

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508 Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830
Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – 16th April 2023
Second Sunday of Easter- Divine Mercy Sunday- Year A

RECENT DEATHS:

Harry Fleay, Edmund(Snowy) Baker

ANNIVERSARIES:

Irene Ham, Grace Mullane, Bill Broadbent, Betty O'Brien,
Jack Taylor, Mons L. Fiiscalini, Gwen Cook, Kenneth
Mason & Brendan Mullane.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Graeme Dawson,
Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney,
Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy
and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: John Jess

23rd April: Jim Mahony

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Angela Gerrard

23rd April: John Jess

Assembly Leaders

16th April: Jim & Sue Mahony

30th April: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

16th April: Therese Jess

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

April 16th & 23rd: Sue Mahony & Angela Gerrard

Church Grounds

April 16th & 23rd: Jim Mahony & Tom Franc

Newsletter

March: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

MASS TIMES

April 23rd: **Mass 8.00 am**

Beaufort Confirmation Mass: 8.00 am

Sunday 23rd April

We pray for the following five children as they

Prepare to receive their Sacrament of Confirmation:

- Georgie Chamings
- Shaelee Hayward
- Arabella Jess
- Henry Jess
- Kaela Palacpac

Mass Counts start on weekend May 6-7

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting will start on May 6-7 and continue each weekend until the end of May.

Copies of the new church roster are available at the back of the church, also copies of Bishop Paul Birds Easter Message.

Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference 2023– May 3-5, 2023

The Mission: One Heart Many Voices conference, "Lead, Act, Now" will be held from May 3-5, 2023 in Sydney. Registration details, the program and more information is available at

<https://2023.mohmv.com.au/>

Birchip Parish are having a memorial Mass for Sr Shiela at St Mary's Birchip on Wednesday April 19th at 10.00 am followed by a morning tea in the Belleville Room across from the church. If there was anyone interested in attending from Beaufort, they would be most welcome. We have sent some lovely photos of Sr Shiela's 80th birthday at the Beaufort Gold Club from 2011. The Sisters of Mercy have also provided Birchip with some photos. These will be used in a slideshow presentation to be shown during the Mass.

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of new life, let us take a moment to reflect on the importance of being connected and communicating in our daily lives and in the context of Jesus' teaching.

After his resurrection Jesus demonstrated the significance of communicating and connectedness through His interactions with His disciples. By attentively engaging with them, He not only addressed their fears, doubts and concerns, but also provided them with comfort, guidance and reassurance. As Christians we can learn from Jesus' example and strive to incorporate active listening, foster deeper connections and understanding within our families and communities.

"Communication is the lifeline of families, it fosters understanding, strengthens bonds and creates a safe space for love to flourish."

When a man was caught standing on the bathroom scales by his wife, sucking in his stomach, she laughed, "Ha! that's not going to help!" He replied, "Sure does, it's the only way I can see the numbers."

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.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / A (OF DIVINE MERCY)

16 APRIL 2023

FAITH: A PROMISE OF LIFE

How many times have you heard people relate stories and then say, aware that the story does not do justice to the experience, 'You had to be there'? When we read of those early days of the Church, when the community was so united in faith, love and prayer, we can find ourselves wishing to have been there. Imagine the disappointment of second-generation Christians who had missed out by only a few years! The story of Thomas' doubt, disbelief and disappointment would have been partly preserved to encourage such Christians. Decades later, they were invited to see that while they were not part of the original experience, their faith was all the more precious because it was not based on being an eyewitness. It also served as a reminder not to be too quick to idealise the early life of the Church; even then the road to mature faith was not an easy one.

Late in the first century, the first letter of Peter set out to build up the faith of a community that felt caught between the resurrection and Jesus' final return. Like us, they may have felt that they had missed out on something precious, but Peter reminds them that their faith is a tremendous gift and promise of the life that lies ahead. The road to a mature faith is not easy and there are problems to be encountered from both within and outside ourselves. These very struggles purify our hearts and prepare us for what is to come.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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

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

1 Pet 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 had 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 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