

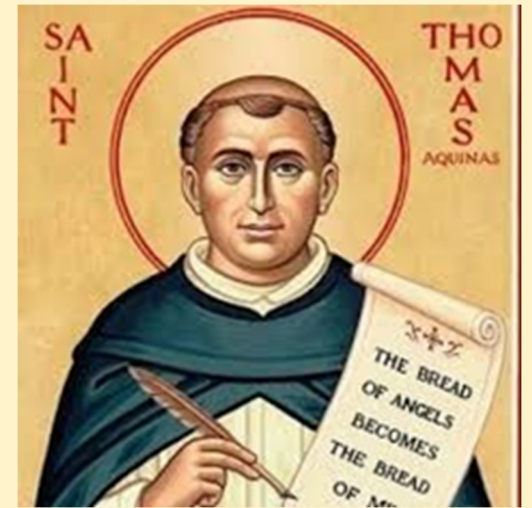
# St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Jubilee Year 1974 - 2024

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Easter Sunday

31 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*

Easter gives us the opportunity to ponder ever more deeply the transformative power God's love. Love is always redemptive, hate destructive. Love purifies, hate sullies. Love forgives, hate condemns. There is so much hate in our world today; so much greed; so much fear. The only foil to this destructive path of humanity is love. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the violence and injustice that wreaks havoc upon our world. But Jesus faced the hostility of those who sought to kill him with love. And this love of Christ was so powerful no force could contain it. This love broke through the confines of death. Christ burst forth from the tomb. Nothing in the universe could restrain this love.

Christ's death and resurrection is God's clear and unequivocal message to us. Death, sin and evil do not have the final say. Easter is a time to celebrate this victory over death. Not only does the Easter message give us the hope that will help get us through life's challenges, but by entering into this great mystery of God's transformative power we too rise to new life in Christ.

Happy Easter!

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 6 April	Sunday 9am 7 April
<b>Acolyte</b>	Peter O	Gavin
<b>Servers</b>	Andrea, Natalia	Andy, Annabelle
<b>Communion Minister</b>	Fran	Cathy
<b>Readers</b>	Brian H, Rita H	John C, Josh
<b>Music/Screen</b>	Recorded/ Janette	Recorded/Skye
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>		Grace J, Megan W



## *Prayers For the Sick*

## *& Deceased*

**For the Sick:** 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, Irene Daly.

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

### **Recently Deceased**

**Anniversaries :** Raymond Wood, Pat Phemister, Fr. Vincent Pierse, Elaine Dummett, Garth Towers, Michael Murray, Fr. Noel Hughes, James Thornton, Noel Falk, Timothy Mahoney, Donna Guymer, Rek Zygmunt, Giovanni Gingovaz, Fr. Morgan O'Connor, Fr. Paul Moloney, Julian Menkarski, Mary Steel, Vonnie Lynons, Alexander Druett, Bronisalawa Wielunska, Ronald Osborne, Neil Carmichael, Bernardo Melhado, Brendan O'Flaherty, Charles McManus, Clara McNamara

*We remember in prayer all those who have died.*

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.

## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

### **Mary Magdalene**

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.



## A NOTICE FOR ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS

### ARCHDIOCESES OF CANBERRA/GOULBURN

#### Child Protection Code of Conduct Policy

It is a requirement for ALL volunteers in parishes in this Archdiocese to have read the Policy document and sign and return to the parish office the Acknowledgement Form. If you are a volunteer in the parish and know you have not done this, it is now a matter of urgency for this to be completed. There are forms available in the church foyer, on the parish website [on the Parish Ministries page], at the parish office or you can contact the parish office and you will be emailed both the policy and acknowledgment form. [Charnwood@cg.org.au](mailto:Charnwood@cg.org.au)

#### Marriage Preparation Courses

Upcoming Marriage Preparation courses for engaged couples: *FOCCUS* - Tues 9<sup>th</sup> April 5-9pm plus a private follow up session at Marymead CatholicCare.

*SmartLoving* - online, 9 lessons, learn at your own pace when suits you. For more information or to register go to

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

Enquiries: Text Helena Zobec: 0405 440 463

#### SACRAMENTAL DATES

##### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

*Formation Session for Parents*

Thursday 9 and 23 May—6:00pm—Parish Church

*Presentation Masses*

Weekend of 25/26 May

*Sacrament of Confirmation Mass*

Thursday 13 June—6:00pm

##### SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

*Formation Session for Parents*

Thursday 25 July and 1 August—6:00pm Parish Church

*Presentation Mass*

27 July—6:00pm

*First Holy Communion Masses*

Weekends of 7/8 and 14/15 September

If you have a child in Year 4 or 6 who does not attend St Thomas Aquinas Primary School and would like to receive the Sacraments, please contact the Parish Office: [Charnwood@cg.org.au](mailto:Charnwood@cg.org.au)

#### COMMISSIONING OF ALL MINISTERS

##### DURING MASS

Weekend 6/7 April

All parishioners who have volunteered their time to be a part of all the Parish Ministries for the 2024/25 period will be commissioned during Mass.

We thank you all for your continued support of St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish.

#### Recruitment for parish groups

As part of a recruitment drive, on Sunday 14 April Vinnies members will give a brief talk during Mass and have an information table after Mass. Other parish groups are also welcome to use this opportunity to attract new members. If your group is interested in being included in the talk and having an information table, please email Jancye Winter - [jancye.winter@gmail.com](mailto:jancye.winter@gmail.com) - By Friday 5 April.



A reminder that as Lent is drawing to an end you can donate through Project Compassion Boxes and envelopes with the parish or by visiting [caritas.org.au](http://caritas.org.au)

#### Please Note:

Adoration is canceled for the next three weeks and will resume Thursday April 11.

Save  
the  
Date

<b>Wednesday</b> <b>3 April</b>	10:00am Anointing of the Sick Mass followed by Morning Tea
<b>Thursday</b> <b>4 April</b>	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
<b>Sat/Sun</b> <b>6/7 April</b>	Commissioning of all Ministers
<b>Thursday</b> <b>25 April</b>	ANZAC Day

# FOCUS ON THE WORD

**"Why look among the dead  
for someone who is alive?"**

John 24:11

Easter is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called?

To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R.** This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love endures for ever.

Let the family of Israel say:  
'His love endures for ever.' **R.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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