

Thank you

CARITAS AUSTRALIA : PROJECT COMPASSION 2022

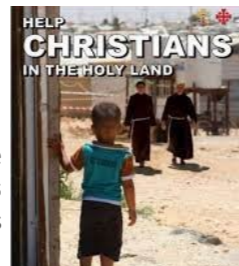


With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water & sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2022 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come to build better future for all. As St Pope John Paul II said, *"The future starts today, not tomorrow."*

This year St Thomas Aquinas Parish sent **\$1,912.00** to Caritas Australia. A truly magnificent effort from our wonderful Parish community.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION : GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL 2022

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land took place on Good Friday, after the Stations of the Cross at 3.00pm. The collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, school, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection.



Thank you St Thomas Aquinas Parishioners, we have sent **\$787.60** to the Holy Land Commissariat to help them in their appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

ANZAC Day 2022

Every year on the **25th of April**, hundreds of thousands of Australians and New Zealanders around the world gather at dawn on Anzac Day.



Anzac Day is a time for the community to come together to remember and recognise the service and sacrifice of members of the Australian Defence Force. Originally a commemoration of the landing of Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli in modern-day Turkey in 1915, Anzac Day is a public expression of gratitude and reflection which resonates to the present day.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice, For we are one and free;

We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;

Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;

In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.

**In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.**

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;

For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.

**In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.**

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ANTHEM

E Ihowā Atua,
O ngā iwi mātou rā
Āta whakarangona;

Me aroha noa
Kia hua ko te pai;
Kia tau tō atawhai;
Manaakitia mai

Aotearoa

God of Nations at Thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777
Parish Office: 02 4754 1052

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm
Parish Email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0418 461 316
Assistant Priest: Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0415 077 969

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am
Weekday Mass: Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am

Rosary Devotion: Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 am
Adoration, Rosary & Chaplet: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
Intercession & Adoration: None until further notice

Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment
Reconciliation: By request
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: By appointment



Please join us for our
ANZAC Mass,
9.30am Monday,
25th April, St Thomas
Aquinas Church

THE GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas,
was not at all
rejoiced and was indignant.

He was imperfect.
In need of mercy,
as are we.

O Lord,
you love us
in our struggles.

Breathe your life into our flawed selves.
Let us find your grace and mercy
when we touch the wounds
in all your children
everywhere.

Anne Osdieck

THE ODE of REMEMBRANCE

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are
left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years
condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the
morning*

We will remember them."



We will remember them.

Lest we forget.

Today's Readings: Acts 5:12-16; Rev 1:9-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31

Entrance Antiphon: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v. 1

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



Sick: Judith-Ann Plimmer, Nathan Duffy, Baby Leonardo Diaz, Ross Baker, Roshan Rupesinghe, 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

POSITIONS VACANT: After more than 4 years service, Vic O'Callaghan and Kim Crawford are finishing their terms as STA reps on the Deanery Pastoral Council. There are 6 parishes in the Blue Mountains deanery with 2 reps from each parish. We have found the experience stimulating and enriching. Working with an enthusiastic team to implement the visions of Bishop Vincent and Pope Francis has certainly broadened our understanding of church. While Covid certainly was frustrating at times we managed to meet on-line and our work was book-ended by consultations for the Plenary Council and the more recent Catholics take Action gathering. These processes provided us with real experiences of hearing the voice of the Spirit in our communities. The latter gathering has been recognised within and beyond the diocese as a scaffold for others to adapt and adopt. In practical terms, the DPC meets each second Saturday 10-12pm, usually at Lawson, or Zoom if required. Over the last 4 years, friendships have been strengthened and the Beatitudes validated as we have tried to be improve communication within the diocese and build God's kingdom in the Mountains. Expressions of interest can be made to Fr Paul or Fr Shinto. Kim (0409676142) or Vic (0412703377) are happy to respond to any questions you may have.

TRIVIA NIGHT: SETSG is turning back the clock by resuming its annual TRIVIA NIGHT event after the COVID-19 enforced hiatus and taking place at STA Primary School hall on Saturday, 21st May from 7.30pm. Organisers are very conscious of the pressures on families and businesses in recent years therefore, they have not asked businesses for the usual array of donated prizes, and entry to this year's stream lined version will be only \$20 per head. Costs for all will be minimised by having no charges beyond this modest entry fee. As this a Covid-aware event, numbers will be limited to 100 participants. Call Dennis on 0425209840 to book a table of eight or reserve a ticket. Payments via credit card can be made on the night. Bring your own nibbles and drinks for another fun-filled evening in the best company possible. All funds raised will assist Timor's health and educational needs.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS MANAGER: Put Your Faith Into Action For The Common Good - Parramatta Catholic Foundation is seeking a dynamic Fundraising Campaigns Manager, following Bronwyn Muir's retirement. This is a heart-warming, for-purpose vocational opportunity to put your faith into action, supporting our mission to share Christ's message of love and salvation with all. The role is pivotal to nurturing faith, hope and charity throughout Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains through the Diocese of Parramatta's ministries including our Holy Spirit Seminary, Clergy Support Foundation (caring for retired and ill priests), Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (Special Religious Education) and Catholic Care's social welfare services. For information please call Dianne Wigan, Head of Fundraising on 0408 922 478.



