

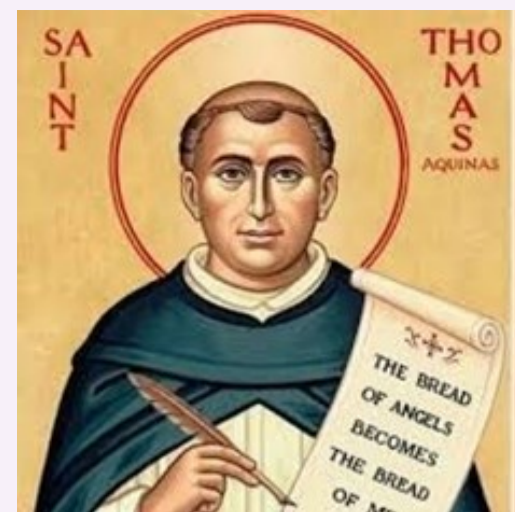
St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Jubilee Year 1974 - 2024

WEEKLY BULLETIN

1st Sunday of Lent

18 February 2024



Parish Vision

The Parish of St Thomas Aquinas seeks to maintain a strong, joyful, welcoming community. We strive to deepen our faith and spirituality, as individuals and as a community. We will live our faith more fully by carrying the message of the Gospel to all.

From the Pastor's Desk

A **Coordinating Group** consisting of representatives of St Thomas Aquinas, Charnwood and St John the Apostle, Kippax has been established at the Archbishop's direction. This group met for the first time last Thursday. Representing Charnwood was Megan Winter and Michael Carberry (members of the pastoral council) and myself. The purpose of this meeting was to begin a discussion on how the new arrangement will work between the two parishes, now that both come under the pastoral care of the MSC (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart).

While the integrity of both parishes will remain in place, there will be new opportunities for the two parishes to cooperate.

At our first meeting we also grappled with the concept of *in solidum*, a term used in Canon Law for the appointment of a team of pastors entrusted with two or more parishes (as distinct from an amalgamation). In our case, the team consists of myself, Fr Chung Minh Tran and Fr Tru Nguyen. Fr Tru will act as moderator and be directly responsible to the Archbishop.

On another matter, it was decided to engage a cleaning company to clean the church, parish centre, parish offices, and presbytery on a weekly basis. My thanks to all those parishioners who have been on the church cleaning roster over the years.

Fr Gerard

MASS & SACRAMENTS

Sunday:

Vigil (Saturday) 6pm

Sunday 9am

Weekdays:

Mass: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am

Communion Service: Monday 9.30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday 5-5.30pm

Baptism:

Second Sunday of the month

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated during Mass on the First Wednesday of the month at 10am followed by morning tea.

Parish Office

23 Lhotsky Street, Charnwood 2615
6258 1563

Pastor: Fr Gerard McCormick MSC
Gerard.McCormick@cg.org.au

Parish Secretary: Sharon Greaves
Charnwood@cg.org.au

School

25 Lhotsky Street, Charnwood 2615
6258 4077

Office.staquinas@catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Tim Cleary

<i>Rosters</i>		
	Saturday 6pm 24 Feb	Sunday 9am 25 Feb
<i>Acolyte</i>	Brian Dayly	Rod
<i>Servers</i>	Hannah, Aseem	Andy, Annabelle
<i>Communion Minister</i>	Fran	Tim Cleary
<i>Readers</i>	Penny, Irene	Cathy, John
<i>Music/Screen</i>	Collette	Sky
<i>Slide Prep</i>	Skye	



Prayers For the Sick

& Deceased

For the Sick

We remember and pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital at this time.

Maida Kajkic, Peter McArdle, Frederick Nield, Tom Roberts, Carolyn Holloway, Susie Purcell, Trish Jean, Bernard Tierney, Denis Hally-Burton, Margie Pater.

Recently Deceased

Mark Pater.

Anniversaries

We remember in prayer all those who have died.

