

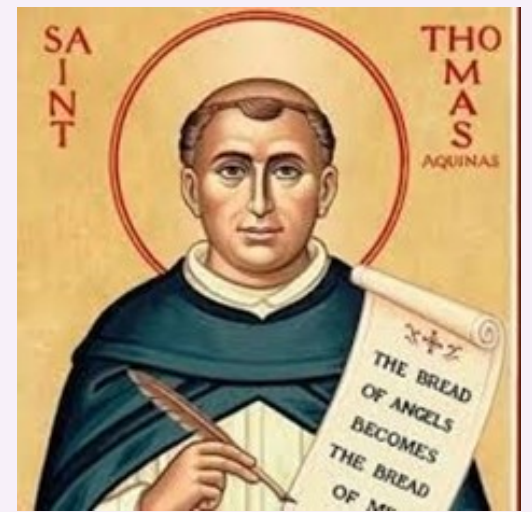
# St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Jubilee Year 1974 - 2024

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

5th Sunday of Lent

17 March 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*

Most of you would have heard by now of the death of Archbishop Francis Carroll who died last Thursday at the age of 93. Fr Francis was a much loved pastor who served as Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn from 1983 to 2006. His funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka, on Thursday 21 March at 11am.



We have been approached with a proposal to consider renting some of our land to build social housing on the church's grounds. There is a lot to consider in this proposal, and the Parish Pastoral Council and I want to discuss the idea with all parishioners, and the school community, before we agree to any such offer. We will hold a session in the coming months to provide more information on the idea and to give everyone an opportunity to raise issues and ask questions. We have not agreed to the proposal, but we remain open to share this concept with all the parish community and listen to everyone's thoughts. More information to come - watch this space.

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

[www.stthomasaquinas.org.au](http://www.stthomasaquinas.org.au)

**Pastor:** Fr Gerard McCormick MSC

[Gerard.McCormick@cg.org.au](mailto:Gerard.McCormick@cg.org.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Sharon Greaves

[Charnwood@cg.org.au](mailto:Charnwood@cg.org.au)

#### School

25 Lhotsky Street, Charnwood 2615

6258 4077

[Office.staquinas@catholic.edu.au](mailto:Office.staquinas@catholic.edu.au)

**Principal:** Mr Tim Cleary

<i>Rosters</i>		
	Saturday 6pm 23 March	Sunday 9am 24 March
<b>Acolyte</b>	Peter	Gavin Howard
<b>Servers</b>	Andrea, Natalia, Naveah	Damyn, Aditya
<b>Communion Minister</b>	Anne	Terry
<b>Readers</b>	Irene, Fran	John, Pauline
<b>Music/Screen</b>	Collette	Choir/ Jocelyn Moore
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>		Lisa M/ Anne M



*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 Paten, Christine Greenwood, David Holt.

**Recently Deceased**

Archbishop Francis Carroll (9.9.1930-14.3.2024)

**Anniversaries**

Stephen Lean, Maureen Carey, Fr. Laurie Blake, Carmel Salmon, Mary Croker, Suzanne Scardoni, Manuel Fontan, Tony Teh, Fr. Henry Byrne, Rod Frazer, Fr. Kevin Barry-Cotter, John Fauth, Mario Benassi, Terence Southwell, Peter Moore, Leendert Burggraff, John Galogly, Pat Howe, Janette Faigafa, Maria Bonadei, Damien Conlan, Andrew Vumbaca, Ann Weeden, Maureen Carey, Wolodymir Rudys, Bernard Marcus, Vince Howe, Wally Rudyj, Ronni George, Samuel Carmichael, John Kidd and Ronnie George.

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

**Open Scripture Discussion Groups**

Wednesday following 9:30 am Mass.

