

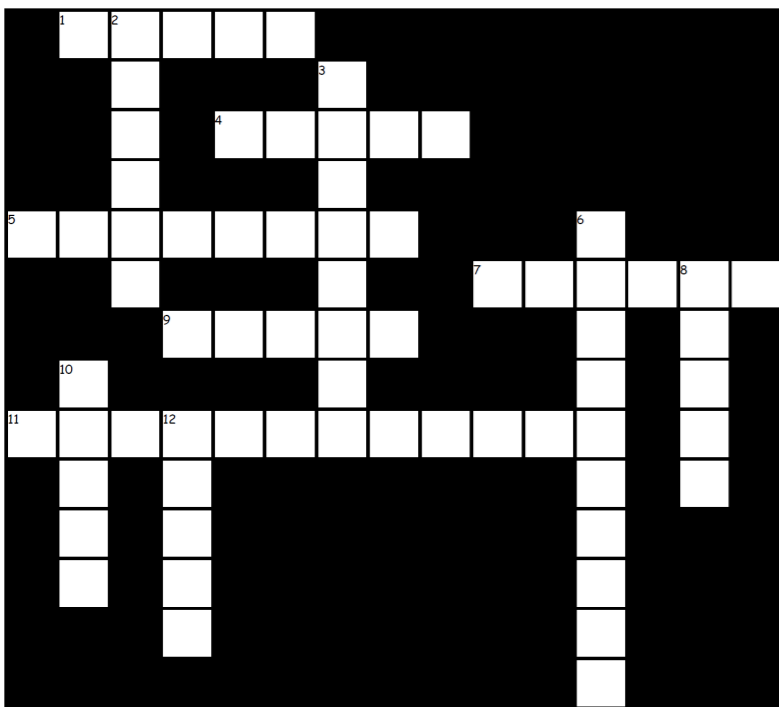
Have faith and you will be blessed

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER



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CROSSWORD: Those who believe are called God's children



Across

- 1: Jesus asked Thomas if he only had _____ because he had seen him
- 4: the disciples felt this way when they saw Jesus appear
- 5: young people
- 7: this man wanted to see Jesus' wounds before he would believe it was really him
- 9: to let others use your belongings
- 11: we show our love for God by obeying his c_____

Down

- 2: the disciples were _____ of the Jewish leaders
- 3: Jesus did this after the disciples locked themselves in a room
- 6: Jesus breathed on the disciples and said 'Receive the _____' (two words)
- 8: the apostles told everyone that Jesus was now _____
- 10: a type of building people live in
- 12: the apostles gave _____ to anyone who needed it

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, 8 APRIL



The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized.

The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the

empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

Reflection: Sometimes spiritual writers are accused of putting Mary on a pedestal and thereby, discouraging ordinary humans from imitating her. Perhaps such an observation is misguided. God did put Mary on a pedestal and has put all human beings on a pedestal. We have scarcely begun to realize the magnificence of divine grace, the wonder of God's freely given love. The marvel of Mary—even in the midst of her very ordinary life—is God's shout to us to wake up to the marvelous creatures that we all are by divine design.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/>

OLOL PARISH MINISTRIES & COORDINATORS

Liturgy: Y. Fenech & S. Sta. Maria
Baptism Prep: R. Vail & M. Mardy
Sacramental Prep: M. Alphonso, M. Mardy, A. Tilley
Children Liturgy: K. Pauer
Eucharistic Ministers: E. Kinnear
Proclaimers: Y. Fenech
Prayer & Friendship Group: Y. Fenech (Wed)
Safeguarding: M. Anderson
Care & Support Group: Janice Webster

Home Visits & Holy Com.: A. Tilley
Liturgy Rosters: D. Lim
Our Lady of Fatima Visit: V. Measki
Narthex Coord. & Altar Linen: B. Pascoe
Counting & Banking: B. Dempsey
Parish Choirs: M. Dennis /Fons; S. Fernandes; Praveen; Galangs
Craft Grp: B. Pascoe & M. McKiterick (Thurs)
SVDP Society: For Help Call 1300 305 330

