



## St. Thomas More Catholic Church

298 BAY ST, BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS, NSW 2216  
AUSTRALIA

Phone: 9567 3589

Parish Priest: Fr Manuel Santiago

Permanent Deacon: Rev Mr Raymond Hung



**Weekend Mass Times:** Sat: 5.00pm, Sun: 8am, 10am & 7pm  
**Confessions** 4.15pm - 4.45pm Saturday Afternoons

### 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - (YEAR B) 7 APRIL, 2024

#### 1ST READING ACTS 4:32-35

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### RESP PSALM Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting.**

#### 2ND READING 1 JOHN 5:1-6

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. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### 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

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 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Please note that there will be  
**NO MASSES this coming week**  
**between Monday - Thursday,**  
**8th-11th APRIL.** Communion Services only.

# PARISH DIRECTORY

**Parish Office Hours:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9.30am till 3.30pm  
**Contact Details:** Phone: 9567 3589 **Email:** [office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au](mailto:office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au)  
**Finance Chairman:** Mr Peter O'Loughlin **WEBSITE:** [www.thomasmorebrighton.org.au](http://www.thomasmorebrighton.org.au)  
**Like us on Facebook at:** <https://www.facebook.com/298BayStreet>  
**St Thomas More Primary School:** Phone: 9597 5884 - Principal Mr Sean Brown

*We remember and pray for those in our parish community who are sick, along with parishioners' special intentions. Names for the sick will be published for 3 weeks then removed unless we receive further notification.*

**Parishioners who are sick at the moment:** Daisy Daneo Bartolo; Danielle, Mariana & Family; Margaret Kazzi; Tony Kazzi; Alfio Dimarco; Fred Spiteri. **Recently Deceased:** Fay McManus; Paul Scott Cleary; Maureen Martin; Brian Martin; Carmesinda Leite De Oliveira; Patrick Formert; Giorgio Festa; Clementina Colagiuri. **Prayers for the Deceased:** Mary, LoLita & Karam Kazzi; Farida & Georges Kazzi; Anna Bia Nguyen; D'Amico and Cecchino Families; Mary, Emmanuel & Charles Portelli; Yvonne Devet; Mary Zammit; Jane Sammut. **Deceased Anniversaries:** Simon & Nabil Gittany; Josephine Gittany; Virgilio Ver Manalac; Joseph Tonna; Annie Azzopardi; George Tonna; Emily Zammit; Di Leo & Townson Families; Leonor Diaz Acevedo; Mavis Giblett; Ghassan Touma; Jeanette Jabbour; Eleanor Ferreira; Paul & Mary Gatt; Therese Saliba; Bartolo & Francis Natoli; David & Colleen McIntosh; Jim Dickson; June Waters; Herbert Fenech; Gary Hood; Paul Russell; Joseph Chan; John Charles Longergan; Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**Please support our Parish by either:**

**Our Parish Website:**

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

**Electronic Transfer:** To arrange, email:

[office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au](mailto:office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au)



## NEXT SATURDAY'S VIGIL MASS

Now that Daylight Saving  
has ended, next Saturday's Vigil  
Mass (13th April)  
changes back to 5.00pm,  
Confessions to 4:15 - 4:45pm.

**Prayer for Child Protection:** Lord, you asked that the little children be allowed to come to you, for it is such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. You entrust them to the care and protection of our communities of faith. Guide us as we strive to ensure that our Catholic Communities provide a safe environment for each child. We pray especially for all those who have been harmed in their childhood, give them courage in facing the past and lead them to your healing protection. Amen



The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney's policy on the care, wellbeing and protection of children and young persons is available on the notice boards. For more info, go to [www.sydneycatholic.org](http://www.sydneycatholic.org) or STM Notice Board in the Choir area.

### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

**Child sexual abuse is a crime.** The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardinginqueries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardinginqueries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. For further info and resources:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

## This Week Ahead in the Parish

8 Apr Mon	<b>The Annunciation of the Lord</b> 9am Communion Service - Followed by Rosary
9 Apr Tue	<b>Tuesday of the Second Week of Easter</b> 9am Communion Service - Followed by Rosary
10 Apr Wed	<b>Wednesday of the Second Week of Easter</b> 9am Communion Service - Followed by Rosary 6pm - 7:30pm - Adoration & Rosary
11 Apr Thur	<b>St Stanislaus, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> 9am Communion Service - Followed by Rosary
12 Apr Fri	<b>Friday of the Second Week of Easter</b> 8am - 9am: Adoration/Benediction 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
13 Apr Sat	<b>Saturday of the Second Week of Easter</b> 4.15pm - 4.45pm - Confessions 5.00pm - Vigil Mass
14 Apr Sun	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> 8am, 10am and 7pm Mass



Please note that there will be  
**NO MASSES** this coming week  
between Monday - Thursday  
(8th-11th) of April.  
Communion Services only.



### Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant.

The Ark was treated with reverence, not because it was God but because it contained God.

2nd Sunday of the Month	13 Apr 5.30 PM (Sat) Vigil	14 Apr 8:00 AM (Sun)	14 Apr 10:00 AM (Sun)	14 Apr 7.00 PM (Sun)
L	P Botterill M Shea	S Barakat J Meagher	M Pirotta, L Adams	C Palomero G Gaw
E	L Manalac A Shea	T Lenzo, T Liaw	G Ataya, D D'Amato	<b>ONE MORE NEEDED</b>
A	M Tomasiello	T Thumboo	R Legaspi	R Varga (Altar Server)

Please note - office will not be open before 8.30am

**8/4**      A Mackenzie, G Daniels  
**15/4**      J Morris, (Volunteer Needed)



### Project Compassion Boxes/Envelopes

We would be grateful if all boxes/envelopes be returned as soon as possible. Donations are 100% tax deductible. If you require a receipt, please record your name, address and the amount of your donation on the box/envelopes. Please do not record your name if a receipt is not required.

### Hartford College 2025 Scholarships



Hartford College, an independent Catholic school for boys which commenced in 2023 at Daceyville (near Kingsford), is offering academic scholarships for students going into Years 5-9 in 2025. The scholarships provide assistance to families of boys seeking a Catholic liberal arts education tailored to develop the whole person and the attainment of academic excellence.

Candidates are encouraged to apply early, as applications close 30th June. To express your interest please phone 9184 8840 or visit:

[hartfordcollege.nsw.edu.au](http://hartfordcollege.nsw.edu.au)

### 2024 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM AT ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

Online registrations **are now open** via our parish website:

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

**Confirmation** will take place at St Thomas More Church at 6pm on Tuesday, 4th June. Lessons begin Friday, 3rd May.

**First Holy Communion** will take place at St Thomas More Church at 11:30am on Sunday, 8th September.

**Reconciliation (Confession)** will take place at St Thomas More Church at 4pm on Saturday, 16th November.

**Confirmation for Adults and High School Children** takes place at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 19th May and Sunday, 27th October. Any adult or high school student who missed out on this Sacrament and would like to be Confirmed, please email/ call the Parish Office at: **9567 3589** or [office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au](mailto:office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au)

### Vocation Discernment Retreat with the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia

Single, Catholic women ages 18-30 are invited to this "come and see" opportunity to discern a vocation to religious life by exploring our way of life and charism.

**Friday 24th - Sunday 26th May**

For more information, contact the Sisters

### Day of the Unborn Child Solemn Mass at

**St Mary's Cathedral**

**Next Sunday, 14th April at 10:30am**

### MEN'S GRIEF GATHERING

We are inviting men who are grieving, or have experienced a loss, to join us in a safe and confidential gathering. It's an opportunity to share experiences or to just 'be' and listen. No judgements. No fixing. Just listening and walking alongside each other in grief. We come together on the first Wednesday of the month:

**Where:** Lloyd's Bistro, Dooley's Lidcombe Catholic Club, 11 – 17 Church Street, Lidcombe.

**Next meets:** 7.00-9:30pm, Wednesday, 1st May.

**For more details:** Call our Grief Care Team during business hours on 9646 6908 or email us at: [team@griefcare.com.au](mailto:team@griefcare.com.au) Also use this email address to RSVP for our May gathering.



### Safeguarding Quarterly Newsletter

The latest Safeguarding Newsletter is located on the Safeguarding Notice Board for you to read.

