

SUNDAY MASS

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 118.

RESPONSE:

Give praise to the Lord, for his is good; his mercy endures forever.

- Let the house of Israel say,
'His mercy endures forever'.
Let the house of Aaron say,
'His mercy endures forever'.
Let those who fear the Lord say,
'His mercy endures forever'. **R**
- The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad. **R**
- O Lord, grant salvation;
O Lord, grant success.
Blest is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord is God, and has given us light. **R**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:9-11,12-13,17-19

GOSEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. Alleluia.

GOSEL: John 20:19-31.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

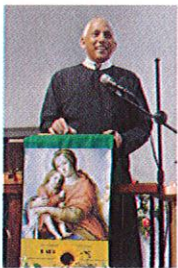
Take your hand and feel the place of the nails, and be no longer doubtful but believing, alleluia.

MISSIONS for JUBILEE 2025

Pope Francis, as with his predecessors every 25 years, has declared 2025 a JUBILEE YEAR. A biblical concept, it is a time of grace, reconciliation and renewal.

Why not invite the Redemptorists to preach a mission in your parish?

Contact mission director Fr Tyrone Sam:
tyrone.cssr@gmail.com



THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 28 Apr (St Peter Chanel, PrM)

Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 2; John 3:1-8

Suffering for Christ means suffering because we are like Christ. We are not martyrs when we are "persecuted" by those who merely treat us as we treat them.

Tue 29 Apr St Catherine of Siena, VD

Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93; John 3:7-15

"He will provide the way and the means, such as you could never have imagined. Leave it all to Him, let go of yourself, lose yourself on the Cross, and you will find yourself entirely". – St Catherine of Siena

Wed 30 Apr OUR LADY, MOTHER OF AFRICA

Acts 1:12-14; Luke 1:46-55; John 2:1-11

"Lord, as we honour the memory of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Africa, we ask that by the help of her prayers we too may come to share the fullness of your grace and live in harmony and peace as one family." – Collect

Thu 1 May (St Joseph the Worker)

Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34; John 3:31-36

"I have great love for St Joseph because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of St Joseph sleeping. Even when he is sleeping he is taking care of the church." – Pope Francis

Fri 2 May St Athanasius, BD

Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27; John 6:1-15

"Let us remember the poor, and not forget kindness to strangers; above all, let us love God with all our soul, and might, and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves." – St Athanasius

Sat 3 May SS PHILIP & JAMES, As

1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Psalm 19; John 14:6-14

Then Philip said, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us". Enough! Jesus answered, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? (Jn 14:8-9)

Sun 4 May 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5:27-32,40-41; Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

"We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence." – Pope Francis. Rejoice in the new life given to us in the Risen Lord.

KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional Memorial)
Pr=Priest; M=Martyr; V=Virgin; D=Doctor; B=Bishop; A=Apostle

Catholic Link

MERCY SUNDAY

2nd Sunday of Easter • Year C
Divine Office: Week II • 27 April 2025

Jubilee Means Mercy

As it happens, this year Mercy Sunday falls on Freedom Day in South Africa, a day to mark the first democratic elections which liberated the country from the scourge of apartheid. So, it is appropriate to bring today's feast of Divine Mercy to bear on political and civil realities as much as religious ones. In addition, Mercy Sunday this year takes on the ethos of the current Jubilee Year of Hope. Biblically, jubilee implies the cancellation of all debts, both spiritual and material, as a mark of God's mercy.

The gospel reading today (John 20:19-31) is the same in years A, B, and C within the Easter Octave. There are two Sundays in the liturgical year whose importance cannot be exaggerated: Easter Day and Mercy Sunday.

In the evening of Easter Day, the Risen Jesus came in person to his disciples, not only to reassure them of the truth of his Resurrection but to give them the first fruits of his Resurrection. Jesus uses an unusual practice: "He breathed on them", thus invoking a cherished memory from the Book of Genesis about God breathing life into clay and creating people, just as his Spirit breathed over all creation. After breathing on his disciples, Jesus shared with them the power to forgive sins, to reconcile sinners with the Father, to breathe mercy on all who repent. This gift gave a sacramental meaning to the *shalom* – the peace – with which he had twice greeted the disciples. Peace is a profound gift still offered in the Church through the Sacrament

of Reconciliation, and it means that as long as we live, there is hope and mercy for those who want them.

