

## There are stranger things

You've heard the line: "Kids say the strangest things ..." But have you heard it said: "God *does* the strangest things"? Take the resurrection of Jesus: surely the strangest of God's strangest things.

It is the center of the Catholic faith, at any rate. No resurrection, no Catholicism. The pope would shutter the Vatican tomorrow if Easter were proven a fraud. Christianity is indeed strange. The strangeness comes not from belief in the supernatural (pagans have always believed in unseen beings and invisible worlds), nor does it come from belief in the one God (Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Rastafarians, some Hindus, and even some Buddhists are monotheists), nor does it come from our sacramental practices, though these are surely a little strange. We've got saints that say and do strange things (Padre Pio: enough said!), our monotheism breaks all the rules (Trinity!), and the center of our ritual practice is communion (Body and Blood!). The question is not whether Christianity is stranger than other religions ('Oh yeah? Well we've got *tons* of incorrupt bodies of our holy people!') or whether Catholicism is strange in comparison to other forms of the worldwide Jesus movement ('We've got "papal infallibility." What about you, *huh?*'). We don't believe it *because* it's crazy. But there are plenty today that think our belief is crazy, strange, or at least unintelligible. What's so crazy about the 'Religion of Resurrection'? The ancient Greeks believed in gods and even heroic humans going to the place of the dead

and returning to tell the tale. Many think that shamanism—a widespread form of religious practice, in which a healer takes ecstatic journeys to the 'other side', gaining wisdom and power from ancestral, divine spirits—is the prehistoric origin of modern religions. The resemblances are, of course, a little ambiguous. Jesus *died*; the shaman or hero's heart does not stop during his journey. Still, the problem of death—our own deaths, and our access, or not, to the 'other side'—is universal: whatever else we are as humans, we have to deal with death, not least in order to understand a little of the meaning of our life. Strange to say it but we do: Jesus 'conquered' or 'overcame' death. We even say that he 'reigns over' death. He is 'Lord of life and death', we say, 'holding the keys of death and Hades' (Revelation 1:18). It's also strange that 'belief in him' grants 'forgiveness of sins' (Acts 10:43): from the mouth of St Peter that is. "All the prophets bear witness," he says, to this connection between *our* belief and *his* forgiveness. Strange, no? Perplexing, yes? This lordship of Jesus over 'the living and the dead' illumines the connection, thinks the first pope: 'belief' means accepting, *living in accord with* this lordship. Connecting with his lordship through belief communicates his Easter life to us, 'eternal life', *a new beginning* for God's creation project, *humans*—strange to say it—at the centre.

W Chris Hackett

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### Masses:

