

Prayer for the Deceased Pope and the Coming Conclave

O God, eternal Shepherd and Judge of all souls, we humbly commend to Thy boundless mercy the soul of Thy servant, Francis, the Supreme Pontiff, who has departed from this earthly life. Grant, we beseech Thee, that he who bore the burden of the papal office may be purified of all sin, and may swiftly enter into the joy of Thy eternal kingdom, crowned not with the tiara of earthly honour, but with the glory reserved for Thy faithful servants.

Look with pity, O Lord, upon Thy Holy Church, now bereft of her earthly shepherd. Send down the light of Thy Holy Spirit upon the sacred College of Cardinals as they prepare to enter into conclave. Guide their minds, stir their hearts, and strengthen their wills, that, untainted by worldly ambition, they may choose a Vicar of Christ who is firm in faith, pure in heart, courageous in word, and unwavering in truth.

In these times of confusion, rebellion, and loss of faith, raise up a Holy Father who shall restore all things in Christ, defend the Deposit of Faith, heal the wounds in Thy Mystical Body, and led Thy flock with wisdom and love upon the path of salvation.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, of St Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and of all Thy saints, grant us a pontiff after Thine Own Heart. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Diocesan Mass for Pope Francis

The funeral of Pope Francis is scheduled for Saturday 26th April in Rome. There will be a Requiem Mass for Pope Francis in the Cathedral of St Mary and St Joseph, Armidale, on **Monday 28th April at 12 noon**. Monsignor Wilkes, Diocesan Administrator, will be Principal Celebrant. All across the Diocese are invited to attend.

Parish Mass for Pope Francis

The Requiem Mass for the Roman Pontiff will be celebrated in our Parish on Tuesday, 29th April at 9am

Pope Francis - Condolence Book

The Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, His Excellency Archbishop Balvo, has sent the following message to Australian Catholics through the chanceries around Australia: *Anyone wishing to write messages of condolence following the death of Pope Francis, can email them directly to: na.australia@diploamat.va*

These email messages will be added to the Condolence Book that has been opened at the Nunciature in Red Hill, Canberra, ACT. All messages will then be sent to Rome by the Nuncio.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

On 13 June 2002 St Pope John Paul II decreed a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions to the faithful who, on

Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church/chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for any sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (i.e. Merciful Jesus, I trust in You!).

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass this Sunday followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction. All are welcome to attend. Divine Mercy Prayer Guides are available at the paper table or online at www.divinemercury.org.



First Friday and Saturday Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Heart of Jesus pierced for our sins and giving us Your Mother on Calvary! O Heart of Mary pierced by sorrow and sharing in the sufferings of your Divine Son for our redemption! O sacred union of these Two Hearts! Praised be the God of Love Who united them together! May we unite our hearts and every heart so that all hearts may live in unity in imitation of that sacred unity which exists in these Two Hearts. Amen.

A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

The Sacrament of Penance was instituted by Christ in the form of a judgment, for the remission, through sacramental absolution, of sins committed after Baptism and granted to a contrite person confessing his sins. No one questions the fact that Our Blessed Lord had the power to forgive sins. The Gospels record the miraculous cure of the paralytic at Capharnaum. Our Lord first told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven him, whereupon those round about laughed at Him. In response the Saviour told them that it was just as easy to cure the man as it was to forgive his sins; so He cured the paralytic: 'To convince you that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins while He is on earth'.

Our Blessed Lord was saying that God in the form of Man had the power to forgive sins; that is to say, through the instrumentality of the human nature, which He received from Mary, He was forgiving sins. Here is an anticipation of the fact that it is through humanity that He will continue to forgive sins; i.e., through those who are endowed with sacramental power to do so. Man cannot forgive sins, but God can forgive sins through man.

Our Lord promised to confer this power of forgiveness, first of all, to Peter whom He made the rock of the Church. He told Peter that He would ratify in heaven the decisions which Peter took on earth. These decisions were explained in two metaphors of 'binding' and 'loosing.' The power of jurisdiction was given to the one who had the keys of the kingdom. This promise made to Peter was followed up a little later on by one made to the Apostles. **Continue to read the whole Reflection on the parish website or Facebook page.**



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY / SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

- YEAR C - 27 APRIL 2025

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"



"O soul steeped in darkness, do not despair. All is not yet lost. Come and confide in your God, Who is love and mercy."
- St Faustina Kowalska

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 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4, 22-27

R: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting.

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 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.**

3. O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success. Blessed in the name of the Lord is He who comes. We bless You from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light. **R.**

Second Reading Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw Him, I fell in a dead faint at His feet, but He touched me with His right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

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

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.



Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

Divine Mercy Sunday / Second Sunday of Easter

- Year C - April 27, 2025



81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360
(P. O. Box 107)
Phone 67221103
Email: inverellparish@armidale.catholic.org.au or frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au
Website: www.sacredheartinverell.org.au
Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell
Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066
Parish Office Hours:
Monday 28 April & Friday 2 May - 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 29 April - 8am to 12pm
Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler
PPC Chair: Mr Matthew Rennie
Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger
Parish Secretary: Peter Turner

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased:

Pope Francis, Stephen Tubb, Janet O'Reilly, Terry Savoy, Daniel Wilson, Straton Kennedy.

the sick:

Tony King, Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick.

