

The Perspective of Justice - Becoming Providers

The Israelites were out in the desert, and they began to suffer from hunger. So great was their hunger that they longed for the 'good old days' of slavery in Egypt, when at least they had their fill of bread. What they did not know was that soon they would be eating "the bread of the mighty."

All of us are in a desert, so to speak, suffering from spiritual hunger. So great is this hunger that we long for the 'good old days' of innocence, when life seemed simple and all our needs were satisfied. Jesus comes to us in this desert and gives us "the bread of life" so that we shall never be hungry again.

The readings from Exodus and John are about *justice and holiness*: providing all the people with our daily bread, and satisfying our spiritual hunger with "the food that remains unto life eternal." The Church puts these readings together in this Mass to suggest to us that there is a connection between the 'justice' issue of hunger and the 'holiness' issue of the Eucharist. The work of God is to feed, and if we should want to join in that work, we must become providers, doing all we can to see that no one goes hungry and to bring people to the Eucharistic table of the Lord.

Many persons today are physically hungry. Certainly the solution to starvation and malnutrition requires increased production and improved distribution of food. But it also requires a concerted act of solidarity by the nations and peoples of the world. Our sharing in the Eucharist inspires us to such solidarity, as well as to actions which express it; for sincere celebration of the Eucharist must lead to various works of charity and mutual help.

U.S. Bishops, *The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family*, 1975:11

Gerald Darring

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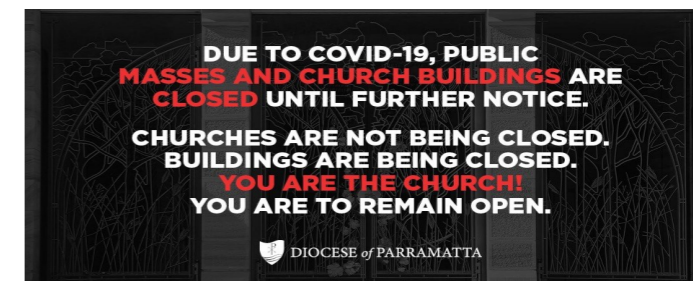


St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



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Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:
Parish Pastoral Council:
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Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

(Gospel)



THE GOSPEL

John 6:24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

Lord,
We follow you, seeking,
because we are
hungry for infinite
life and love.

Your Father gave us you.

In all creation,
in searching, repairing, giving;
in every friendship, love, joy and grief,
in all that is difficult, challenging, beautiful and true,
you are with us always and everywhere, in everything.

All is Eucharist now.

So give us this day,
the bread that is you.

Fill our hungry hearts and minds with your love.
And give life to all the world.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 77:3-4, 23-25, 54

R. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Next Week: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop 1 Kg 17:8-16; Col 3:12-17; Mt 6:25-34



Sick: Lisa Vaughan, Susie Ziino, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Kate Moore, Luca Hurley **and all Private Intentions.**
 Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

Parish and Local Community News

STA CONFIRMATION PROGRAM: We are sorry to inform you but due to circumstances beyond our control, our 2021 Confirmation Program is cancelled for this year. If you would like your child to be part of our Confirmation Program for 2022 you have an option of joining our Parish over Easter, (Easter Vigil) and also during term 3. If you would like your child to undertake this Sacrament during the Easter Vigil, please contact the Parish office in November to confirm details.

NSW COVID SAFE CHECK-IN: St Thomas Aquinas Parish has registered with the NSW Government for our Check-in QR Code and will be implanting this when our Masses resume. Further information will be imparted as soon as available.

SPRINGWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN: The Community Garden needs small round 10cm pots. If anyone has some spare, please call Elizabeth Farrar on 0409 849 186. Thank you.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL LIVESTREAMED MASS: Mass will be livestreamed daily from St Patrick's Cathedral via their Facebook page and YouTube channel. Copy the link to join on YouTube. <https://tinyurl.com/stpatsyoutube>. Livestreamed Mass Times: Monday to Friday 6.30am and 12.30pm, Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 11.00am.

THE WELL: 'The Well' offers spiritual nourishment during lockdown. If you need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement check out The Well. The Diocese's 'on demand' streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with during this difficult time. Check it out on www.thewell.org.au.

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME: Many people who are isolated, in hospital or do not have the internet, rely on Mass For You at Home. The Catholic Mass is broadcast free-to-air each Sunday morning on Channel 10 and WIN at 6.00am. Find some familiar faces from the Diocese of Parramatta celebrating Mass over the coming weeks. Find out more at www.massforyou.com.au.

HOME GROUND - ONLINE: While in lockdown, you're invited to 'HOME Ground'. Online every weeknight for the next four weeks, join us for chat, music, prayer, hot topics and most of all – fun and connection. See the free line-up at parracatholic.org/homeground. The Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team look forward to seeing you on HOME Ground soon.



*Dear God,
 we trustingly pray to you,
 asking that the coronavirus may do no more harm,
 that the epidemic may be swiftly gotten under control,
 and that you restore the health of those affected
 and peace to the places where the virus has arrived.
 Welcome into your kingdom the people who have died from this illness,
 and comfort their families.
 Sustain and protect the healthcare personnel who are fighting it,
 and inspire and bless those working to control it.
 Lord Jesus, doctor of our bodies and souls,
 we feel impotent in the face of this international health emergency,
 but we trust in You.
 Give us peace and health.
 Mother Mary, protect us and continue to take care of us,
 and lead us through your love to your Son, Jesus.*

Amen.



LOCAL RESOURCES:

Blue Mountains Library - Starting on Wednesday, 28th July, weekly episodes of **Craftime and Storytime** for pre-schoolers will air at 10.00am on the Library's Youtube and Facebook channels. Each episode of **Craftime** has step by step, easy to follow craft activities for parents to make at home with their children. The craft activities accompany the theme of the story being read on **Storytime** each week.

Blue Mountains Library Youtube: youtube.com/user/Bookcasesinthemist/videos

Blue Mountains Library Facebook page: [Facebook.com/BlueMountainsLibrary](https://facebook.com/BlueMountainsLibrary)

The BM Library has a broad range of resources and activities for children of all ages to do at home with the Library's At Home Activities Webpage: <https://bit.ly/3wYVJ3q>

Online Wake and Make: Pattern Play Wall Hanging - Join together for a new online Wake and Make program - a series of fun and social, stay at home creative workshops to brighten up your Saturday morning! \$15. Register via Eventbrite.

Online KIDS CRE8: Virtual edition with Hannah Surtees - Exercise your kids minds in the KIDS CRE8 online art workshops, designed to nourish creativity in the comfort of your home. \$55 or \$50 members. Register via Eventbrite.

Both events courtesy of the **Blue Mountains Cultural Centre:**

bmculturalcentre.eventbrite.com.au