parish office or email to office@pittwaterparish.org

Terms and Conditions

I/We hereby authorise The Catholic Parish of Pittwater to debit my/our credit card account. Monthly debits occur on the 15th day of each month or the next business day. Weekly and fortnightly debits occur on the Monday of each week or fortnight accordingly. The administration of this agreement is conducted by The Catholic Parish of Pittwater. The Catholic Parish of Pittwater will not change the amount or frequency of drawing arrangements without my prior approval. It is my responsibility to ensure that I/We have sufficient clear funds in our nominated account to enable the direct debit to be honoured by our financial institution. If the Debit request falls on a weekend or public holiday, it will be processed on the next working day. I/We are advised to verify account details against a recent bank statement and if uncertain to contact our financial institution or The Catholic Parish of Pittwater. If our Direct Debit is dishonoured or returned by our financial institution, for any reason, The Catholic Parish of Pittwater reserves the right to re-present the Direct Debit for processing again on the next business day. The Catholic Parish of Pittwater will keep the information about our nominated account at the financial institution private and confidential unless this information is required to investigate a claim made in relation to an alleged incorrect or wrongful debt, or otherwise required by law. I/We may stop, cancel, alter or defer your Direct Debit Request at any time, by contacting The Catholic Parish of Pittwater I/we agree to notify The Catholic Parish of Pittwater if the account is closed.



WELCOME TO DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Devotion to the Divine Mercy is inspired by the apparitions of Jesus to St Maria Faustina. Divine Mercy reminds us of the gift of mercy given to each of us through Christ's death, burial and resurrection. In receiving the life-changing gift of mercy, we are called to show love and mercy to others, so that they may encounter Christ through our witness, and experience the mercy and peace of Christ.

READING — SECOND READING 1 PETER 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".

Read the full text at

<https://liturgyhelp.com/> (create a free account)

REFLECTION:

"Jesus' peace comes from a life of love and joy that's only available from God...God's love isn't just the pardon of a merciful judge; it's actually the warm embrace of a loving father".

<http://www.deaconpeter.org/year-c-2nd-sunday-of-easter/>



PRAYER:

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion - inexhaustible. Look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Amen.

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Diary of St Faustina – Reflections and Prayers

Desktop: <https://divinemercy.life/>

App: <https://appgrooves.com/app/the-diary-of-st-faustina-reflections-and-prayers-by-forget-me-not-apps/related>

St. Faustina: Prophet of Mercy – Knights of Columbus
Supreme Council: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLEN7gZ67F0>

SONG:

Run to the Father – Matt Maher:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCzbNONsSTg>

THIS WEEK:

Pray the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** each day for your family and for all souls in purgatory.

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES:

St Faustina: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDSDQHTDFEKQs>

The Story of the Image of The Divine Mercy:
https://images.marianweb.net/archives/pdfs/momm/worksheets/The_Story_of_the_Image_B_K2-EL.pdf

