



St Mary's Parish

Incorporating the Catholic communities of Hamilton, Dunkeld, Macarthur, Glenthompson and Penshurst.

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2nd Sunday of Easter, Year C

3 April 2016

First Reading Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

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. v.1

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

or

(R.) Alleluia.

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 Rv 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

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 Jn 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 Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

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



Reflection

by Greg Sunter

This passage can be seen as the gospel writer's version of the Pentecost that was previously recorded by the writer of Luke-Acts. As the account of Pentecost in the book of Acts was already in existence, the gospel writer felt no concern about alluding to it in his version of the gospel story. The inclusion of this event in the gospel of John adds a 'completeness' to the gospel text - from the Word with God in chapter 1 through the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus to this moment of charging his disciples with the task of carrying on his work and breathing on them the Holy Spirit. It seems that the gospel writer wanted to bring the story to its conclusion. The idea of Jesus 'breathing' the Holy Spirit onto the disciples is an interesting one. The Greek word *pneuma* carried two meanings: breath and spirit. So to deliberately breathe on someone was to share one's spirit with them. Jesus gives this act a greater meaning by declaring the spirit to be the Holy Spirit that will empower the disciples for the mission he is entrusting to them.

The disciple Thomas has received a pretty raw deal from history. The phrase, doubting Thomas, has found its way into our everyday language and condemns Thomas as the one who wouldn't take the word of his fellow disciples but wanted to see the Risen Lord himself. However, rather than remembering Thomas for his doubt, we should remember Thomas as the one who makes the extraordinary declaration of faith, 'My Lord and my God!' It is Thomas, alone amongst all those who recognise the greatness of Jesus across the four gospels, who acknowledges Jesus as not just the Messiah, but God.

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MONIVAE COLLEGE, HAMILTON
 Principal: Mark McGinnity
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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Gunditjmarra people.

Country Mass Schedule (New from Feb.7th)

	1 st Sun	2 nd Sun	3 rd Sun	4 th Sun	5 th Sun
Penshurst 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	Mass	SAWC	Mass	Mass
Dunkeld 8:30am	Mass	No Service (To Glen)	Mass	SAWC	SAWC
Glenthompson 8:30am	SAWC	Mass	No Service (To Dunkeld)	Mass	SAWC
Macarthur 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	SAWC	Mass	SAWC	Mass

ST JOSEPH'S ROSTER
 10th April 2016

Lector	Coleen Page
Leader	
Prayers	St Joseph's School
Special Minister	Brendan Kelly
Gifts	St Joseph's School

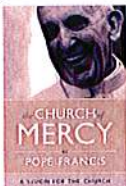
Parish Collections

Pledged: \$108,779
 Stewardship: \$
 Priest Support: \$1,853
Weekend counters :
M Cook, J Watt & M Stewart
Next w/end counters:
 R Corbett, B Shanahan & T Oliver

	Hamilton: Saturday 9th @ 6pm	Hamilton Sun 10th @ 10.30am
welcome	H&J Watt, J Schurmann	Anne Slattery & Alida Aylmer
Commentator	John Duyvestyn	Annette Mason
1st Reader	Ted Oliver	Ian Ferguson
2nd Reader	David Dunn	Patricia Blohm
Power Point	Pauline Murphy	O'Brien Family
Offertory	Francis & Rosemary	Debra Fitzgerald
Eucharist	P&M Dunn & T Groves	T Hurley, G McDonald, N McLeish, J Hockey & F Soulsby

This Weekend Ministers of Communion	
6 pm	J Ryan, B Kaaye & T Oliver
10.30am	R Fitzgerald, A Campbell, C Stanhope & S Fitzgerald

Church Cleaning APRIL
 Helen Cowland, Sonya Pierce
 & Kymhan Watson



"But, careful! Jesus does not say, Go off and do things on your own. No! That is not what he is saying. Jesus says, Go, for I am with you! This is what is so beautiful for us; it is what guides us. If we go out to bring his Gospel with love, with a true apostolic spirit, with parrhesia, he walks with us, he goes ahead of us, and he gets there first. Jesus is waiting for us in the hearts of our brothers and sisters, in their wounded bodies, in their hardships, in their lack of faith."

— Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy

Weekday Mass or SAWC

Tue, Wed, Thurs. & Friday @ 10am
 St Mary's Parish Hamilton Day Chapel.

All Welcome!

Wednesday Meet Up

**A Casual Cuppa & Chat,
 All Welcome!**



Every Wednesday during school Terms
 Dunworth Centre @ 9:30-11.30am

\$2 per family Great kids playroom





St Mary's Parish

Hamilton

July 30th & 31st 2016

Celebrating 150 Years of Church Life
at St Mary's Hamilton

Celebration Dinner, Ceremonial Mass, History, Tours.

