



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

16th April 2023 – Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday

Last week we celebrated the Easter triduum, the observance of Jesus' death and resurrection - the 'Paschal mystery'. In this mystery, we experience the overwhelming mercy of God – a God so merciful to us that He takes on our humanity and submits Himself to death on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins (Philippians 2:8).

When I reflect on my journey of faith this Easter season, I am reminded of my own great need for forgiveness. Countless times in my life have I been guilty of hurting others or of failing to do what was right. My need for mercy is great!

Thank God then that you and I can experience this mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

While it is true that we can ask for forgiveness at any time, God is so merciful that he understands our human need to experience forgiveness in a tangible way. And so, He blesses us with the gift of this sacrament. The penitent one who humbly confesses their sin and obtains absolution from a priest is morally sure that their sins are forgiven and will not be imputed to them on the day of judgment.

We can sometimes experience obstacles within us to going to confession. We may make the mistake of assuming we do not need to go to confession because we are 'basically a good person'. If you ever find yourself in this mindset (and I know I have from time to time) consider an analogy comparing God to the light and heat of the sun. The closer one gets "to the 'sun' of God, the more intensely we will feel the burning fire of our sin - and so more deeply desire to be freed from it" (*Monsignor Krzysztof Nykiel*).

Another common obstacle to going to reconciliation can be embarrassment or frustration with ourselves for always confessing the same sins. But this is more an issue for us than God. God is not scandalized by your weaknesses. In fact, His "power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9), and He always forgives us, even though he knows that we will sin again.

Avoiding confession because you struggle with the same things over and over is rather like avoiding the doctor because you keep getting the same infection repeatedly. On the contrary, it should encourage you to go – to receive the medicine and care you obviously need!

Divine mercy is always awaiting us – so let us not run away, but instead run toward it – into the arms of our Merciful Father in heaven:

"Let no one doubt concerning the goodness of God; even if a person's sins were as dark as night, God's mercy is stronger than our misery. One thing alone is necessary; that the sinner set ajar the door of his heart, be it ever so little, to let in a ray of God's merciful grace, and then God will do the rest."

St. Mary Faustina Kowalska

Tim Malone
Coordinator of Sacramental Ministries



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Parish office

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Office Hours:

9.00am–3.00pm

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READINGS (Year A) Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

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

Next Week: (Year A) Acts 2:14, 22-28; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24: 13-35



These are also on the Parish App under **Readings.**

MEN MARK YOUR DIAIRIES—BREAKFAST WITH



THE BISHOP: Bishop Michael is calling men of the Diocese together for a special men's breakfast that he is hosting on **Saturday 13th May, 7.30am at Sacred Heart, Addington (70 Spencer Street).** Gold coin donation on the day. To register

go to www.cathmen.nz or contact Mike Stopforth at the diocesan office, phone 366 9869 or 027 5398 542



Parish Website
Christchurchsouth.org.nz



Parish App
The Catholic Parish of
Christchurch South



<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChchSouth/>

PARISH NOTICES

SENIORS MASS: will be held at **Sts Peter & Pauls, Halswell on Tuesday 19th April at 1.30pm** followed by a cup of tea. If anyone would like to be picked up please ring the parish secretary on 338 8395 or email Joanne Hope



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PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: that have not been collected are now at the parish office.

RECEIPTS have been emailed to those on our list. **Hardcopy receipts** will be available in the church foyer for those who requested them last year. If you have any queries, please contact Judy at the office.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS: Hello to all our supporters.

If you saw the last issue of Inform (No. 135), you will have seen photos of our Bishop, Michael Gielen, opening the transitional housing block sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, for solo women who are in dire need.

But did you know that a large amount of the money which paid for the building came from one of our parish's deceased members. Some of you will remember Gabriel Welsh, who was a very active member of our church during her lifetime and her legacy inspired the idea of the building. Of course, there were many others who sponsored the build, together with companies who donated bed linen, furniture, television sets and whiteware.

We are grateful to Gabriel and those settling her legacy for this important work of charity.

Recent deceased members of Hoon Hay, Halswell, SVDP: Les Maloney and Leo Frost.

RIGHT TO LIFE—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Right to Life Inc AGM will be held at **Christ the King Parish Centre, 90 Greens Road, at 7.30pm on Friday 21st April.** Guest speaker Helen Houghton, Co-leader of the New Conservative Party.

CALL TO SUPPORT CHILDREN NEEDING FOSTER CARE:

Open Home Foundation is a Christian organisation that provides foster care across New Zealand. COVID impacted on our ability to recruit and train foster parents. As a result, we have a 12 year old who is currently living between motels with staff.

Open Home Foundation assess and train all our foster parents so if you feel called to provide foster care either for this 12-year-old or other children in need we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

Please contact Jacqueline Payne Jacqueline.payne@ohf.org.nz on 3665977 to discuss this further.

BOARD AVAILABLE: Woman parishioner in her early 60's is looking for a trustworthy mature woman who could board in her home with her. If you are interested or you know of someone, please call Margaret on 0274057199

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE CONFERENCE:

The opening Mass for the CWL will be celebrated at **9.00am on Saturday 22nd April** at St Patrick's Church, Lincoln. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

VOLUNTEER POSTION—FLOURISH OP SHOP: If you can commit to one day/half day per week, please phone/email Rhonda on: 351 3227 or nurturustrustgm@gmail.com

Parish Collections 9th April

Parish: \$2,636 Clergy Fund: \$1,318
Easter to Clergy Fund : \$1,282
Holy Places \$1,650

Automatic Payments March 2023

Parish \$11,637 Clergy Fund \$5,819

Next Special Collection:

Vocation Sunday 30 April

Parish account for donations

Westpac 03-1592-0207148-20 Thank you

Mass Intentions: William Casey, Maureen Sullivan, Margaret Mooney, Josie Nystad, Shona Sullivan, Rosemary & Bud Grose, Viki Auld, Shona & Len Sullivan, Heather Boaz, Aida Clemente & Mario Mento

Please Pray for all those with Anniversaries at this time: Kathy Williams, Matthew Williams, Jose Nystad

Please Pray for Recently Deceased: Sulia Parr, Shona Sullivan, Denise Stewart

Catholic Parish of Christchurch South: Mass Times

Addington - Sacred Heart

70 Spencer Street
Monday 6.00pm
Wednesday 9.00am
Friday 9.00am
Saturday 9.00am
Saturday Vigil 5.00pm
Sunday 10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sacred Heart:
Saturday 10.30am–11.30am
or by appointment with a Priest

Exposition at Sacred Heart

Friday 9.30am until 10.30am
Saturday 9.30am until 11.30am

Beckenham - St Peter's

11 Fisher Avenue
Sunday 9.00am
Thursday 11.00am*
(*School Term only)

Carmel Monastery

52 Halswell Road
Daily 8.30am

Halswell - Sts Peter & Paul

56 Nicholls Road
Thursday 9.00am
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday 10.30am

Hoon Hay

Our Lady of the Assumption

170 Hoon Hay Road
Sunday 9.00am
Friday 11.00am*
(*School Term only)

Baptisms 2nd Sunday of the month.

Contact the Parish Office on 338 8395

Primary Schools

Our Lady of Assumption
Ph 338 9503,
www.ola.school.nz/Home/

Sacred Heart, Ph 338 3247,
www.sacredheartchch.school.nz

St Peter's, Ph 332 7598,
www.saintpeters.school.nz



Do you want to build your faith? Check out formed.org watch.formed.org