Friday, 22nd April: Earth Day

Sunday, 24th April: Divine Mercy Sunday

Monday, 25th April: ANZAC Day



Celebrating God's Merciful Love

Pope Saint John Paul II was very passionate about the mission of revealing the mercy of Jesus to the world. In the year 2000, at the canonization Mass for St Faustina, he announced that the Second Sunday of Easter would now be known as **Divine Mercy Sunday**. It must be made clear that this was not done in order to establish a way of honouring St Faustina, but to emphasize the meaning of the Resurrection and the depths of God's great mercy and love that is made available to all of His creation. **Divine Mercy Sunday** is not a new feast day because the Second Sunday of Easter has always been a solemnity known as the Octave Day of Easter. The richness of the mercy of God comes to us not only through St Faustina's revelations, but also through scripture and the history and tradition of the Catholic Church.



www.catholic-link.org

Glancing Thoughts - Trust After Heartbreak

In the Gospel Reading, the risen Jesus appears to ten of his apostles. Thomas is missing. The ten are convinced. But when Thomas rejoins them after Jesus has vanished, Thomas is highly sceptical.

A week later, Jesus appears to all eleven of them and invites Thomas to make good on his sceptical challenge. Jesus tells him, *Put your finger in my wounds and believe!* And then, without so much as touching Jesus, Thomas believes.

Actually, then, all Thomas did was see Jesus and his wounds, and then he believed. But, of course, that is just what the other ten apostles did in the first appearance of Christ, when Thomas was absent.

So why didn't Christ make his first appearance to the apostles at a time when Thomas was there too? Why did Christ first appear when Thomas was absent? Why single Thomas out in this way?

Thomas had trusted Jesus and believed he was the Messiah. But then the Romans killed Jesus; and when they did, they also killed the hope in Jesus that Thomas had. How much Thomas trusted before the crucifixion can be understood by the way Thomas hardened his heart against trust in the aftermath. "The bigger they are, the harder they fall," we say. And the bigness of Thomas's heart and the greatness of his trust in Jesus can be seen by how hard Thomas fell when he thought his trust was betrayed.

Thomas thought he had made a fool of himself by believing in Jesus, and he was not going to let his heart be broken again. And so when he heard the other apostles express their belief, he scoffed. In scoffing, Thomas protected himself against further heartbreak by turning his back on Jesus and all that Jesus meant to him.

And maybe that is why Jesus left Thomas out of his first appearance to the apostles. When heartbreak is so powerful, it can need space to breathe, to let its pain come to fruition. Maybe if Thomas had not been able to move all the way from heartbreak to scepticism, he would not have been able to move back to Jesus so powerfully either.

Without any more evidence than any of the other apostles had, Thomas says to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Eleonore Stump

Easter - Thank You!



We don't often stop to express our appreciation for a job well done so let's take a moment to recognise every single person who helped make our Easter Services absolutely amazing.

Thank you for all you did and for all that you are. We give all of our thanks to:

- ◆ ALL of our amazing Acolytes
- ◆ Randall and his guidance at all of the ceremonies
- ◆ Chris, and The Wilson family musicians, along with our beautiful STA Choir
 - ◆ The E-Street musicians and amazing singers
 - ◆ ALL OF OUR READERS and VOLUNTEERS
- ◆ Ian - even though was unwell and not in attendance, was a bright light behind the scenes
 - ◆ Rowena for the outstanding flowers
 - ◆ Gwen for the beautifully crafted candles
- ◆ Our cleaning and dusting ladies who made our Church look lovely for our services
 - ◆ Randall and Zeph for their gardening help
 - ◆ Chris C and team at St Columba's
- ◆ Tamsyn and Timothy for their tile and church pew cleaning
- ◆ Thanks also to Colleen B, Trish, Ingrid, Margaret S, Kim C and Kathleen B for your constant help
- ◆ Lastly, thank you to Fr Paul, Fr Shinto and ALL OUR PARISHIONERS for making our Easter the special occasion that it was.