Parish News

2017 HOLY FAMILY SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Year 4 Sacrament of the Eucharist

Enrolment night	**Mon 08 May at 6.00pm**
Session 1	Mon 22 May at 6.00pm or Tue 23 May at 3.30pm
Session 2	Mon 29 May at 6.00pm or Tue 30 May at 3.30pm
Rehearsal 1	Monday 05 June at 6.00pm
Rehearsal 2	Monday 12 June at 6.00pm
Celebration of Sacrament:	Sunday 18 June at 9am Mass (with Bishop Brian Finnigan)

Feast of Divine Mercy

In February 1931 Jesus appeared to a Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kawalska, and asked that the Sunday after Easter be celebrated as a Feast of Mercy and be preceded by a novena beginning on Good Friday. Jesus promised that those who go to confession and communion on that day will obtain a complete remission of all sin and all punishment due to sin. The novena begins on Good Friday and ends on the Sunday after Easter. In 2000 Pope John Paul II added Divine Mercy Sunday to the calendar as a feast. He canonized Sr. Faustina on April 30, 2000, the Feast of Divine Mercy.

Weekly Diary : 24th —29th April 2017

Monday 24th	: 08.00 am. Mass, followed by Novena.
Tuesday 25th	**: 08.00 am. Anzac Day Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration.**
Wednesday 26th	**: 09.30 am. Feast of St Mark, evangelist followed by Rosary**
Thursday 27th	: 09.30 am. Mass followed by Rosary.
Friday 28th	: 09.30 am. Mass, followed by Rosary.
Saturday 29th	: 09.30 am. Memorial of St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor followed by Rosary.

Saturday 29th	**: 5.30 pm**	**3rd Sunday of Easter A**
Sunday 30th	**: 07.00 am + 09.00 am.**	**3rd Sunday of Easter A**

The 1st Evening Sunday Mass of May will be on the 07th at 5.30 pm. : 4th Sunday of Easter A.

Mass Duty Roster : 29th/30th April 2017

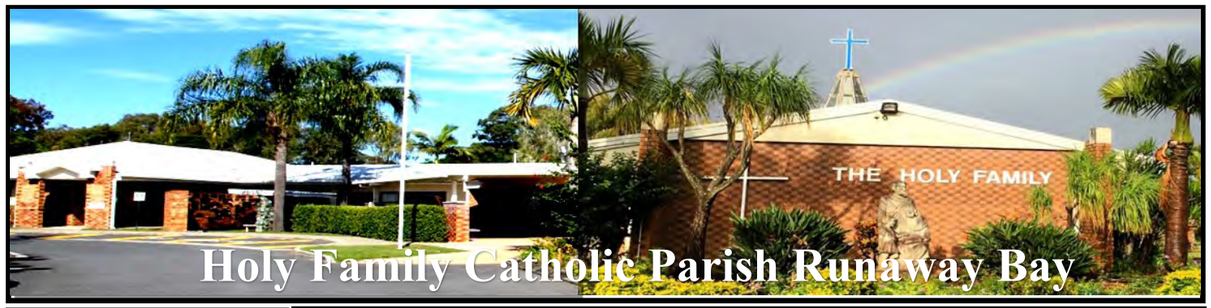
Mass Co-ordinator	*Lectors*	*Extraordinary Ministers of Communion*	*Servers*
5.30pm Lorraine Knight	Monique Labutte Volunteer	Dot Baker, Clive Broughton, Rachelle Broughton Jean Di Benedetto, Helen Topham	Ryan Hurley
7.00am Trudy Andrews	Gloria Butt Helen Chapman	Rose Hessen, Jackie Cameron, Colleen McCormack Margaret McNamara, Michael Nicholson	Brianna & Ashley
9.00am Ronnie Wilson	Ronnie Wilson Mary Tudor	Kathy Fuller, Pam Nelson, Marie Roberts John Lynch	Thomas & Samuel Howard

Last Weekend's Thanksgiving Program

Next Week's Counting Team: No. 4 (24/4/2017)

1st Collection	2nd Collection	Piety Shop	St Anthony's
$2701.50	$3475.00	$74.85	$209.00

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver… And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance… You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity." (2 Cor 9:7-8,11)



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Parish Office Hours Tues, Wed,Thurs, Fri (Closed on Monday): 8.45am-3pm

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President of PPC
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Rachelle Broughton
Vice President of PPC
Tel 041 2463 720

Iain Harrison
Secretary of PPC
Tel 040 0112 424

Michael Nicholson
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Jan Levinge
Marriage Coordinator

Kathy Fuller: Principal
St Francis Xavier School
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Reconciliation at 4.00pm
1st Saturday of the month.