Christian Reavley, James Howe, Cecilia Wood, Colleen Haigh, John Augustczak, Paul Pistor, Scott Blacker, Terry O'Brien, Cesare De Francheschi, Fr. Neville Drinkwater, Joy Danaher, Mario Benassi, Suzanne Scardoni

Deceased are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

Men's Scripture Discussion Group

Wednesday following 9:30 am Mass.

Scripture Discussion Group

Friday following 9:30 am Mass during school terms.

Latte with Our Lady

Rosary outside Charcoal Chicken every first Saturday of the month at 10:15 am. Praying for renewal and safety in our parish with coffee and a chat. Contact Julie 0412 337 367.

Adoration & Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 5.30-6.30 pm every Thursday.

All parishioners are invited to come and spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

COLLECTION DETAILS

Collection During Mass There is one collection during Mass at the time of the Offertory.

Tap and Go Machine next to the Collection Box to give people an opportunity to donate, should they wish to do so, when they aren't carrying cash.

Direct Debit forms available by contacting office.

Electronic Funds Transfer Bank account details are available on the website, or by contacting the office.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Wilderness

The Jordan Valley was a relatively fertile area. However, Jesus would not have had to travel too great a distance to find himself in very arid, desert-like wilderness. Crossing the River Jordan and climbing out of the Jordan Valley to the east, Jesus would have emerged onto the northern part of the TransJordan Plateau and the edge of the Syrian Desert. The area was not only geographically rough but it was also full of bandits and rebels. It was a dangerous place to be. However, the desert wilderness holds great significance in the Bible as a place of preparation for a new stage of life or a new relationship with God.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6:00pm Every Friday during Lent
in the courtyard

Call to Ministry

Last weekend we asked you to renew your commitment, or if you have not previously been involved, to make a commitment, to the ongoing support of our Parish through one or more of the many Ministries set out in the renewal form.

If you were not here, forms are available for you to complete from the table at the back of the Church. They are also available from our parish website under the Parish Ministries tab:

www.stthomasaquinascharnwood.com

Once completed, please leave them in the box next to the forms.

Thank you to all who have already completed the form.

We greatly appreciate your support.

We Welcome Samantha Hazlett Diocesan Director for Project Compassion. Samantha will give a brief talk about Caritas at the 9:00am Sunday Mass this weekend.



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your on the table in the foyer, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

CatholicCare Retirement Villas Aranda and Campbell

CatholicCare currently has several vacancies at our retirement villas based in Aranda and Campbell. For further information on the vacant villas and to view the villas please contact

Dominica McNamara, Retirement Villas Manager, on proper-

An Evening with Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP

Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP was Master of the Order of Preachers from 1992 to 2001. A member of the community at Blackfriars, Oxford, he is the author of several very popular books and an internationally reputed speaker and retreat-giver.

Date: Thursday 14 March 2024,

Place: Merci College Braddon **Time:** 5.30 -7.00pm

Free Tickets: <https://bit.ly/4b1SurY>

Blessing of the Teachers of our Parish School

Next weekend at the 5:00pm VIGIL Mass, the teachers from our Parish Primary School will receive a special blessing.

Lord God,

Your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways. Look upon these teachers.

Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds. Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, forever and ever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Enrolment and Formation Session

Saturday 24 February—5:00pm

If you have a student in Year 4 or above who has not received the Sacrament of Penance, please contact the Parish Office prior to the Enrolment and Formation Session.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

9:30am Tuesday 5 March—Friday 8 March

Fr. Gerard will be attending an MSC Provincial Conference.

Anointing of the Sick during 10:00am Mass

CHANGE OF DATE

This Mass has been moved to
Wednesday 13 March



*Save
the
Date*

Thursday 22 Feb	Liturgy Committee Meeting
Saturday 24 Feb	1st Reconciliation Formation 5pm School Staff Blessing at Vigil Mass
Friday 13 March	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 24 Feb	Anointing during Mass 10am
Thursday 14 March	Second Rite of Reconciliation 7 pm

FOCUS ON THE WORD

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days."

Mark 1:12



Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.

Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a

bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus' proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA.

RESPONSORIAL PLASM

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. *R.*

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. *R.*

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. *R.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.