Altar Servers: S. Rajan
Piety Stall: M. Lisle
Library: A. Tilley
Cuppa: B. Pascoe & M. McKiterick
Art, Garden & Environment: V. Measki
Event Management: W. Singh
Parish Website & PowerPoint: D. Lim & A. Sujeev
Maintenance:
Mowing Roster:

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH Bayswater



HOLY MASS

Weekend

- Saturday: 9am Morning Mass; 6pm Vigil Mass
- Sunday: 8am, 10am & 5pm

Weekday

- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am (**Benediction & Adoration on First Friday at 8:30am**)
 - Tuesday: 7:30pm (**Adoration, Divine Mercy Novena & Benediction at 6:30pm**)
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary:** 30 minutes before weekday Masses

SACRAMENTS

- **Baptism** 2nd Sunday of every month, 11:15am (2 months advance notice)
- **Baptism Preparation** 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.
- **Reconciliation** Tuesday: 6:30pm & Saturday: 9:30am and 5:30pm
- **Marriage** Minimum 6 months advance notice is required
- **Sacramental Preparation:** Call the Parish Office

PRESBYTERY

- Parish Priest: **Fr. Sabu Thomas Adimakiyil VC**
- Secretary: **Millicent Cabisidan (Peachy)**
- Bookkeeper: **Emalyn Rivera**

OFFICE HOURS

- Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 3pm
- Friday 9am - 12pm

OLOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Principal: Ross Williams Tel: (03) 9729 3411

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Chair: Michael Di Paola

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Chair: Michael Dennis

25 Orange Grove, Bayswater, Victoria 3153

Tel: (03) 9729 2622

Email: bayswater@cam.org.au

Website: www.ololbayswater.org.au

VISION

Our parish be a faith-filled, caring and sharing community that will actively embrace multiculturalism and team building reaching out to joyfully demonstrate God's love to the wider society.

MISSION

That our parish hold spiritual and social programmes to cater to all levels and interests of parishioners, drawing in toddlers, youth, elderly, and new families into the orbit of the parish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.'





SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

7 APRIL 2024

'We aim a Safe and Inclusive Parish'

YEAR 8/2



POPE FRANCIS USES EASTER BLESSING TO PRAY FOR PEACE

In his Easter Sunday blessing, Pope Francis asked the risen Lord to open paths of peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and all regions of the world suffering from war and violence.

Speaking from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica on Sunday, Pope Francis called for an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. He appealed for humanitarian access for the people of Gaza and called for the prompt release of the hostages seized by Hamas on October 7 last year.

"Jesus alone opens up before us the doors of life, those doors that continually we shut with the wars spreading throughout the world," he said.

"Today we want, first and foremost, to turn our eyes to the Holy City of Jerusalem, that witnessed the mystery of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and to all the Christian communities of the Holy Land.

"My thoughts go especially to the victims of the many conflicts worldwide, beginning with those in Israel and Palestine, and in Ukraine. May the risen Christ open a path of peace for the war-torn peoples of those regions."

Full report at www.cathnews.com



For the role of women
April 2024

POPE'S APRIL PRAYER INTENTION: 'FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN'

Pope Francis in his prayer intention for the month of April invites everyone to pray for the role of women. He insists on the steps today's society needs to take, and asks Christians to join him in prayer "that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

The Pope in his video illustrates the huge gap that exists between declared principles and actual practice. "In theory, we all agree that men and women have the same dignity as persons. But this does not play out in practice," he noted.

The Pope provides concrete examples, citing "discriminatory laws" currently in force: mandatory dress codes, impediments to ongoing education, denial of assistance for job opportunities. And he recalls that "in many countries, genital mutilation is still practiced." Thus, he said, "governments need to commit to eliminate" this discrimination and "work toward guaranteeing women's human rights."

He asks us all to respect women, who unfortunately continue to be treated "like something to get rid of," and who are often victims of violence and abuse in many parts of the world, even in countries claiming to be more advanced. "And if we don't [respect women]," the Pope adds, "our society will not progress." Full report at www.vaticannews.va

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19
2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5
Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

RESPONSE

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

ACCLAMATION

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
ALLELUIA!

MY LORD AND MY GOD

On this Second Sunday of Easter, the readings invite us to believe and trust God's mercy. According to the ways of the world, mercy does not really make sense, but this is the very faith Paul in the Second Reading speaks of as that which 'conquers the world': forgiveness begets forgiveness, mercy begets mercy, love begets love.