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.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**  
**Why Greeks?**

*The gospel reading begins with some Greeks wanting to meet Jesus. Why is it significant that they were Greeks? The Jews were very clear about the distinction between Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles). Regardless of their intentions and goodwill, a Gentile was simply not a Jew. Greeks, who worshipped an entire pantheon of gods, were regarded as almost as far from Jewish belief in one God as was possible. Yet Jesus made clear that his message was for everyone: Jew and Gentile alike. His death and resurrection would bring a 'rich harvest' of belief among Gentiles as well as Jews.*



**ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**

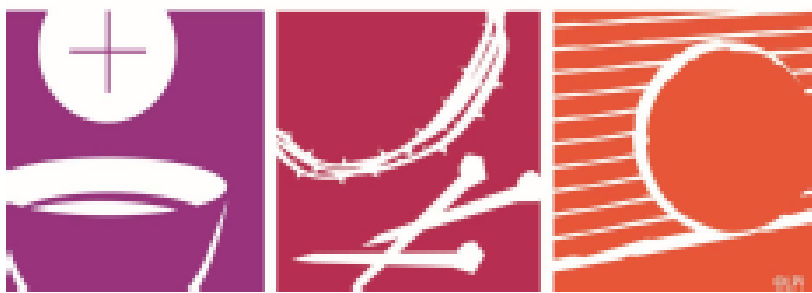
In February 2024 St Vincent de Paul Charnwood Conference visited 33 households in need and distributed over \$4,200 in assistance.

Thank you all for your prayers and your generous financial support. Additional donations can be made using the envelopes on the Society's noticeboard in the church.

**PARKING**  
Please refrain from parking in the circular driveway at the front of the Church. This needs to be kept clear in the event that an emergency vehicle needs access. Thankyou.

**Please Note:**  
Adoration is canceled for the next three weeks and will resume Thursday April 11.

# THE EASTER TRIDUUM



**HOLY THURSDAY**  
28 MARCH 2024

**MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER – 7:30PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 3:00PM**

**EASTER SATURDAY VIGIL – 7:30PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - 9:00AM**

## PLANT DONATIONS

We are seeking the donation of plants to be sold at our Plant Store. Plants can be brought in on any day and the class with the most plant donations receives a prize!

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**SATURDAY, 23RD MARCH 2024**

**GET EXCITED ABOUT!**

Great Food • Market Stalls • Entertainment • The Prize Wheel • Side Show Alley  
Amusements • Exhibitions • The Chocolate Toss • Tombola • The Raffle  
**AND MUCH MORE!**

**WE NEED YOU, OUR STA FAMILY!**

We need your help to make this Fete amazing for our kids and our School!  
Lets rally together to make this a success!

There are various positions and roles that need to be filled - if you can spare some time to help run a stall, become a sponsor or make a donation? Any help is welcome and all are invited to volunteer!

**GET INVOLVED!**



The Fete is happening soon!  
Send us an email and leave your name and number and we will be in touch!  
[StThomasAquinasFete@gmail.com](mailto:StThomasAquinasFete@gmail.com)



**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE PARISH CHILDREN**

We pray for the children of the parish who have begun their preparation for the Sacrament of Penance on **Thursday 21 March**.



<b>Sunday</b> 24 March	Palm Sunday
<b>Monday</b> 25 March	Chrism Mass at Cathedral 5 pm
<b>Thursday</b> 28 March	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm
<b>Friday</b> 29 March	Good Friday Passion of the Lord 3pm
<b>Saturday</b> 30 March	Easter Vigil 7.30pm
<b>Sunday</b> 31 March	Easter Sunday 9am



# FOCUS ON THE WORD



"If anyone serves me,  
my Father will honour him."

John 12:16

The moment of eschatological fulfilment gathers together the sense of the past ('the days when Christ was in the flesh'), the future ('the days are coming'), and the present ('the hour has come'). We live in the time when the past and the future are made present; we live in the 'already-but-not-yet' time of anticipation/fulfilment. This is a moment of great ambiguity, of fear and trepidation but of electric excitement. It is a moment of decision. We hover at the edge of dawn, weighing whether or not to step forward into the new day or to return to the darkness of night.

This 'hour' brings a new covenant, a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple

grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

Although the 'hour' brings all of these blessings, it only does so with a price. The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA.

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## RESPONSORIAL PLASM

*R.* Create a clean heart in me, O God

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. *R.*

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. *R.*

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. *R.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and  
where I am, my servant will also be.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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