

Second Sunday of Easter (Year A) 19 April 2020
Divine Mercy Sunday



2020 Sacraments Program

Our Sacramental Program has been suspended until further notice.

For those who wish to support the parish financially, we now have an active 'support us' tab on our website. MasterCard or Visa donations can be made securely via this means. Select from the options available for your giving.

You may also opt for a monthly debit to your credit card. Please call or email the parish office for an authority form to have this option set up for you.



Fr. Brian Egan, Parish Priest
Fr Chaminda Wanigasena, Assistant Priest
2 Burke St, Concord West NSW 2138
admin@stambrose.org.au
sacraments@stambrose.org.au
parishcouncil@stambrose.org.au
www.stambrose.org.au
Phone: 02 9743 1023
VASA: 9736 3686, 8765 1295
St Ambrose Primary School
Stuart St, Concord West
Principal: Ms Linda McFadden
Ph: 9743 5605
info@stambconcord.catholic.edu.au

Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5pm

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)

Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,

Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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**Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.**

Recently Deceased: Maureen Gleeson, Pedro Espado, Tony McLeod, Gianni Musumeci, Frank Alvaro

Anniversaries: George Crvenkovic, L A Fernandez, Ron & Ruby Tolhurst, Lidia Merlino, Julia Georges, Jack Kucina, Stanley Evan Sheedy, Benito Portelli

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickanickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betro, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Mehzen Mawad, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Imogen Warner, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther and Terry Tully, Gary and Leslie Mc Grath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Veronica Rutherford, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, , Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Vitezniak, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeloe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

CWL Silver Circle Results Week 5

1 st Prize	\$20.00	No. 7	Sybille Duane
2 nd Prize	\$10.00	No. 38	Warwick Cook

Mass Intentions / Offerings (Effective 25 March 2020)

Mass intentions/offerings are welcome. Please email Fr Chaminda on mcrwanigasena@gmail.com

Information Required: Intention and the date intention to be offered. eg, kindly offer Mass for the soul of _____, on date. Please indicate if it for a special reason please eg, anniversary of death, recently deceased.

If your intention is related to recovery of illness, please supply name of the sick person and the date you would like the Mass offered.

For all other intentions please state basic intentions and the requested date.

If you or anyone you know within the Parish is experiencing distress or anxiety during this current situation, our priests are available to have a chat over the phone (parish office 9743 1023, please leave a message if unattended) or alternatively you can email Fr Chaminda on mcrwanigasena@gmail.com so that he may contact you.

In the event that you or someone you know is experiencing problems with lack of food please contact CatholicCare on 131819.

**ST AMBROSE CHURCH IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED
DUE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Your intentions will be offered to God by us
in our private masses.

Fr. Brian Egan (Parish priest)
Fr. Chaminda Wanigasena (Assistant Priest)

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

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 safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or 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.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

**DO YOU HAVE PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES
AND CASH TO HAND IN?**

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at 'lent.caritas.org.au' and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney, NSW 2001. Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash Please call our friendly team on 1800 024 413.

Collection for Holy Land postponed

The tradition collection on Good Friday to assist Catholic communities in the Holy Land has been postponed until later this year.

Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here-

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>



Br Julian's Reflection: Second Sunday of Easter

When the disciples said: "We have seen the Lord,"

*Thomas answered: "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands...
I refuse to believe." John 20, 19-31*

Undeservedly, Thomas has received bad press. For close on two thousand years he has been referred to as "Doubting Thomas or, even worse, branded (perhaps unthinkingly) with the anti-semitic caption: "Thomas, the disbelieving Jew". For no other reason than to restore his lost reputation, we ought revisit the circumstances that led to his being discredited. When Jesus was suddenly arrested, dragged through a kangaroo court, and summarily executed, Thomas experienced the very same loss, grief and trauma as had the other disciples. So, when they testified to having encountered the resurrected Jesus, he questioned their sanity and asked, without hesitation, if they were being delusional or showing symptoms of what we now call post-traumatic stress. To put it another way, if we look carefully at the Thomas we meet in today's gospel reading, we will see ourselves. It was not by coincidence that John tells us that Thomas was also known as Didymus, meaning the twin (John 11, 16; 20, 24; 21, 2). Each of us is his twin for, if we are honest, we, too, will acknowledge that we struggle with unquestioning belief in Jesus' resurrection. We would like the comfort of divine reassurance. But that is simply not available. In all four gospels, it emerges that all the disciples struggled to make meaning of the various encounters they had had with the risen Jesus. It was only after several appearances and repeated reassurances from Jesus himself that they grew into accepting that he had truly risen. While today's gospel reading suggests that Thomas was the exception when it came to believing, he was certainly not the only one who struggled with the fact of Jesus' resurrection.

