

07 April 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF
EASTER YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

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

First Reading from Acts of
the Apostles 4:32-35

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R.
v.1

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

Second Reading from the
first letter of St John 5:1-6

Gospel Acclamation

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

Holy Gospel according
according to John 20:19-31

NEXT WEEK
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR B

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15.
17-19

Resp Ps: 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7
Lord, let your face shine on
us.

Second Reading: 1John 2:1-5

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

Hospitality Biannual Meeting



All hospitality ministries members (welcomers, refreshments servers, flower arrangers, cleaners and money counters) are invited to our half yearly gathering on **Sunday 14 April 2024 from 10:45am to 1pm**. Agenda will be:- formation, leadership, ministry drive, rosters and issues arising.
Please RSVP to Beatrix 0422925337 for catering.

Ageing with Confidence

Free event with morning tea included



*Are you or a loved one looking to access aged care but unsure where to begin?
Catholicare's aged specialists are here to help you make informed decisions.*

We'll help you understand:

Accessing support services
Catholicare Services for older people
Keeping your mind and body fit
Advocating and supporting older people and their families

Where? *Campbelltown Catholic Club*

When? *Wednesday May 8 2024 9am-1pm*

To register: *call 02 4227 1122*

or online at

Www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/events

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Stations of the Cross; Friday 7pm during Lent
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12

Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm
 Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176
 Email: varroville@dow.org.au
 Website: varroville.dow.org.au

Parish Priest:
 Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
 Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Meetings and Gatherings

Friendship Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9am.
Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom. (30 April)
Fiesta Committee Meeting Save the date for our first planning meeting for 2024 on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm.
Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.
Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am.
Fundraising Team meeting is on Wednesday 24 April at 7.30pm.

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.
Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.
Children’s Choir will meet on Friday 19 April at 7.30pm.
Childrens Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm.
Youth Ministry is on fire for faith, friendship and specially for God! All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Una Champion, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Francisco Carmona, Lola Moors, Rosario David, Rodney Smith,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anthony Binny, Hilda Young, Fr Tadgh Tierney ocd, Veni Menezes, Bien Cortez
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

14 April	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Tracey, Richard & Estela	Nelia & Volunteer x 2	Geoff & Margaret
Altar Servers	Berna, Ralph & Kenneth	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Vu & Nathan
Readers	Bevina & Amana	Irene & Lee	Gloria & Fev
Refreshments	Beatrix & Volunteer	Karen, Katalina & Tess	Leah & Patricia
CLOTW			
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	George & Volunteer	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

Our Parish Notices:

Community Notices

Fiesta Committee Meeting The first planning meeting for 2024 will be held on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm. The date for our **Parish Fiesta is Sunday 14 July 2024**. Come along and show your support to help with the preparations.

Altar Server Training will be held on 4 Saturdays during April at 4pm. For anyone wishing to become an Altar Server and for those already serving, it is a refresher. For more info call the parish office.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation; The dates for these Sacraments are available on our parish website and registrations are being accepted via the Parish office.

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes can be returned to the parish office now. On behalf of everyone at Caritas Australia, I want to thank your parish once more. Without your ongoing support, dedication and commitment, the work we do would simply not be possible. The inspiring stories we have shared during lent are living proof that your generosity travels far and wide, and can create better opportunities *for all future generations*. FIND US ONLINE: Visit the Caritas Australia website for more information about Project Compassion, including online donations, go to CARITAS.ORG.AU/PROJECT-COMPASSION. Receipts for those who have requested one will be issued in May.

Holy Land Appeal on Good Friday The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, March 29th. This 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, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you. Supporters will also be able to donate online via credit card at the DOW website <http://dow.sh/HolyLand>

The Journey - Our DoW Weekly Podcast This podcast is a really simple way to promote adult faith formation and

growth in personal prayer life for the faithful of your parish. Thousands access it as an email each week. Tens of thousands hear it across a radio network of around 30 stations. The Journey, 31 March 2024 – this Week: Fr Mark De Battista's Gospel reflection placing ourselves in Thomas's position. Mother Hilda says to call out like Elijah when we're lost. Fr Tony Percy and two resurrection effects, Plus, Trish McCarthy and Fr Mike Delaney. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Women Alive Retreat – A Spiritual Retreat for Women Saturday 13 April 2024, 9:30am-3:30pm; Venue: St John's Parish Hall, 31 Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown; Please confirm your intention to attend the retreat by messaging Maria on 0433 905 968.

