

# St Thomas More's Parish

A welcoming Catholic Community growing in faith and united in our mission to share God's love with others.

We acknowledge the Giabal and Jarowair people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

Phone: 4635 9555  
Email: parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au  
Office Hours: Secretary Tue-Wed 9am-3pm  
Co-Ordinator: Tues-Fri 9am-3pm  
Priest Director: Fr. Michael O'Brien  
Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Holcombe

Working in partnership with  
St Thomas More's Catholic  
Primary School:  
Duane Wann  
Kristin Byrne

## Second Sunday of Easter ~Divine Mercy~7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### *"Do not doubt but believe"*

Because the focus of this week's gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, 'for fear of the Jews'. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. This, of course, made the disciples feel good to be around Jesus. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They were cowering in a closed-up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. They'd already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus yet they were still hiding and afraid. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, 'Peace be with you'. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

Fear is a great barrier that can hold us back from God. Fortunately for us, Jesus is able to break through the barrier of fear, the walls or locked doors that we cower behind. Jesus breathes Peace into the heart of all believers, from the disciples on that fateful morning to us, now. And the gift of Easter is that sin is forgiven, the Divine mercy of Jesus, which is no coincidence that this Sunday has been called 'Divine Mercy Sunday'.

Remember these same men and women deserted Jesus, denied him and gave up on him. Yet in this Easter meeting there is no word of Jesus rebuking them, and no word from them of remorse. They are the first to experience the good news that sin has been forgiven. Jesus' return to them is the sign that his love is greater than their failures and doubts.

Thomas has received a pretty bad rap for the last 2000 years, forever labelled as 'Doubting Thomas' because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word for the fact that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all his thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

I pray that as we move through this season of Easter that we can move past our fears and come to know Jesus as Lord and God.

**God Bless ~ Jacinta**

#### **READINGS YEAR B:**

**Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35**  
Early believers share what they have.

**1 John 5:1-6**  
Love God by keeping the commandments.

**John 20:19-31**  
Doubting Thomas.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Those who are ill:** Andrew McGregor, Nancy Daly, Jim Dickenson, Deb Handley, Damian Wyvill, Kylie Lane, Nev Sarquis, Greg Twidale, Ted Cavanagh, Glenna Kasmer, Janice Lockhart, Thomas Lawton, Terry Tyers, Christine Prescott & her son Donncha Boles, James Babineau, Wini Collins, Pauline Anderson, Maria Krulik, Joan Leonard, Sister Dorothy Bayliss RSC, Bill Phillips, Peter Erbacher and Betty Saal.

**The anniversaries of our dear departed:** Msgr Leslie Schuhkraft [1992], Fr John Michael [1968], Fr Lex Herzig [2004], Fr Anthony O’Keefe [2007], Fr Roderick Lynch [1985]



As we come to the end of collections for Project Compassion we thought to update everyone. St Thomas More’s community has given generously and our running total is sitting at \$1625. An astounding amount that will bring forth real change in so many lives. Thank you to all who have given.

Thank you for supporting the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection as encouraged by Pope Francis. Through this Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

**The Little White Books** are available in the foyer to assist you on your Easter journey for the next 50 days to Pentecost. They are a small daily devotion to for your prayer life. Why not continue the prayerful journey of Lent into EASTER? They are \$5 each but any donation is appreciated if you are able, otherwise please take one to read 😊



<b>WEEK 2 ROSTER</b>	<b>SATURDAY 13</b>	<b>SUNDAY 14</b>
<b>MASS CO-ORDINATORS</b>	G. Harvey	M. & M. Bourke
<b>WELCOMERS</b>	S. McNelley	R./J. Akins, M. Gill
<b>ORGANIST/SINGER</b>	M. Dickenson & J. Farrell	D. Phillips, J. Killmister, T. Delany
<b>READERS</b>	S. McNelley, F. Mitchell, J. Olive	T. Carter, M. Dodd, S. Pfeiffer, L. Cargnello
<b>COMMUNION MINISTERS</b>	M. Lobo, G. Harvey, B. O’Keefe	M. Bourke, M. Stevens, S. Kruger, D. Gardiner
<b>MONEY COUNTERS</b>	H. & A. Gregson, W. & C. Dingle	

<b>Sunday 7 April</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy	<b>8.30am STM</b> 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	
<b>Monday 8 April</b> The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD	<b>9:00am STM</b> 5:30pm Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass 6:30pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
<b>Tuesday 9 April</b>	<b>5.30pm Mass STM</b> 9:00am SPC Mass	
<b>Wednesday 10 April</b>	7am Mass SPC	10am Open Door ~parish meeting room
<b>Thursday 11 April</b> St Stanislaus	7am Mass SPC	
<b>Friday 12 April</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> 7am Mass SPC	
<b>Saturday 13 April</b>	<b>6pm Mass STM</b> 7am Mass SPC	8am-9am Reconciliation St Pat’s
<b>Sunday 14 April</b>	<b>8.30am Mass STM</b> 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	

**Planned Giving:** Loose \$1623, Envelopes \$871, Direct Debit \$1145, Quest \$210  
Thank you for your generous donations.

**Planned Giving Options:** Direct debit or envelopes please contact Jessica at the Parish Office on 4635 9555. You may simply like to do a bank transfer:

**St Thomas More’s, BSB:064 786 Acc:514001500** please reference your name/envelope number.

Please Note: If you make a direct debit payment through Heritage and People’s Choice Ltd, the BSB may have changed. Should you require to update your planned giving details, please take a form from the foyer table. Thanks