Baptism Preparation at
7pm 1st Thurs of the month.

2nd Sunday of Easter Year A 23rd April 2017—Issue No. 217

The Gospel is the Book of God's Mercy

On Divine Mercy Sunday April 3, 2016, Pope Francis affirmed: *"The Gospel is the book of God's mercy. Everything that Jesus said and did is an expression of the Father's mercy. Not everything, however, was written down."* John has written: *"Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book." (Jn 20:30)*

The Gospel of mercy remains an open book, and we are all called to become its living writers for people of today. By practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, these simple yet powerful concrete acts of love and the best witness to mercy, even when unseen, we can continue the great work of Jesus. On Easter day, he poured into the hearts of his fearful disciples the Father's mercy, and sent them into the world to proclaim the message of forgiveness. The same Christ who by his resurrection, wants to enter into each one of us – fearful disciples – to break open the locked doors of our hearts barred by sin, death and the powers of hell, and sends us out.

The path that the Risen Master shows us is a one-way street, it goes in only one direction: this means that we must move beyond ourselves to witness to the healing power of love that has conquered us. The same Risen Lord also says to us: *"As the Father has sent me, even so I send you"* (Jn 20:21) to a humanity who often wounded and fearful, bearing the scars of pain and uncertainty is crying for mercy and peace. God's mercy, in fact, does not keep a distance: it seeks to encounter all forms of poverty and to free this world of so many types of slavery. Mercy desires to reach the wounds of all, to heal them.

Being *apostles of mercy* means touching and soothing the wounds that today afflict the bodies and souls of many of our brothers and sisters. By curing these wounds, we profess Jesus, we make him present and alive, we allow others touching his mercy with their own hands, and recognizing him as *"Lord and God,"* as did the Apostle Thomas. This is the mission that he entrusts to us. The Gospel of mercy, to be proclaimed and written in our daily lives, seeks generous and joyful servants, *"good Samaritans,"* who love freely without expecting anything in return, people with patient and open hearts, who understand compassion.

"Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:21) is the greeting of Jesus to his disciples. This same peace awaits us. It is the peace that comes from the heart of the Risen Lord, that has defeated sin, fear and death. This peace does not abandon us but makes us feel listened to and loved; this peace persists even in pain and enables hope to blossom. This peace, as on the day of Easter, is born ever anew by the forgiveness of God which calms our anxious hearts. To be bearers of his peace: this is the mission entrusted to the Church on Easter day. In Christ, we are born to be instruments of reconciliation, to bring the Father's forgiveness to everyone, to reveal his loving face through concrete works of mercy.

In the responsorial Psalm, we heard these words: *"His love endures forever."* (Ps 117:2) Truly, God's mercy is forever; it never runs out, it never tires when faced with closed doors. In this *forever* we find strength in moments of trial and weakness. We are sure that God does not abandon us. He remains with us *for-*

ever. Let us give thanks for so great a love! Let us pray for the grace to never grow tired of drawing from the well of the Father's mercy and bringing it to the world. Let us ask that we too may be merciful, to spread the power of the Gospel everywhere, and to write those pages of the Gospel which John the Apostle did not write.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47 ***All who believed were together and had all things in common.***

Those who welcomed the message of Peter were baptized and many were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 ***R.*** Give thanks, for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting.

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." ***R.***

I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous. ***R.***

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ***R.***

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:3-9 ***God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.***

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: a birth into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith —being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire— may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See 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!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31 ***A week later Jesus came and stood among them.***

It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas, who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 20:27 Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND DECEASED

RECENTLY DECEASED: Janice Marie Therese Bultitude, Mark Anthony Steven De Bono

ANNIVERSARIES: May & Tony Stephens, Fred Betros, Sol Betros, Hannah Norman, Mary McAloon, Glenn Ivan Winstanley, Robert D Lewis, Molly Kate Topham (Baby), Molly Lawton

SICK LIST: Brian Walker, Harry Hunter, Matthew Taylor, Margaret Wiersma, Madeline Hodgetts, Erin Mehmet, Nicole Ashdown, Babara Paton, Tony Collett, Scott Kuhnumann, Nancy Kelly, Tamara Toms, Cathy Hewitt, Baby Charlie Shirran, Bernie Pack, Kevin O'Donnell, Elizabeth Norris, Pat Otago, Edda Pronard, Stephen Deshaies, Cathy Hewitt, Patricia Ryder, Kathy Pearman, Ken Hannam, Kelly Blount, Gail Callaghan, Pistang Retute, Philip Egan, Vanessa Pritchard, Carol Johnston, Anne & Albert Chandler, David Shinners

Any updates please advise the parish office.

PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake. Amen. *(St Augustine)*

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