It includes important information regarding Integrity in our Common Mission, Training at St Martha's, Digital WWCC renewal and more!

Our 'Sharing Knowledge' segment is about Risk Assessments, consent forms and Working with Children Checks. We hope you enjoy the Quarterly Newsletter!

### Our active parish of STM has something for everyone!

**STM Women's Group:** Sunday, 21st April at 3pm in Parish Centre (3rd Sunday of month).

**Food, Faith & Friendship Evening:** Next meets on Sunday, 28th April after the 7pm Mass.

**STM Children's Liturgy:** Returns after the school holiday break on Sunday, 12th May during our 10am Mass (2nd & 4th Sundays during school term).

**Men's Breakfast:** Next meets on Saturday, 4th May at 9:30am (follows on from the 9am Mass, meets 1st Saturday of the month).

**Upcoming Spanish Mass:** Sunday, 21st April at 12:30pm.

**'Read Me' Bible Study Group:** Meets every Saturday at 11:30am - 12:45pm.

## Due to Easter, the Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated tomorrow; the 8th

**What Is The Angelus?** Chances are you've seen the famous painting, L'Angelus (The Angelus), which was painted by Jean-François Millet in the mid-19th century. It depicts a peasant couple in a potato field, farm tools set aside, their heads bent in prayer. Amid a physically demanding work day, this man and woman are taking time to pause, direct their thoughts to God, and humbly receive His grace. The name of the prayer they're saying is the painting's title: the Angelus.

So, what is the Angelus? It's a set of three antiphons that reflect on the Incarnation of Christ at the Annunciation - that profoundly holy moment in which the Angel Gabriel announced God's invitation to Mary to be the Mother of the Messiah, and she said yes. That's how the Angelus prayer got its name; the prayer was originally said in Latin, and the word 'angelus' is Latin for 'angel'.

Each of the Angelus's antiphons are taken from Sacred Scripture. Each is followed by a Hail Mary. When the Angelus is prayed by more than one person, a leader says the first part, with everyone else reciting the responses. Traditionally, the Angelus is prayed three times throughout the day, however, many people pray it just at midday. Here is the complete Angelus:

**V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.**

**R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

**Hail Mary...**

**V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.**

**R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.**

**Hail Mary. . .**

**V. And the Word was made flesh.**

**R. And dwelt among us.**

**Hail Mary. . .**

**V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.**

**R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

Source: [www.catholiccompany.com/getfed](http://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed)

## Divine Mercy Sunday

The Divine Mercy Image: St Faustina's spiritual director, Blessed Fr Michael Sopocko, was directly responsible for hiring the artist Eugene Kazimirowski, to paint the original image of the Divine Mercy in 1934-35. At some point thereafter, the painting went missing for a considerable amount of time, prompting artists to paint their own images from memory. This is one of the reasons why there are different versions of the Divine Mercy image throughout the world today. After the original painting was located, it was faithfully restored to its original colours and contours, and presently hangs at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Vilnius, Lithuania. It also has a remarkable feature about it: Fr Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, with the help of an Italian photographer, thoroughly investigated and corroborated the claim that the original version of the image is an almost exact match of the head, face, and shoulders of the figure on the Holy Shroud of Turin!

In a 1958 letter, Blessed Fr. Sopocko notes that St. Faustina wept after she saw the finished painting because it so inadequately represented the radiant beauty of the Risen and Glorified Lord whom she had seen (*Diary*, 313). After all, who could ever fully capture that heavenly beauty in an earthly image?

*"My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world. Who can measure the extent of My goodness? For you, I descended from heaven to earth; for you I allowed Myself to be nailed to the cross; for you I let My Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come, then, with trust to draw graces from this fountain. I never reject a contrite heart. Your misery has disappeared in the depths of My mercy. Do not argue with Me about your wretchedness. You will give Me pleasure if you hand over to Me all your troubles and griefs. I shall heap upon you the treasures of My grace"* (*Diary*, 1485).

**Thank You, Jesus, for the Feast of Mercy that comes from the very depths of Your tenderness.  
May mankind find peace by turning to this fount of Your mercy!**



**A Divine Mercy prayer vigil takes place at Chicago's busy and crowded Daly Plaza.**