

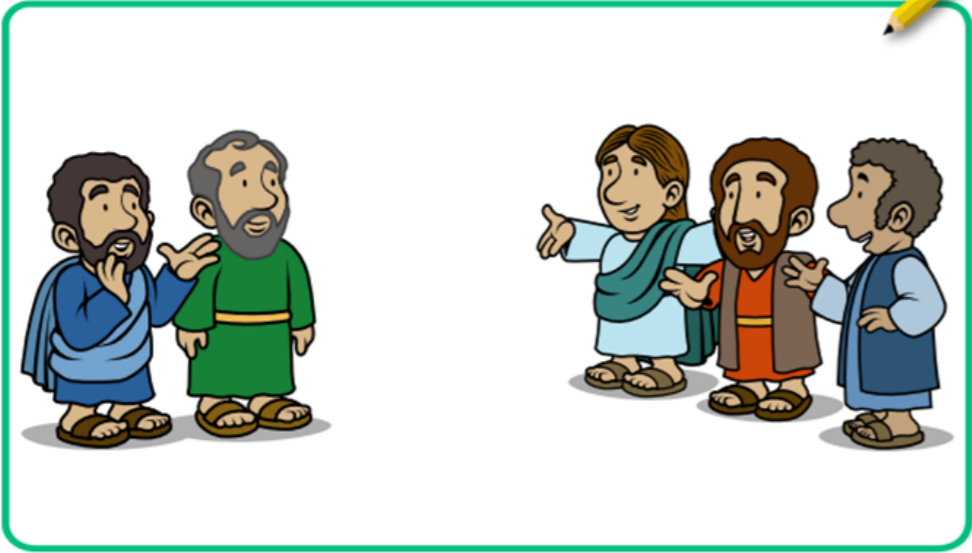
Date:	6th/7th April 2024		Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Cheryl Kirby	Neil Kirby	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Vicky Walker	Tom Horsfall	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Anne Ellis	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea Roster - Mother Prayers					

Kid's Corner

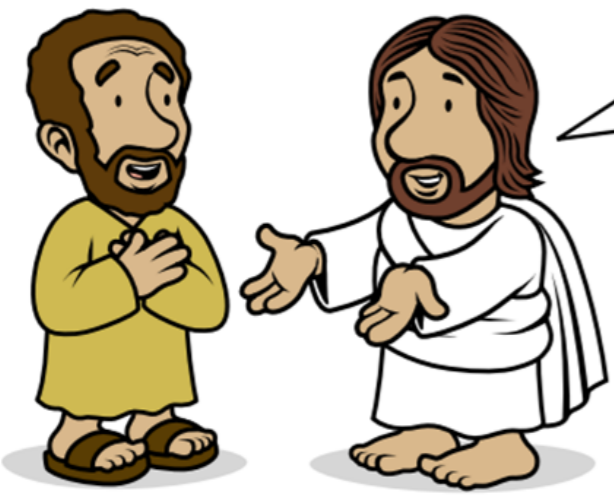
2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY), YEAR B Jn 20:19-29
 My name is

Have faith and you will be blessed

A week after Jesus died he appeared to his disciples. They were very happy to see him. Draw the risen Jesus.



Thomas had doubts about Jesus being alive. But later when he saw Jesus he did believe. Draw the nail marks in Jesus' hands and feet.



Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
 PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777
 Phone: 02 4754 1052; Emergency ONLY: 0474 631 168



Parish Email: email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stchurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Administrator: Rev Christopher del Rosario (E: christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org)
Parish Pastoral Council: Email suggestions to springwoodparishpc@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am
Weekday Mass: Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
Adoration: Monday - Saturday from 8:15 am - 9:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Every first Friday of the month 7:00 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Vigil Mass
Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11:00 am and by appointment
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: Please Contact the Parish Office



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We respect the Darug people and their elders both past and present, as the traditional custodians of this land on which we celebrate the Eucharist.

Peace be with you



Consider the events leading up to the Passion of Our Lord - Jesus and the disciples have entered the city of Jerusalem with the crowds proclaiming him as the foretold Messiah. He continues to teach and preach within the city, and finally he celebrates the Passover with his Apostles. It is an incredible time with which all that has been foretold through the prophets are coming to fruition. At the banquet of the Last Supper Peter alongside the other apostles state they would never abandon Our Lord yet following his arrest all leave apart from Peter who watches from a distance and John who stands at the foot of the Cross with Mary the Mother of Jesus, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Intimacy to abandonment... no one is left to stand up for Jesus as he undergoes the brutality of the Crucifixion.

It is little surprise then that our Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) begins with: "In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews." The disciples are fearing for their lives! They have witnessed their Master brutally captured, tortured, and killed; any action from them in the public sphere will likely result in their deaths. Additionally guilt weighs over their heads: they betrayed Jesus; they left him for dead. If he is to rise from the dead who is to say he won't send them to Sheol for their cowardice and lukewarmness? Yet St. John notes in his Gospel the manner Jesus enters the upper room: 'Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'" Peace be with you... Peace be with you! Our Lord opens with words of peace despite their betrayal; he opens with mercy despite their abandonment. It is the incredible exchange with which the Messiah releases the disciples from their bond of sin and bestows on them the gift of hope in sending them out to preach the Good News. This is the truth of Divine Mercy. Our Lord offers us a chance to bring others to experience his love and mercy as we have experienced it first hand through his forgiveness. This is true hope, this is the hope the world craves and needs.