Aug 13th & 14th, 2016

St Mary's Parish, Reaching Out In Faith!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS DEATHS:

DEATHS:

Kevin McCabe

ANNIVERSARIES:

Gerald McArthur, John Paul II,
Douglas Byrne, Fr. Thomas Linane, Wilbur Minehan.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Val Carter, Claire Kinnane, Marg Lane,
Connie McArthur, Heather Boyd,
Kerryn McCluggage, Bernadette Smith.

BULLETIN NOTES

- St Mary's Book Club, Blue Malt on Wed. 6th April at 7.30 pm to review Sarah Thornhill by Kate Grenville.
- **Rosary** every Sunday night @ 7pm.
- **Meditation** meets each Wed. 7.30-8.30pm at parish house. All Welcome

We welcome into the family of God
through Baptism



at St Mary's, Hamilton

Amelia Cross

Daughter of Paige & Nigel

&

Adam Estreich

Son of Dean & Anna

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 3rd April

"My Heart rejoices in this feast -
on that day all the Divine floodgates
through which graces flow are
opened" (Diary 998, 699)



- 10.30am Mass & Blessing of Divine Mercy Image
- 12.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 2.00pm Rosary
- 2.30pm Litany of the Divine Mercy
- 3.00pm The 3 o'clock Prayer and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- 3.15pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Reconciliation available during afternoon.

PRAYER

Creator God,

on the Lord's Day you gather your people together
to celebrate Jesus,

who is the First and the Last,

the Living One, who has conquered death.

Give us the Spirit's gift of strength that we may

share with all believers

the pain and persecution

that faith in Jesus can demand.

Let us come by patient endurance

to share also in the glorious kingdom

where Jesus lives and reigns as the Risen Lord,

one with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God fore ever and ever.

JULIAN BURNSIDE AO QC.

Australian barrister, human rights & refugee
advocate.

Australian Living Treasure

and recipient of the Australian Peace Prize

"Is this really Australia?"

Hamilton Performing Arts Centre

Sunday 10th April 2016

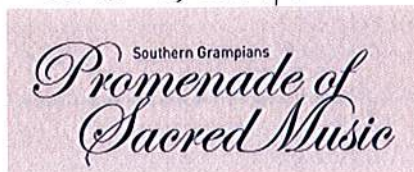
Time: 2pm

Cost: Adults \$10 & Students \$5

Booking: Hamilton PAC, Brown St, Hamilton

Phone: 55730429 OR www.hamiltonpac.com.au

14th-17th April



Saturday 16th April, St Mary's Church Hamilton,
Melbourne Mandolin & Guitar Orchestra.

www.promenadeofsacredmusic.com.au

www.stmaryshamilton.org.au



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Pope trumps Obama as world's most popular leader, survey finds



Pope Francis is the most popular world leader according to a new opinion poll by WIN/Gallup, reports The Tablet

The survey, taken by 1000 people in 64 countries respectively, puts the popularity of the Pope above US President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, as well as British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande.

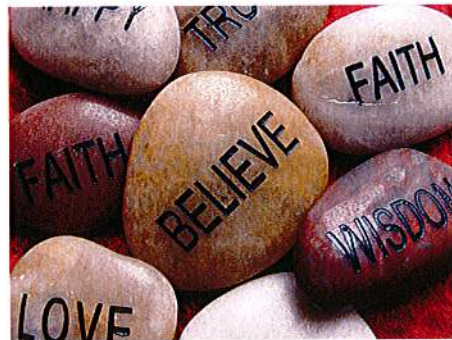
The regions where the Pope is held in highest esteem are perhaps unsurprising - his Latin American homeland, North America and Europe. Portugal has the highest number of individuals with a positive view of the Pope, followed by the Philippines.

Segmented by religious belief, Roman Catholics view the Pope most favourably, followed by Jews and then Protestants. Only 28 per cent of Muslims and 33 per cent of Buddhists see Francis in a positive light, though

most of the Muslims and Buddhists surveyed had not heard of him.

The majority of atheists and agnostics polled view him favourably, according to the results.

Believing in God makes us more empathetic, says study



Humans suppress areas of the brain used for analytical thinking and engage the parts that are responsible for empathy in order to believe in God, research suggests, reports The Independent.

They do the opposite when thinking about the physical world, according to the study.

"When there's a question of faith, from the analytic point of view, it may seem absurd," said Professor Tony Jack, who led the research at Case Western

Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

"But, from what we understand about the brain, the leap of faith to belief in the supernatural amounts to pushing aside the critical/analytical way of thinking to help us achieve greater social and emotional insight."

In an analysis of eight experiments, published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, researchers also found people with faith were more empathetic than those without.

The researchers examined the relationship between the belief in God and measures of analytic thinking and moral concern in the experiments, each using between 159 and 527 adult participants.

Although both spiritual belief and empathic concern were positively associated with frequency of prayer or meditation, neither were predicted by social contact - such as church dinners - associated with religious affiliation.

In earlier research, Professor Jack's Brain, Mind & Consciousness laboratory used an MRI machine to show the brain has an analytical network of neurons that enables humans think critically and a social network to empathise.

Website: cathnew.com.au