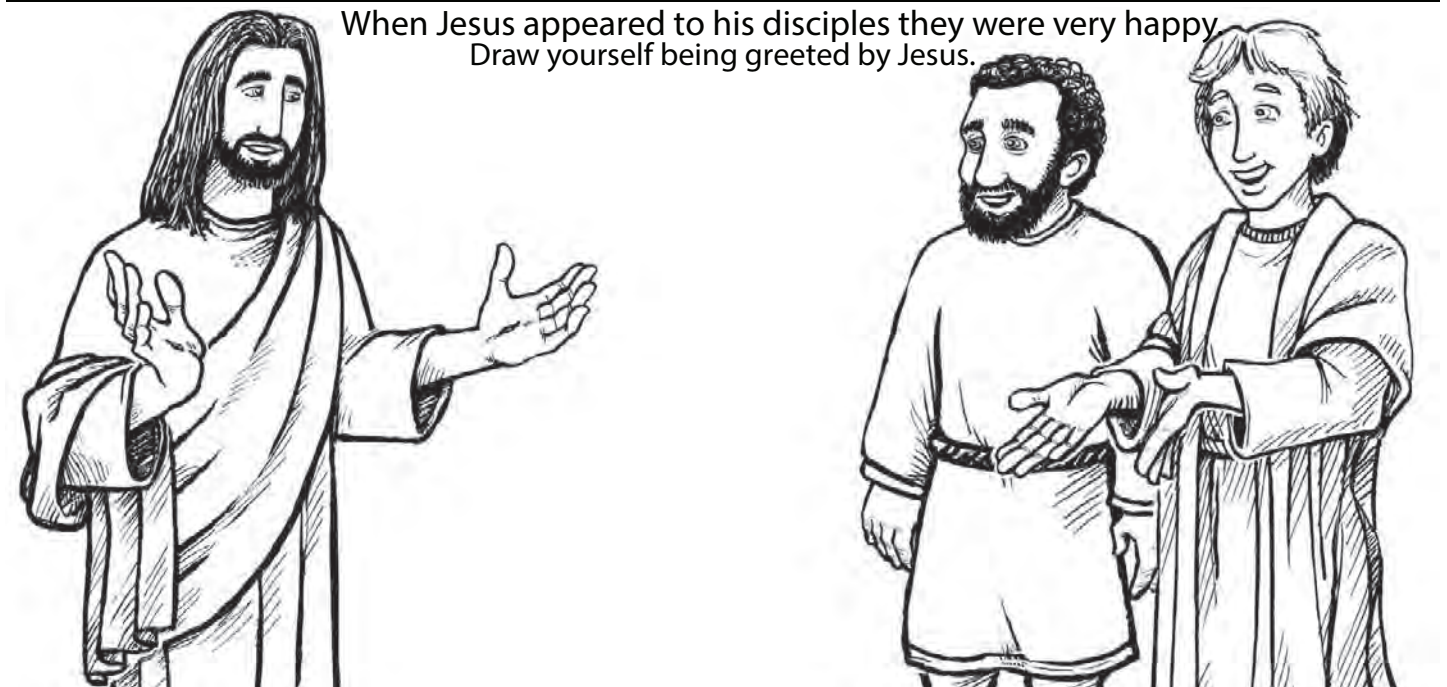
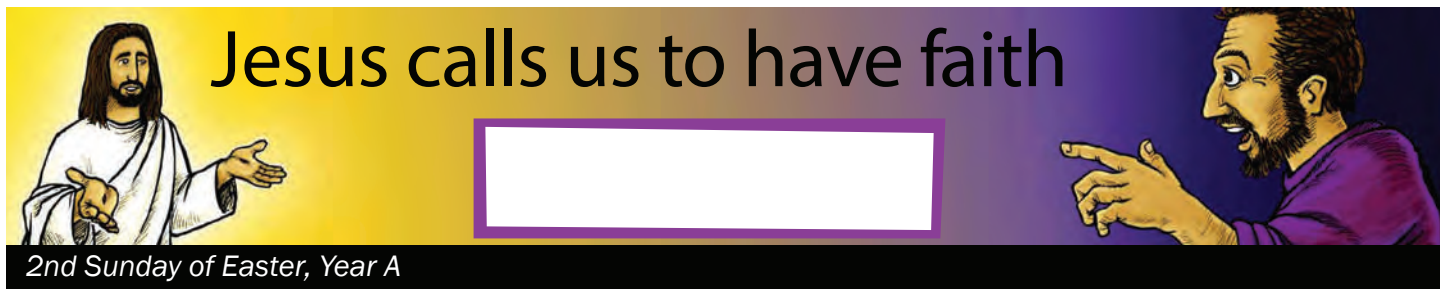


https://images.marianweb.net/archives/pdfs/momm/worksheets/Divine_Mercy_Coloring_Picture.pdf

MORE RESOURCES AT:
bbcatholic.org.au/connected



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY



What do you think it would feel like to be re-united with a close friend who you didn't think you would ever see again?

There are many things present in our lives that we don't see with our eyes. Circle the words which represent things we do not see.

BIBLE
LOVE
JOY
ALTAR
BREATH
CHALICE
CRUCIFIX
FORGIVENESS
PEACE
FLOWERS
CANDLE
HOPE

Complete the Text maze:

"You are my Lord and my God!"

START

E	D	R	C	A	S	F	O	Y
S	A	O	L	F	W	A	U	A
D	N	S	Y	M	E	R	E	R
M	A	O	L					
Y	G	D	O					
K	O	H	T					
C	D	F	P					

FINISH



PARISH DIRECTORY

Pittwater Parish

1 Keenan Street Mona Vale NSW 2103
Tel 9157 0999 • Fax 9012 0509
www.pittwaterparish.org

Parish Priest

Fr Broniek Pietruszewicz SDS
Tel 9157 0999 ext 0
pp@pittwaterparish.org

Assistant Priest

Fr Richard Sadowski SDS
Tel 9157 0999 ext 0
ap@pittwaterparish.org

Bishop - Emeritus

Bishop Bernard O'Grady op
Tel 9157 0999 ext 20

Parish Secretary

Suzu Caruso
Tel 9157 0999 ext 0
office@pittwaterparish.org

Administrative Assistant

Angela Smit
Tel 9157 0999 ext 0
office@pittwaterparish.org

Youth Director

Josh Willard (Soul Youth)
music@pittwaterparish.org

Music Director

Josh Willard
Tel 9157 0999 ext 17
music@pittwaterparish.org

Media & Communication

Laura Ee
Tel 9157 0999 ext 31
media@pittwaterparish.org

Sacramental Program

Suzu Caruso
Tel 9157 0999 ext 13
sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
9.00am to 4.00pm
Friday 9am to 12 noon

Sacred Heart Church

1 Keenan Street Mona Vale

Maria Regina Church

7 Central Road Avalon

Mona Vale

Sacred Heart School
Tel 9999 3264

Principal: Mrs Suellen Garey

Avalon

Maria Regina School
Tel 9918 2608

Principal: Mrs Kathy Gee

Warriewood

Mater Maria Catholic College
Tel 9997 7044

Principal: Mr Marc Reicher



Many people are unable to attend Mass at this time, because of the restrictions put in place due to COVID-19. The changes we are being asked to make in our everyday lives and routines likely will leave us more in need of God's grace - not less.