#### Saturday Vigil:

5.30pm

Sunday: 8.00am &  
10.00am

Monday-Saturday:  
9.00am

#### Anointing Mass:

First Friday of each  
month at 9am Mass

#### Prayer of the Church:

Saturday: 8.45am &  
Novena at 9am Mass

#### Reconciliation:

Saturday: After 9am  
Mass

#### Rosary Group:

Each Friday: 3:30pm  
in Parish Centre

#### Exposition:

Every Thursday  
9.30am - 6.45pm  
with Benediction at  
6.45pm



## Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

510 Riddell Road, Glendowie 1071

Parish Office: 575 9296

Parish Priest: Fr John Dunn

Dcn Mark Rivalland: 021 482 555

Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9.30 - 12pm

Wednesday: 1.30-5pm

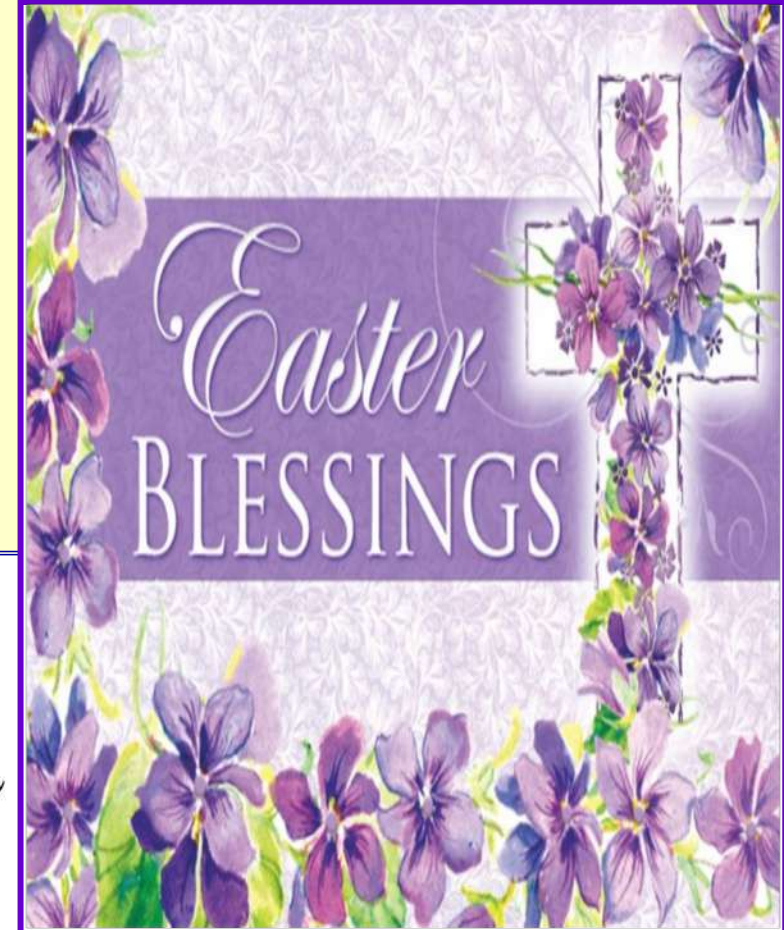
E-Mail: [office@glendowiecatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@glendowiecatholic.org.nz)

Parish Website: [www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz](http://www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz)

Parish Administrator: Karla Nobre Milosevic

Pastoral Worker: Maureen Keenan (Home) 575 4354

Easter Sunday  
Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 April 2021



## Easter Prayer

We thank you that Easter is not about a people,  
but all people.  
That your love and your Salvation are for all who  
confess with voices, hearts and lives.  
That the tomb is empty because **JESUS IS RISEN**.  
That we might know forgiveness.  
That lives might be reborn and your name  
glorified now and for eternity.  
Amen.



### DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

We will begin praying the Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday after the Stations of the Cross at 10am. The novena will last for 9 days, ending on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11th.

If you are unable to join us every morning, please pray along in your own time.

Our Parish is emailing the Divine Mercy Novena to all parishioners. If you do not usually receive the Bishop Barron emails sent through Flocknote, and would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to [jrayen6@gmail.com](mailto:jrayen6@gmail.com). You will also receive free access to Word on Fire Engage library videos by Bishop Robert Barron.



## Celebrating the Feast of Divine Mercy

**Sunday, April 11th, 10:00am mass**

Jesus told St. Faustina, "My heart rejoices on this Feast Day." On Sunday, the 11th of April, at 10am mass, we are celebrating the feast of Divine Mercy. We will begin with a procession from the Memorial Garden, weather permitting. During Holy Mass, we will venerate the image of Divine Mercy. Please bring your rosary and your Divine Mercy images and artefacts to be blessed.

***Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity!***

We remember in prayer our parishioners whose anniversaries occur during March & April: Maureen Featherdton, Samuel Bennett, Rona MacKinlay, Teresa O'Shea, Alan Simpson, Kathleen De Semlyen,

### Next Week: Second Sunday of Easter 10 & 11 April 2021 Divine Mercy Sunday

1. Acts 5:12-16 2. Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19 3. Gospel John 20:19-31

<u>ROSTERS</u>	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am
<b>Welcomers:</b>	Kathryn Redmore	Loyola Correa	Sina Pailate
<b>Greeters:</b>	Everitt Family Morton Family	Maria Kneebone Delreen Rayen	Val Wallace Anthony Balazo
<b>Musicians:</b>	Jason Diack		MPH Parish Singers
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Maureen Keenan	Fiona Wilson	Odelia D'Souza
<b>Children's Liturgy:</b>	Doubting Thomas - Syntia Leite & Pedro Leite		
<b>Prayers of the Faithful:</b>	Siobhan Sims		
<b>Ministers of Communion:</b>	David Manickum Valerie Yeong	Mary Thornton Heather Hart	Mary Osborne Kathleen Ward
<b>Readers:</b>	Anna Mortiaux Tony Verner	Helen Wright Donny James	Siobhan Sims Mathew Bland
<b>Cleaners:</b>	Kolotita & Tuakalau Makalio		
<b>Grace Joel:</b>	Liturgy of the Word & Communion 10.30am: Gerard Murphy		
<b>Sacramental Programme Offertory Procession:</b>	10am <b>Dwyer</b> Family		