

## 2nd Sunday of Easter - Year C 23rd & 24th April 2022

### Parish Priest:

Fr Thinh Nguyen  
Presbytery: 9808 0650  
[Thinh.Nguyen@cam.org.au](mailto:Thinh.Nguyen@cam.org.au)

Parish Secretary  
Office: 9808 1006  
Dominique Hockey  
Amelia Younane

Parish Office Hours  
Tuesday - Friday 9am—3pm

Baptisms & Weddings  
Please contact the Parish Office.

### St Scholastica's Primary

School  
Principal: Jenny Rohan  
9808 7279  
[principal@ssbennettswood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@ssbennettswood.catholic.edu.au)

Child Safety Team  
Fr Thinh Nguyen, Jenny Rohan,  
Katherine Presley, Kathy Menzies  
03 9808 1006  
[stschpar@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stschpar@bigpond.net.au)

Catechesis of the Good  
Shepherd  
Kathy Menzies  
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### **Important Announcement regarding St Scholastica's Parish**

It was announced late last week that Fr Thinh has accepted a new position within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. With the restructure of Ministry to Priests, Fr Thinh has accepted Archbishop Comensoli's request that he take on the role of Coordinator of Clergy, Life and Ministry. This role will have a particular focus on the care and wellbeing of priests. St Scholastica's Parish community congratulates Fr Thinh on this deserving new role. While we are very sad to see Fr Thinh leave us, we wish him nothing but happiness in his new role.

The Archdiocese is yet to announce who will be replacing Fr Thinh at St Scholastica's. Be assured that as soon as an appointment is made we will inform everyone.

### **Easter Celebrations**

Easter Celebrations were a wonderful time at St Scholastica's thanks to the hard work of all our coordinators and volunteers. There are numerous people to thank from the glorious musicians and floral tributes to the collectors, special ministers, sacristans, readers, ushers, altar servers and car park attendants. The deep sense of community that we share at St Scholastica's was strongly felt thanks to all who joined us during Holy Week. It would not have been possible to share in the experience of this Holy Week without so many people offering their time, services and assistance. Thank you everyone for yet again sharing your valuable time and faith with us.

*Thank You!*

### **Congratulations and Welcome!**

After many months of study, discernment and exploring the Catholic Faith, four new Catholics were officially welcomed into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass. We would like to congratulate and welcome Vivian, Corrinne, Kam and Shannon into our Parish family of St Scholastica's.



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**WEEKLY CALENDAR 2022**

**Monday 25 April 2022**

07.30pm Vinnies Meeting

**Tuesday 26 April 2022**

09.00am Mass and Adoration/Rosary

07.30pm Praise and Worship/Prayer Group - GA

**Wednesday 27 April 2022**

10.00am Novena

10.20am Rosary & Benediction

11.00am Mass

01.00pm Legion of Mary

07.00pm Alpha Youth - GA

**Thursday 28 April 2022**

09.00am Mass followed by Rosary

10.30am Rosary and Funeral Mass for Elizabeth Story

**Friday 29 April 2022**

09.00am Mass followed by Rosary

**Saturday 30 April 2022**

09.00am Mass and Confession

09.30am Divine Mercy Chaplet

02.00pm Farewell to Fr Thinh - Community Centre

05.30pm Mass

**Sunday 1 May 2022**

09.00am Mass - Morning Tea after Mass - GA

10.15am Internment of Sigrid Klaubert Rose Garden

11.00am Mass

12.15am Vietnamese Mass

05.30pm Mass

**Remembering Our Community**

**Sick**

Pat Nitz, Peter Smyth, Kathleen Barr, Rachel Bransby, Patricia Simpson, Frances Murray, Marian & Stephen McQuinn, John Anderson, Bernice Collins, Raymond Anderson, Rae Barrett, Lynn Fleming, Will Coghlan, Geoffrey Jones, Nancye Simpson, Chris Roberts, Sarah Narajowski

**Anniversary**

Peter and Patrizia Leotta, Alvin Rodrigues

**Recently Deceased**

Rosy Dumurel, Fr Tadgh Tierney OCD, Anne Harman  
Joseph Nguyen Minh Khanh

**Farewell Afternoon Tea for Fr Thinh**

The Parish is holding an afternoon to say Thank you and Farewell to Fr Thinh. All are welcome to attend and we ask if you can please bring a plate of food to share, it would be greatly appreciated. The details are:

**Date:** Saturday 30th April  
**Time:** 2pm  
**Location:** St Scholastica's Community Centre

If you would like to contribute to the gift from the parish, please drop a donation in the Parish Office or place it in an envelope clearly marked on the collection plate no later than Thursday 28th April.

**Project Compassion**

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are now due back. Please put your boxes either on the collection plate or hand them back into the Parish Office. We thank you for your generosity.



**Special Ministers and Readers - New Roster to Collect**

New Special Ministers and Readers Rosters are ready for collection in the Narthex of the church.



**Help Required - Special Ministers**

We are looking for volunteers to help as Special Ministers for the 11am Sunday Mass. The commitment would be to serve as a special minister once per month on a rotating roster. As a volunteer of the parish you must be vaccinated, have a Working with Children Check and sign the Code of Conduct. If you are able to assist in this ministry, please contact the Parish Office.

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - Helpers needed**

We are currently looking for one - two more volunteers for the Level I and Level II Atria on a Tuesday after school. Two of our catechists have had to step down due to changing family and work situations post covid. Duties might be sitting with a child while they read scripture, or helping take a painting down off the easel. If you are able to assist between 3:50pm - 6:15pm on a Tuesday, you have a double vax certificate and a working with children check, please contact the parish office on 9808 1006. No experience is necessary, all are welcome! Thank you.