However, John's Gospel is the only one that refers to the Holy Spirit coming on the disciples on that first resurrection evening. This is entirely consistent with John's theology - that Jesus' resurrection heralded and brought about a new creation for humanity. When John describes Jesus as breathing the Holy Spirit on the disciples, he is clearly making reference to the Genesis story in which we are told how God created man and woman by breathing life into them (Genesis 2, 7). In John's mind, humanity is recreated as the Risen Jesus breathes God's Spirit into the disciples on that first Easter night.

Moreover, the peace that Jesus breathes at Easter into all of us (successors of the disciples) empowers us to come out of the "tombs" in which we so easily bury ourselves through pettiness, bickering, hostility and alienating others by ignoring and insulting them. It really is ourselves whom we punish when we choose to go into sullen silence and separate ourselves from those around us. In extending peace to the very people who had deserted him when he most needed their support, Jesus reaches out in unspoken forgiveness. But he goes even further by commissioning them to offer the same kind of forgiveness to one another and to those around them. In so doing, he gives them an essential tool for nourishing group and community living. That was an object lesson for John's own emerging community for whom he wrote his Gospel. And surely one for us as well.

Just as Jesus' greeting of peace was another way of telling his disciples that all was forgiven, so, too, was Thomas's profession of faith ("My Lord and my God") an apology for his doubt and questioning. John's point, of course, in relating this incident is to affirm the faith of all of us who sometimes waver in our faith but who continue to hang in without tangible proof. Again, this story was meant by John to be an expression of affirmation and encouragement to his early Christian community and, by extension, to all of us. In John's theology, this is a clear statement that the power of Jesus' resurrection reaches beyond the limits of time and space.

Modern theologians draw our attention to the fact that Jesus' crucifixion continues so long as his sisters and brothers are neglected, treated with injustice, rejected, tortured and murdered. The crucifixion of Jesus is incomplete so long as women, men and children are treated as less than human. All over the world, countless refugees and seekers of asylum live in fear and uncertainty as they wait their turn to try to convince immigration officials of the danger that awaits them if they are returned to their countries of origin. Often, the only real evidence they have is their own scarred bodies. Their repeated plea is: "Put your finger here into my wound and see my hands. Do not doubt, but believe."

Yet so many of these brothers and sisters of ours evidence glimpses of hope amid despair, by using meagre resources to create artifacts and their language skills to write poetry and story - all in an attempt to catch the attention of a world that has forgotten them. Their initiatives are brave statements that they refuse to be cowed, to be objectified by pity and dehumanized by being labelled as criminals. In so behaving, they hold out life to one another, and, even though they live on the borders of despair, they nourish hope in one another.

Their plight is real. They struggle to eke out an existence in refugee camps in Turkey and the Lebanon, in urban detention centres like Villawood, Australia, in Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, in shelters in Lampedusa and in holding pens in Tijuana.

Today's gospel reading challenges us with questions which only we can answer: Do we need to put our fingers into the wounds of our own sisters and brothers? And, if we can cross the divide from doubt to belief, are we prepared to do something practical by way of breathing peace and life and love into them?



JRS FOODBANK

During these unprecedented times people seeking asylum in the community need your help now more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated.

Food items:	Toiletries:
- Basmati Rice	- Nappies (large sizes)
- Cooking Oil	- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Long life milk	- Shampoo
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit	- Sanitary pads and napkins
- Biscuits and muesli bars	- Razors and shaving foam
- Oats and cereal	- Deodorant (male & female)
	- Soap

Thank you for walking with us at this critical time! We provide emergency payments and food to hundreds of individuals, including children to pay for rent and life-saving medications. These individuals do not have access to Centrelink, Medicare, the pharmaceutical benefits scheme so your support is critical.

Please contact Amelia.Savage@jrs.org.au to donate.



JRS AUSTRALIA
REFUGEE SERVICE

