



The only thing that counts is faith working through love. (Galatians 5:6)

3rd Sunday of Lent
8th March 2026

Thirst To Testimony: A Journey Through Mercy

In the Gospel of John chapter 4, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well unfolds as a masterful example of progressive revelation, where Christ gradually unveils divine truths tailored to her understanding, leading her from cultural prejudice and personal brokenness to recognition of him as the Messiah. This dialogue progresses through stages—breaking social barriers, revealing personal sin, teaching on true worship, and culminating in self-disclosure—transforming her life and igniting missionary zeal among her people. Drawing on Scripture and papal reflections, this article explores how Jesus' method mirrors the patient pedagogy of God, inviting all believers into a similar journey of faith.

Jesus' Encounter with the Samaritan Woman: A Profound Manifestation of Divine Mercy

The story of Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4:1-42) vividly illustrates **Divine Mercy** in action. Tired from his journey, Jesus takes the initiative to engage a social and religious outcast—a Samaritan woman with a troubled past—breaking deep cultural barriers. He gently reveals her sins, offers her "living water" gushing up to eternal life, discloses his identity as Messiah, and sparks her conversion, leading many in her village to faith. This encounter exemplifies God's mercy as compassionate outreach, truthful confrontation of sin without condemnation, transformative grace, and communal salvation. It aligns with Church teaching that mercy is the foundation of all God's works, richer than justice alone, and displayed supremely in Christ's redemptive mission.

Merciful Revelation of Sin and Truth

When the woman notes the improbability of a Jew asking her for water, Jesus responds: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you **living water**." He then uncovers her history:

"You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband."

This prophetic knowledge evokes her awe—"Sir, I see that you are a prophet"—yet Jesus condemns not; he invites transformation. Divine mercy confronts sin to heal, as Pius XII teaches in Christ's Passion: reconciling justice and mercy, satisfying for sins through love richer than mere forgiveness. Aquinas notes God's omnipotence shines "especially by sparing and having mercy," forgiving freely as supreme power.

Fruits of Mercy: Evangelization and Belief

Leaving her jar, the woman proclaims:

"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

Many Samaritans believe her testimony, then Jesus' word: "We know that this is truly the **Savior of the world**."

Jesus' "food" is doing the Father's will, harvesting ripe fields. Aquinas sees mercy as efficient cause of justification, rooted in God's charity creating goodness in us. The merciful receive mercy, per the Beatitudes, as Chrysostom notes: divine mercy exceeds human.

In concluding, I would like to say, the season of lent is a deeper invitation to experience the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just read in conjunction that Divine Mercy feast follows Easter. Anyone who encounters and experiences the Merciful Jesus cannot but become his true disciple.

God bless us all.

Fr. Joby George VC

Parish Priest:
Fr. Joby George VC

Priest-In Residence:
Fr Sebastian
Mappilaparambil VC

Parish secretary:
Caroline Allen

Parish Manager:
Gerard Antony

Principal:
Paul Sharp

Child Safety Officer:
Florida Nugara

Catechist:
Christina D' Couto

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
Sunday..... 9.15am
..... 11.00am
Healing Mass 7.00pm

Spanish Mass:
Saturday 4.00pm

Weekday Masses:
Monday to Saturday 9.15am
Wednesday 7.00pm

Reconciliation:
Tuesday 9.45am - 10.15am
Saturday 9.45am - 10.15am

Novena to Our Lady:
Saturday 9.00am
Wednesday 7.00pm

Baptisms: Second Sunday

Divine Kids Bible Class:
Sunday 10.15am

Parish Prayer Group:
Tuesday 7.00pm-8.00pm

Parish Halls Hire:
Contact Parish Office

Youth Mass
Every 4th Sunday

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, DOVETON

AT 11 AM

EXPERIENCE PRAYER
SHARING
PRAISE AND WORSHIP
MUSIC MINISTRY
FELLOWSHIP

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK
FOR HEALING OF THOSE WHO ARE ON LIFE-LONG MEDICATION

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Fridays during Lent, The Stations of the Cross will be conducted in the **morning before the 9.15am mass and 6.30pm**, followed by Mass.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS / ADORATION
Friday, **20th March** is the third Friday, and we will have Intercessory Prayer / Adoration in the church after the 7pm Mass until 12 midnight.