One week later Jesus made a return visit to the disciples who were still locked away in fear. Jesus clearly wanted to reassure them, but also to help Thomas who had been absent the previous week. Despite Thomas' doubts, he had stayed with the group and Jesus took him at his word, inviting him to touch the wounds in his hands and side, just as Thomas had stipulated! Thomas responded with a breath-taking prayer: *My Lord and my God.*

Many people have noticed the significance of touching the wounds of Jesus as an act not only of faith but also an act of hope and love. In fact, if we are unwilling to touch the wounds of Jesus in the poor around us, if we keep the wounded, the sick, the lonely, the marginalized at a distance, how we can say *My Lord and my God.*

The millions of Christians who are celebrating this Jubilee of Hope are experiencing the mystery of Divine Mercy at work in 2025. We are those whom Jesus praised when he said, "*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe*". In our liturgy today we enter into the way of the pilgrim by welcoming the Risen Lord in all whom we meet, by receiving grace in answer to grace, by sharing our hope and our love. This is faith in practice.

In the words of the Jubilee prayer: "May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven".



The Maesta Altarpiece: The Incredulity of St Thomas (1461), by Duccio

Parish Priest: Fr David Evans
 Parish Secretary: Judy Joseph
 Bookkeeper: Tanya Charles
 Office Hours: Mon to Fri 08h00 to 16h00
 Website: www.stpatricksbenoni.co.za



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St Patrick's Parish: Mass Times	Tues 09h30	Wed No mass	Thurs 17h30	Fri 08h00	Sat 08h00 17h00	Sun 07h30 10h00 17h00	Confessions Thurs 17h00 Sat 08h30
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Please support your parish: **"St Patrick's Catholic Church"** Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: **021 095 612** (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za or on 060 327 2998.

Our **"Society of St Vincent de Paul"** helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Standard Bank, Boksburg, Current Account no. 220930287.

We pray for Graham Jones and Brian Turnbull who have died: may they rest in peace and rise in glory to live in joy in the kingdom forever.

This coming Thursday 1 May is a public holiday and mass will be **08h00** and not 17h30.

This coming Friday, 4 May is **First Friday**. Mass in the morning is at 8.00am. In the evening, Holy Hour and Benediction are at 5.00pm followed by mass at 5.30pm. You may park in the School grounds in the evening.

Saint Vincent de Paul will be taking their monthly collection, after all masses this coming weekend.

When I awaken I adore the Holy Trinity for a short while and thank God for having deigned to give me yet another day, that the mystery of the incarnation of His Son may once more be repeated in me, and that once again His sorrowful Passion may unfold before my eyes. I then try to make it easier for Jesus to pass through me to other souls. I go everywhere with Jesus: His presence accompanies me everywhere. (St Faustina)

To make a donation to St Patrick's or give your collection at mass: Use SNAPSCAN by downloading the app on your phone and holding it over the QR code on the right.



Today we celebrate the Divine Mercy and Love of God as revealed in his Son's glorious Resurrection at Easter.

The Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday Missal page 829 Weekday Missal page 456

Death of Pope Francis

We have all been deeply saddened by the death of Pope Francis. While we know that he had been sick for a long time and had been very close to death, his passing comes as a great shock and sadness to us. Over the past years we have been touched by his warm smile, his courageous message, his emphasis on mercy, his denouncement of injustice, wars and dehumanization of people. Through and beyond our sadness, we cannot but give thanks to God for blessing us with such a great Pope and caring pastor, and with faith we commend Pope Francis into the loving arms of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

I ask that you will keep Pope Francis, the Church and the future Pope in your prayers.

+Stephen Cardinal Brislin
 Archbishop of Johannesburg

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
 In the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
 When, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
 a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
 To you Our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.
 Amen.