Dear friends, as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday may we appreciate the incredible gift of mercy bestowed on us today. As Christ entered the upper room with words of Peace so too he enters the messiness of our lives and proclaims 'Peace be with you.' He offers us peace as it is through his Paschal Sacrifice that we are made free. May we celebrate this final day of the Easter Octave with joy and peace; may we be renewed in heart and mind through the grace of God and be filled with gratitude as we are made new, we are made free, through the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Our Lord.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,

Fr. Chris

Entrance Antiphon [1 Peter 2:2](#)

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

or [4 Esdras 2:36-37](#)

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

First Reading [Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1](#)

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

- Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
- The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. (R.)
- The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

Second Reading [1 John 5:1-6](#)

A reading from the first letter of St John

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Second Reading (continuation)

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation [John 20:29](#)

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

Gospel [John 20:19-31](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Communion Antiphon [Cf John 20:27](#)

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



Recently Deceased: George Capsanis, Lynette Boyd

Sick: Aurea Hernandez, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson, Margaret Munro, 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 DIOCESAN NEWS

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS WORKS:

There are a variety of ways you can support our Parish and its Mission:

- **QR Code:** located on the Bulletin Front Page.
- **EFTPOS Machines:** located at the back of the Church.
- **Direct Debit:** Please contact the Parish Office for more details.
- **Direct Deposit:** Details are as follows:

Bank Account Name: Springwood; BSB: 067-950
Bank Account Number: 00000560
Reference: Your name in full.

Thank you for your continued support for the Parish and its works. A few parishioners have questioned where the money of each collection goes. Does it go to the Diocese? The Parish? Fr. Chris? Here's a simple explanation of our collections:

First Collection: This goes to the Diocesan Clergy Fund. The fund supports the living expenses of the priests within our Diocese.

Second Collection: This goes to our Parish of St. Thomas Aquinas – directly funding operational costs, pastoral activities and various programs that enrich our community.



FR CHRIS IS AWAY ON ANNUAL LEAVE FROM 15TH - 30TH APRIL:

There will be Communion Service on the 15th, 22nd and 29th (Mondays) of April 2024 at 9:30am. All are invited to attend.

There is no adoration (8:15am) nor celebration of the Holy Mass (9:30am) at

STA Parish on the following dates:

- 13th (Saturday) of April
- 15th to 20th (Monday to Saturday) of April
- 22nd to 27th (Monday to Saturday) of April
- 29th to 30th (Monday & Tuesday) of April

We invite parishioners to attend Mass on such dates at St Finbar's Parish in Glenbrook instead.

Holy Mass on Vigil Saturdays (13th, 20th & 27th April) at 5pm and Sundays (14th, 21st & 28th April) at 8am and 9:30am will continue as normal during this period.

Fr Chris is on annual leave from the 15th April and comes back on the 1st of May 2024.

2024 St Thomas Aquinas Sacramental Program

2024 Confirmation Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:

Tuesday 21st May at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Tuesday 28th May at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Children and Parent Information Sessions:

Saturday 8th June at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday 15th June at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church (and practice)

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 19th June at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

2024 Reconciliation Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:

Tuesday 6th August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Tuesday 13th August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Children and Parent Information Sessions:

Sat 24th Aug at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Sat 31st Aug at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church (and practice)

Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 4th September at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

2024 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:

Tuesday 22nd October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Tuesday 29th October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Children and Parent Sessions:

Saturday 9th November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Saturday 16th November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Practice:

Wednesday 20th November at 5.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 5pm Vigil Mass, Christ the King, Saturday 23rd November 2024, St Thomas Aquinas Church

2024 VARIETY CONCERT FOR BUSH SCHOOL CAMBODIA:

St Finbar is holding an important fundraising concert for Bush School Cambodia to be held at St Finbar's Church Hall on Sat 20th April 7pm. The evening will feature fine musical performances by talented local artists, including songs by Blue Mountains Musical Society from their current production "Sound of Music." Cost: \$35/ person, \$60 for family (concessions available). Great Raffle and Lucky Door Prizes. Generous supper at interval. Book tickets now, call Doug on 0403 303 943 also at the door.

MEN AT THE SHRINE is a monthly hour of adoration at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, next held on Wednesday 10 April. The hour begins with a brief reflection before a period of personal silent prayer. Confessions are available. The evening finishes with a simple cup of tea. All men are welcome. No RSVP is necessary. Any questions, contact Bernard, 0416 106 871.



PERTHVILLE AND SURROUNDS PILGRIMAGE 2024:

Anyone interested in Australian Church history, particularly the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, are invited to journey back in time (1872 – 1876) to experience what life was like for the early sisters of Josephite Foundation in NSW at Perthville, in the Bathurst Diocese. This begins with lunch on Tues 14th May and concludes on Fri 17th May 2024. Accommodation is within the St Joseph's Convent Heritage & Conference Center Perthville. The cost for the Pilgrimage is single room \$540 pp or \$660 for a couple sharing a double room. For enquiries contact Sr Mary Murphy at perthville.coordinator@sosj.org.au or 02 6337 2946 Mon to Fri.