

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 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 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 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: John 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Acts 2:14,23-33; 1 Pet 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35.

Safeguarding our community: If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney please call the appropriate authorities OR The Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office on 02 9390 5812 OR **speak with our Parish Safeguarding Support Officer Helen Vaz OR Parish Priest, both of whom will be able to provide support and guidance.**



PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE

Presbytery and Office

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Deacon: Rev Mr Aruna Perera

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Office hours Tues, Thurs and Fri from 8am-4pm

St Therese's School

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MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL:	6:00 pm.
SUNDAY:	8:00 am and 10.00 am.
MONDAY:	9.15am Communion Service.
TUESDAY through to SATURDAY:	9.00 am Mass.
FRIDAY:	9.00 am Mass. Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.
Baptism:	Every Sunday at 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.
Marriage:	By appointment.
Anointing of the sick:	Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)
15th / 16th April 2023**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

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.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24

RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

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.'

Response.

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.

Response.

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.

Response.

15 / 16 APRIL 2023 – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10AM
ACOLYTE	R MORFUNI	D ELLIS	J KWONG
READER	L SAMONTE	S JAYAMMANE	H VAZ
OFFERTORY	DABBAH FAMILY		VOLUNTEER FAMILY
PROJECTION	A PLEADIN		
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 3: BERNLEITNER FAMILY, NIARA PAREKELEM & FREDERICK LI		GRP 7: VINCENT & ALYSSA WIDJAYA
WELCOMERS	A CHAN & P ONG		VOLUNTEER WANTED
COUNTERS	GROUP 2: T DABBAH C DABBAH		
ALTAR FLOWERS	A NAGANATHAN	APRIL ALTAR LINEN: PENNY ONG	

22 / 23 APRIL 2023 – 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10AM
ACOLYTE	T DABBAH	D ELLIS	A STANTON
READER	J PERERA	Y LEUNG	VOLUNTEER
OFFERTORY	VOLUNTEER FAMILY		VOLUNTEER FAMILY
PROJECTION	V PERERA		
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 4: WONG FAMILY		GRP 8: ELIE & ALYSSIA BARAZ
WELCOMERS	A CHAN & P ONG		VOLUNTEER WANTED
COUNTERS	GROUP 3: D JAYAMANNE E CONTERNO		
ALTAR FLOWERS	J KEYSER	APRIL ALTAR LINEN: PENNY ONG	

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died especially Mary Jacobs and John Reid. Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries especially Martha D Souza, David Jayamanne. Also pray for Clemente Marasto, Nicola Morfuni, Rose Vumbaca and Teresa Dominello.



Thank you.

We sincerely thank all our wonderful volunteers for their great commitment and generous efforts during Holy Week. The example of faith displayed last week was a great testimony of your love for God and the Church.

Such a great community spirit and I pray that you continue to persevere with your Christian journey in our beautiful Parish of St Therese. Thank you for the beautiful community that you are!



To Everyone Making a Difference

Holy Week collections.

Many thanks to all those generous people who supported the parish with your donations over the weekend. We Collected:

- **Project Compassion – Caritas = \$6,373.30.**

This amount will continue to grow over the next few weeks as the money boxes are returned.



Don't forget to bring in your money boxes and envelope donations.

- **Good Friday – Holy Land = \$ 1,907.75.**

This money will help make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence & instability in this region.

New members at Easter.

Please continue your prayers for Leon Watanabe whom we welcomed into the church at Easter.

Project compassion.

Don't forget to bring back your Project Compassion envelopes or money boxes. All donations are 100% tax deductible. The poor people need your continued support.



Divine Mercy Sunday.

Will be celebrated THIS WEEKEND at St Therese Church Denistone from 2pm-4pm.

Monday Communion Service.

There will be no Communion Service on: 17th April & 24th April.



Prayer and Reflection Group.

Come and join our Tuesday evenings "Prayer and Reflection Group" held in the school hall at 7.30pm for Liturgy of the Word / Lectio Divina.



More parishioners are always welcome to come any week you are free with no obligation to come each and every week.



Doing Good - But like to do better? Why not give a little of your time and energy in the service of the Gospel and your fellow parishioners?

Your parish family is looking for volunteers for all our ministries. Volunteers are not just the mortar that holds our parish together but are a practical and rewarding way of living out our faith. Already, we are blessed as a community with so many generous people who, quietly behind the scenes, do so much to enrich and sustain our parish.

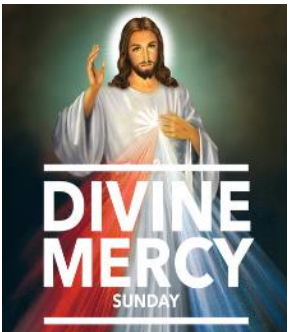
We intend to invite you all to consider adding your gifts and energy to the life of our parish by being a part of one or more of the following ministries. No previous experience is necessary. You will always be part of a team and all resources are provided and, where necessary, training will be provided. Ultimately being a volunteer is a great way to serve God and the people of God. So don't be shy, we need you for:

- Acolyte / Reader / Welcomer / Catechist / Saturday Gardening / Music / Counter / Flowers / Altar Linen / Offertory Family / Altar Servers**

More details next week about how you can volunteer.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Divine Mercy Sunday is relatively new to the Church's liturgical calendar. Millions of people celebrate this around the world. But what is it? Why is it important?



Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. It was St John Paul II who established Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast for the entire Church. In his writings and homilies, he described Divine Mercy as the answer to the world's problems and the message for the third millennium. He also beatified and canonized Sr Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun associated with the message of Divine Mercy.

St Faustina received visions of Jesus Christ during her life. Our Lord recommended a particular devotion to His Divine Mercy, called the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. She spread the message during her life and John Paul II made it a world-wide celebration. This feast and devotion seek to re-establish the relationship of each person with God, recognising our sinfulness and smallness and learning to see our Lord as our true Saviour through his Divine Mercy.

It is a remarkable fact that St John Paul II, who promoted the Divine Mercy Sunday, closed his eyes on the eve of this great feast. One day, when blessing a Shrine of the Divine Mercy, John Paul II said: "Outside the mercy of God there is no other source of hope for human beings...Only Divine Mercy is able to put an end to evil, and only the Almighty love of God can defeat the tyranny of evil and the destructive power of selfishness and hatred."

As your parish priest I believe that the evil darkness is really spreading today into our moral, political, economic, social worlds and the Feast of the Divine Mercy comes to remind us that we need to remain humble before our merciful God; that we need to turn to him constantly so we do not lose our way, and that we are always ready to receive his graces by looking for his mercy; because this brings salvation and because we cannot be saved by any other name but the name of Jesus and his Divine Mercy.

I hope many more learn to trust in God's mercy more and more, and that here in our parish, we realise that, yes, Jesus, the risen Christ is our only hope and salvation. May the Lord continue to fill your hearts with hope this, Easter.