Even if you are stuck at home, you aren't alone and you can still join your brothers and sisters in Christ by worshipping, adoring and praying online or with the television.

As we can't attend our Masses, it's natural for us to wonder about how our Spiritual needs will be met in the weeks ahead.

That's why it's good to know that the answer to the question "*Will I be able to receive Holy Communion?*" is a resounding *yes*. That's not to say that we will all be able to receive the Eucharist sacramentally in the Host or from the Chalice, the way we have for most of our lives. But with two thousand years of Sacred tradition comes the longstanding practice of making a *Spiritual* Communion.

As St John Paul II observed in his last encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*:

"...it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the Sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of 'Spiritual Communion', which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the Spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: "When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a Spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you" (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 34).

When watching the Liturgy online, pray this prayer sincerely to express your desire to be closely united to Jesus.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.



Divine Mercy Novena

The Divine Mercy novena prayers were given to St. Faustina through an apparition of our Lord Jesus. Each day has a new petition that seeks God's mercy for different purposes.

The message of Divine Mercy is a powerful and moving way to come closer to Christ.

His Mercy is central to our lives and we must continually depend on it and ask for it daily.

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday and goes until Divine Mercy Saturday

The second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday.

Live stream from Pittwater Parish at 3pm

You can join thousands of people in praying the novena this year!

More information and novena on <http://divinemicysunday.com/novena.htm>

How to Recite the Chaplet

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. Optional Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

4. Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

5. The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Priestly Ordination: Building the Church while doors are closed.



On the 8th of August 2019 two Vietnamese seminarians landed in Australia to complete their pastoral placement as part of their ongoing studies to enter the priesthood. These seminarians are members of the religious congregation the Society of the Divine Saviour, or Salvatorians as they are more commonly known, which is an international congregation ministering in many countries across the world. One of these seminarians, Deacon Paul Tran Van Duong SDS, has been serving in Gosford Parish on the New South Wales Central Coast since late 2019.



Deacon Paul's Ordination to the Priesthood was scheduled to take place in Manila on the 18th of April 2020. His family in Vietnam had been preparing to meet him in the Philippines to be part of this joyous occasion where it was estimated that more than 1000 people would be in attendance. However, like many significant events in our lives at the moment, all these plans were cancelled, due to the current local and global restrictions in relation to the health crisis that has



eventuated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deacon Paul did not let this get in the way of his calling from God: "I believe that God has a plan for me that includes my precious time in this country, and particularly the Parish of St Patrick's Gosford where I consider the community there as my second family. I thank the Gosford community for their unwavering support of me and for welcoming me into their hearts."

After prayerful discernment and in consultation with his own Regional Superior from the Philippines Fr Adam Janus SDS, the Australian Regional Superior Fr George Kolodziej SDS, and with the approval of their Superior General Fr Milton Zonta SDS, it was requested that the local Bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay, the Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo DD, JCL ordain Deacon Paul into the Order of the Priesthood on Thursday 16 April.

Bishop Randazzo joyfully accepted this request and ordained Deacon Paul during a Private Mass, which was live streamed allowing the local community to participate virtually, along with Deacon Paul's family in Vietnam and his religious community in Manila.

In the days leading up to the ordination Bishop Anthony said, "I am delighted that this moment of grace has been given to us in Broken Bay and I am confident that you will keep Deacon Paul in your thoughts and prayers over these coming days."

The decision to be ordained here in Australia away from his family and without the significant event planned was not one taken lightly by the now Fr Paul Tran SDS, however his approach to this challenging situation has been incredibly gracious.



"I feel very blessed to be ordained into the priesthood in Australia which has come about because I can't return to the Philippines during this crucial period of the pandemic virus where I would have been ordained in the presence of my family and friends." Fr Paul said the day prior to his Ordination.

"My ordination is a time of joyous witnessing during this period when people are struggling with COVID-19 and I strongly believe it may bring light and hope to many people who will witness it via live streaming, and I am very grateful for this."

Written by Kelly Paget
Executive Officer, Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Broken Bay

The *Living* Word

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

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

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

(R.) 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.' **(R)**

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)**

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 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

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

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

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

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

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.



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Liturgy for the Week

20/04 **Monday Second week of Easter**
Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8


21/04 **Tuesday Second week of Easter**
Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15

22/04 **Wednesday Second week of Easter**
Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

23/04 **Thursday Second week of Easter**
Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

24/04 **Friday Second week of Easter**
Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

25/04 **Saturday ANZAC DAY**
Wis 3:1-9 (p.850) or Is 9:1-6
1 Cor 1:18-25 (p.224) or Eph 2:13-18 ; Jn 12:23-28 (p.886) or Jn 14:23-29



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