The Acts of the Apostles in the First Reading shows that the mercy of the risen Lord continues to be poured out through the ministry of his apostles, while in the Gospel we see Jesus himself being the model for mercy for his fearful and doubtful friends.

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed.

SOURCE: Excerpted from the Scripture reflection courtesy of St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham, UK available at www.australiancatholics.com.au. Image from <https://pcpe.smu.edu/blog>



LITURGY OF THE WORD

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 OF THE APOSTLES 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;

his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live

and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,

but not doomed to die. (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 JOHN 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God;

and whoever loves the Father that begot him

loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children

if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;

this is what loving God is –

keeping his commandments;

and his commandments are not difficult,

because anyone who has been begotten by God

has already overcome the world;

this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God;

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,

not with water only,

but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness –

since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

A reading from holy Gospel according to John.

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,

and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

FAITH LEADERS WARN ALBANESE AGAINST POSSIBLE 'BETRAYAL OF TRUST'



Faith leaders have told Prime Minister Anthony Albanese it would be a "betrayal of trust" for Labor to team up with the Greens and implement the Australian Law

Reform Commission's recommendations to remove protections for faith-based schools.

A letter was sent to the office of Mr Albanese bearing the signatures of 41 spiritual-leaders and educators including a large number of Islamic and Christian groups, urging him to honour his election commitment and "maintain the right of religious educational institutions to preference people of their own faith, and not to compromise this to secure the support of the Greens."

The letter advised Mr Albanese not to abandon attempts to achieve bipartisan support for reforms that could protect religious freedoms, and backed the cautious approach to change being taken by the Coalition.

"We consider the reluctance of the Opposition to offer support to a legislative proposal for religious freedom which is at this point – unseen and untested by faith communities to be reasonable and prudent, rather than an indication that a bipartisan approach endorsed by the faith communities is unachievable," the letter said. Full report at www.cathnews.com

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS THIS SUNDAY, 7TH APRIL

Don't forget

TO ADJUST YOUR CLOCK ONE HOUR
BACK AT 2AM



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Enrolment is now open for children in Year 4 and up. Enrolment form is available in the Narthex or you can download a copy from our website.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR

The Parish needs a volunteer Occupational Health and Safety Advisor. Please contact the parish office if you are interested.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES:

• **ANNIVERSARY:** Aghapi Rezk, Patrick O'Donnel, Bernie Travaglia, Clarence Smith-Frowd, Monica Cusack, Mary Orr, Jean Burbridge, Olive Mooney, Frank Mulholland, Kenneth Anthony D'Cruz, David Sharp, Jacobus Van Buuren, Konstantyn Osiurak, Josephine Fenech.

• **SICK:** Peter Lisle, Wendy Markby, Fiona Scudds, Elisa lacovitti, Evelyn McDougall.

BISHOPS: WAGE RISE KEY TO KEEPING AUSTRALIANS OUT OF POVERTY



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has argued for a 4.9 per cent rise in the national

minimum wage. The Conference has lodged a submission to the Fair Work Commission's annual wage review through the Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations.

Such a move would provide for an increase in the national minimum wage of \$43.30 a week, bringing it from \$882.80 to \$926.10 a week.

Speaking on behalf of the Conference, Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle Michael Kennedy said workers have a right to wages that will provide themselves and their families with a dignified standard of living.

"A rise of 4.9 per cent would not only help improve the standard of living of the lowest-paid working Australians but lift the level of welfare payments and award rates of pay – providing a broader benefit to Australian families," he said.

"A boost in the minimum wage will help address the cost-of-living crisis."

The Catholic Church is one of the largest private sector employers in Australia – employing more than 220,000 people in health, aged care, education, welfare and administration. Full report at www.cathnews.com

We would like to THANK YOU for supporting the PROJECT COMPASSION and the GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL FOR THE HOLY PLACES. Your generosity and kindness is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who helped us in preparing the Church for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations especially to those people who took part in the Working Bee. To Veronika Measki and her group for the beautiful flower arrangement as well as to those who donated money and flowers for decorating the Church for the Holy Week. To all our Proclaimers, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, the Choirs and all who participated in the meaningful celebration of Lent, thank you.