Legion of Mary – Annual ACIES Ceremony Invites all members present, past and auxiliary to the Annual ACIES Ceremony at Immaculate Conception Church, Unanderra at 2pm on Sunday 14 April 2024. All are welcome and light refreshments will be provided afterwards in the parish room. Enquiries call 0449 807 814

'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage' 10 – 20 October 2024 The itinerary for the 'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop' pilgrimage has been released. Set out on a true Australian Pilgrimage through the life and times of Mary MacKillop, as we rekindle the story, landscape, and spirit of our nation's first saint. Please share this news with family, friends, and fellow parishioners. As it is expected that this pilgrimage will 'sell out', everyone wanting to attend is encouraged to submit your deposit as soon as possible. It is the hope of Fr David Catterall (Parish Priest of St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park) to be chaplain on the October 2024 departure. More info, including the costs and itinerary, can be found at www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/footsteps-of-st-mary-mackillop

Emmaus Silent Retreat Friday 19th April - Sunday 21st April, Varroville: Embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the victorious love of God is revealed through the abiding presence of Jesus. Be renewed in spending time alone with the Lord, and watch as He slowly sets your heart ablaze. This retreat is run by the MGL Sisters and is a retreat for both men and women: trybooking.com/CNSXK

Go Deeper in your Faith with popular & FREE Catholic Podcas

• Bible in a Year
Ascension Press will again run the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins in 2024. It remains one of the world's leading podcasts with over 400 million downloads. While a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at www.ascensionpress.com/biy and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace. Also Catechism in a Year is available at www.ascensionpress.com/ciy

Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

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.

HOMILY BY Fr Michael Tate

There is something attractive about Thomas the Doubter – something about his obstinate integrity. He did not too readily accept the other disciples' report that they had seen the Risen Lord. What is more attractive is that the other disciples – now the 'true believers' – did not expel Thomas for his doubting but kept him within their circle. Perhaps a lesson there for the church not to too quickly raise the barriers excluding those struggling with belief in the Christian faith or some aspect of it. Doubt and questioning are a proper part of being human. It is how we mature and make progress in the faith, as much as in other areas of life.

Our parish must always be a place where the questioning person never feels excluded. We should keep Thomas the Doubter in mind. He went on to become a great missionary, greatly revered in India. But the special attraction of this gospel story for Thomas and therefore for us, lay in what he saw. He was granted the special gift of seeing the risen Lord bearing the wounds of his crucifixion. I believe the seeing of the risen body of Jesus bearing those wounds told Thomas something vital about his own destiny.

Do you want to spend eternity as the clone of some saintly model? I don't. I want to be me – identifiably me. I don't want to be drained of all the effects of my time on earth, even the ones which have wounded me, because they have made me who I am. I don't want to be bleached of all colour. I think that is what Thomas realised: that he would retain his identity in the next life, even bearing the wounds of his life, *but wounds transformed*.

What sort of wounds? I am not talking about self-inflicted wounds which disfigure our souls, which we call sin. We pray that they will be purged away in the confrontation with the intense flame of Divine Love. I am talking about the 'battle wounds' unjustly or unfairly inflicted by others or just by the vagaries and chances of life: the sense of desolation when abandoned by a member of the family or a friend; the hurt maliciously inflicted, maybe physical, maybe an attack on one's good character; a great capacity to love or be loved unfulfilled; the death of someone we love dearly, the void, the heartache; the chronic physical or mental illness which saps our strength.

These leave their mark imprinted on our character. These are the wounds which shape our lives. They make us who we are at the moment of death. I am, you are, the wounded person whom God loves without reserve at that moment. What Thomas saw was that *those* sorts of wounds will be transformed, transfigured. We will be liberated from their evil effects, from their disabling effects on our personality, from their crippling effects in many dimensions. How?

Our Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own, now transfigured in divine glory! That is what Thomas realised when he saw our Lord's wounded hands and side. Did you notice Thomas never did touch those wounds, but in reaching out he ecstatically exclaimed: 'My Lord and my God'. Pope Francis says it is only in reaching out to touch the wounds of others that we can come to understand the true identity of Jesus Christ. Doing so will enable us to join Thomas in his cry of joy: 'My Lord and my God'. Alleluia!