CHILD SAFETY
Holy Family Parish is committed to upholding the wellbeing, safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.

READINGS

SUNDAY

Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22
Romans 5:1-2,5-8
John 4:5-42

MONDAY

2 Kings 5:1-15
Psalm 42:2-3,42:3-4
Luke 4:24-30

TUESDAY

Daniel 3:25,34-43
Psalm 25:4-9
Matthew 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY

Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9
Psalm 147:12-13,15-16,19-20
Matthew 5:17-19

THURSDAY

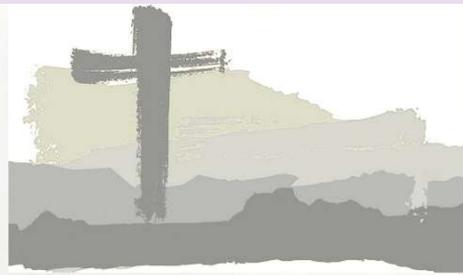
Jeremiah 7:23-28
Psalm 95:1-2,6-9
Luke 11:14-23

FRIDAY

Hosea 14:2-10
Psalm 81:6,8-11,14,17
Mark 12:28-34

SATURDAY

Hosea 5:15-6:6
Psalm 51:3-4, 18-21
Luke 18:9-14



Lenten Retreat

@ Holy Family Catholic Church, Doveton



March

25 , 26 & 27

6.30 PM - 8:45 PM

6.30 PM Stations of the Cross

7.00 PM Holy Mass

7.30 PM Lenten Reflections

8.15 PM Adoration

Led by

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Foley ISSM

(Provincial Superior, Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary)

Confession:

Thursday 26th March

7.00 PM to 8.30 PM

DIVINE KIDS

"WALK WITH JESUS TO CALVARY"

Lenten Retreat for Children and Teens

MAR 14 AND 15, 2026

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

**ST AGATHA'S CHURCH
129 SLADEN STREET
CRANBOURNE, VIC**



**Ages
15**

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH DOVETON



HOLY WEEK, EASTER TRIDUUM, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY

SATURDAY VIGIL

MARCH 28 6.30 PM BLESSING OF PALMS AND HOLY MASS

SUNDAY

MARCH 29 10.00 AM BLESSING OF PALMS & SOLEMN PROCESSION
07.00 PM HOLY MASS

HOLY WEEK

MARCH 30 9.15 AM HOLY MASS & CONFESSION (after Holy Mass)
MON 7.00 PM – 8 PM CONFESSION

MARCH 31 (PRIESTS AT CHRISM MASS AT CATHEDRAL 10.00AM)
TUE 7.00 PM HOLY MASS & CONFESSION

NO HOLY MASS AT 09.15 AM

APRIL 01 9.15 AM HOLY MASS & CONFESSION (after Holy Mass)
WED 7.00 PM – 8 PM HOLY MASS & CONFESSION

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 02 7.00 PM – 12.00 AM – MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER & ADORATION

GOOD FRIDAY

02.45 PM DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

APRIL 03 10.00 AM SOLEMN WAY OF THE CROSS
03.00 PM PASSION OF THE LORD

HOLY SATURDAY

02.45 PM DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

APRIL 04 07.00 PM EASTER VIGIL

EASTER SUNDAY

NO HOLY MASS AT 07.00 PM

APRIL 05 09.15 & 11.00 AM EASTER HOLY MASS & DVN MERCY NOVENA

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

NO HOLY MASS AT 07.00 PM

APRIL 12 09.15AM, 11.00 AM & 02.30 PM DIVINE MERCY HOLY MASS

Parish Office Opening Hours

Tuesday to Friday
9.30am to 1.30pm

Presbytery T: (03) 97924317 | School T: (03) 97911853

Parish W: holyfamilydoveton.org.au

Parish E: doveton@cam.org.au

Parish Manager E: hfparrishmanager@gmail.com

Child Safety E: holyfamilycso@cam.org.au