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am
Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

Planned Giving Program: If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

APRIL - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

MONDAY 28th

Feast Day of St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 29th

Feast Day of St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am - Requiem Mass for the Roman Pontiff

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

WEDNESDAY 30th

Feast Day of St Pius V, pope

Holy Mass - 6.30am

Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha

MAY - THE MONTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THURSDAY 1st

Feast Day of St Joseph the Worker

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Alpha Program - 6.00pm

FRIDAY 2nd

First Friday & Feast Day of St Athanasius, bishop, doctor

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm

Benediction - 1.20pm

SATURDAY 3rd

First Saturday & Feast Day of Sts Philip & James, apostles

Confession - 8.00am

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Rosary - 5.00pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 5.30pm

SUNDAY 4th

Third Sunday of Easter

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

Saturday: 4.45pm to 5.15pm (and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES:

McLean Village Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.30pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.30pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.30pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

Easter Dues: Envelopes will be available throughout the Easter Octave. Please donate generously.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR MAY

Pat Bailey & Kay Gardner

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 11 May 2025, after Mass

Pastoral Council - Wed 14 May 2025, 5.00pm

Liturgy Committee - Sat 17 May 2025, 9.00am

Finance Committee - Wed 28 May 2025, 5.00pm

Bottles of Holy Water

Bottles of Holy Water are available at the baptismal font. A gold coin donation is requested to help cover the cost of the Paschal Candle and other Easter expenses. Please return any old bottles to the office. If you have your own holy water bottle, you may fill it from the font.

Saturday Evening Mass Times

Commencing next weekend the Mass on Saturday evenings will begin at 5.30pm for the Winter months.

Interesting and recent Catholic trends

The Catholic media online world was somewhat ablaze in Holy Week with data, from various parts of the world, showing an uptick in the numbers of people coming into the Catholic Church.

• "France's Catholic Church will welcome more than 10,384 adult catechumens at Easter this year, marking a 45% increase from 2024 figures, according to data released by the French Bishops' Conference. The French report reveals the highest numbers ever recorded since the survey began over twenty years ago. Even more striking is the demographic shift — young adults now constitute the largest segment of converts." (from *National Catholic Register*, April 13th 2025)

• This Easter Vigil, the Catholic Church in England is expecting a decade-high surge of new entrants to the faith. There is anecdotal evidence of a particular increase in young men, who say their interest was sparked initially by Catholic apologists on social media and also by the traditional heritage of Catholicism. Almost all English dioceses contacted reported a significant increase in both catechumens and candidates at the Rite of Election at the start of Lent compared with last year. Many had not seen comparable numbers for a decade. (from *National Catholic Register*, April 14, 2025)

There's further information that you can read for yourself in this article from The Pillar www.pillarcatholic.com/p/adult-baptisms-whats-driving-the

Meanwhile, back home Greg Sheridan in The Australian on Holy Saturday picked up the theme with the headline, *The most extraordinary thing about this Easter? The surge towards Christianity*

He writes: *Now, the weirdest thing is happening. The statistical decline of Christianity in the US, in parts of Europe, even perhaps in Australia, has puzzlingly stopped. The Economist reports that a surprising number of American Gen Z and millennials have "got religion"... Melbourne's Catholic Archbishop, Peter Comensoli, noted in his recent Patrick Oration that there will be 400 converts to Catholicism in*

Melbourne at Easter. In his diocese, Sunday Mass attendance has gone from 84,000 in 2022 to 103,000 in 2024.

Among Catholics the two movements with the most energy among young people are the *rad trads*, the highly traditionalist, and the *charismatics*, Catholic first cousins of the *Pentecostals*. Like the *Pentecostals*, these movements emphasise a personal encounter with God, with the transcendent.

He goes on to say that nobody has ever rejected Christianity because it was too bland. And so, he encourages Christians (and fellow-Catholics, since he is one) not to shy away from *how utterly weird, how completely gobsmackingly strange, their core beliefs are*. Christians believe that God became man, born of a virgin, suffered humiliation and death, and rose from the dead. Christians believe that every week at church they eat the flesh of this God and drink his blood. Christians believe that every human being will live for all eternity in a transformed version of their body. Christians believe in the *Four Last Things* – death, judgment, heaven, hell.

My experience as a priest would compel me to agree with him wholeheartedly. It's not ultimately any programme or outreach that will fill our churches, though they might help. What brings people to the Catholic faith is the fidelity of those who already have it, who go to Mass, are reverent in worship and prayer, and are not hood-winked by secular values and principles. They even delight in being different from the world. This is what the Gen Z and Y find interesting and attractive because in their lives they have never experienced anything so firm and solid as the Catholic faith. We must not water it down and make it bland. A few years ago I was preparing a young woman to become Catholic, who, when we were discussing the moral code of the Church, said, "I am so looking forward to being Catholic. Now I don't have to make a decision on everything on my own. The Church tells me what to do and what to believe."

All of this leads me to share with you our local scene. Currently there are 8 people preparing to become Catholic in our parish. Six of them are teachers at Holy Trinity School, one is a parent there, and one wants to be Catholic because her husband and little son are; she wants to make the faith for the whole family. Please keep these in your prayers. Each of them, in their own circumstances has met the Catholic Church and the Catholic faith through committed Catholics.

Please also continue to pray for the success of the Alpha Programme, running from May 1st to June 28th. It is another way in which people come into contact with us, our Church, and our faith.

From Fr Paul

If you are using a Sunday Missal:

- * Proper of Mass, Page 822
- * Preface I of Easter, Page 36
- * Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Page 61
- * Daily Missal uses Year One (weekday Mass)