**St Scholastica's acknowledges that we gather, pray and live together on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations.**

**ROSTERS**

<u>Mass Time</u>	4th Sunday of the Month 23/24 April 2022	
	<u>Readers/Musician</u>	<u>Special Ministers</u>
<b>Sat</b> 5.30pm	Paul Borg Pauline	Judith Silvina Hung Tran
<b>Sun</b> 9.00am	Sylvia Chua Judy	Laurine Shane Anna Gaetano
<b>Sun</b> 11.00am	Clare Gately Dennis Y	Barbara Schobben Willard Lewis
<b>Sun</b> 5.30pm	Kristin Jabay Sean	Monika Vidot Michael Chan

**ROSTERS**

<u>Mass Time</u>	1st Sunday of the Month 30/1 May 2022	
	<u>Readers/Musician</u>	<u>Special Ministers</u>
<b>Sat</b> 5.30pm	Melan Goh Pauline	Mary Ann Borg Christine Wates
<b>Sun</b> 9.00am	Laurine Shane Judy	Rosa Coniglio
<b>Sun</b> 11.00am	Ranali Perera Dennis Y	Anna Marie Ziino April Lewis
<b>Sun</b> 5.30pm	Hannah Rose Menzies Rebecca	Netty Solomon Kathy Menzies

**Justice of the Peace Bryan 9808 4813  
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# NOTICEBOARD

## Communion to the sick

Do you know anyone who is sick or housebound, who would like to receive a visit from Fr Thinh? Perhaps the sick/homebound person is feeling isolated from the parish community and would like to receive communion on a regular basis. Please phone the parish office on 9808 1006.

## Baptism at St Scholastica's

It is a requirement of the parish that a Baptism information night must be attended prior to having your child baptised. Contact the parish office on 9808 1006 to make a booking into one of the monthly sessions. Next session: **Thursday 5th May 2022** at 7:30pm in the Gathering Area.

## Thanksgiving Program - Ways to contribute

- Envelopes (weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly)
- Credit cards
- Direct debits (set up by the parish office)
- Direct deposits to the parish account details can be found below.

Account Name: St Scholastica's Parish  
BSB: 083 347  
Account Number: 68681 8033  
Reference: **Please use Envelope number**

You can set up your direct deposit or credit card contributions yourself. Please always use your envelope number. Or Amelia and Dominique can assist with this. Please pop in to see us, send us an email or call us, lots of ways to help you out.

When receiving your new credit card please contact us with the new details if you wish to continue to contribute. We are thankful for all the support you give our parish especially during these challenging times.

## Safeguarding Check

Don't forget if you volunteer in the Parish the office must have a copy of your:

- Working with Children Check
- Signed Code of Conduct
- Vaccination Status

Please contact the Parish Office for further information or for us to assist you with this process.

## Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne - Positions Vacant

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- Creatives Officer – (East Melbourne)
- Digital Communications Officer – (East Melbourne)
- Retail Shop Assistant, St Patrick's Cathedral – (East Melbourne/Part time)
- Administration Assistant, St Patrick's Cathedral – (East Melbourne/Part time)
- Parish Administration Coordinator, St Albans
- Personal Secretary – Supporting the communities of St Kilda East and Balaclava
- Funeral Coordinator, St Paul's Church, Bentleigh
- Administration Assistant - St Ignatius & St James, Richmond
- Parish Secretary – St Christopher Parish, Syndal

Further details can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

## Quote of the week

"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus — a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you."  
*St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

## Joke of the week

Traffic cop's mercy: A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (*Mt 5:7*). The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "Go, and sin no more" (*Jn 8:11*).

## Inspiring Story:

**"Law vs Mercy"** In Reader's Digest, Jim Williams of Montana, writes: "I was driving too fast late one night when I saw the flashing lights of a police car in my rearview mirror. As I pulled over and rolled down my window of my station wagon, I tried to dream up an excuse for my haste. But when the patrolman reached the car, he said nothing. Instead, he merely shined his flashlight in my face, then on my seven-month-old in his car seat, then on our three other children, who were asleep, and lastly on the two dogs in the very back of the car. Returning the beam of light to my face, he then uttered the only words of the encounter. "'Son,' he said, 'you can't afford a ticket. Slow down.'" And with that, he returned to his car and drove away." — Sometimes mercy triumphs over law. So it is for sinners who call out to Jesus."

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## **From today's Gospel reading:**

Thomas said,  
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands  
and put my finger into the nailmarks  
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

## **Reflection:**

Many of us can claim kinship to doubting Thomas. We commonly say, "I'll believe it when I see it." Jesus counters that attitude when he utters the beatitude, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." That's us! We don't see and then believe...instead, we believe and then see Christ alive in our prayer and our daily lives.

## **So, we ask ourselves**

- What is it in our personal or surrounding world that causes us to doubt our faith in the risen Christ?
- What or who has strengthened our faith in those times?
- What sign of the risen Christ am I to others?

***St Scholastica's Parish is committed to creating a child safe culture that safeguards children and young people including the safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and young people, children and young people with a disability, and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.***



# St Scholastica's Parish

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*Pray for  
the Unborn*



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



## **2nd Sunday of Easter Year C - 23/24 April 2022**

### **Entrance Antiphon: 1 Pt 2:2**

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

### **First Reading: Acts 5:12-16**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1**

**R.** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

O Lord, grant us salvation;

O Lord grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord

is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light. **R.**

### **Second Reading: Rv 1:9-13, 17-19**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

*I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation: Jn 20:29**

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

### **Gospel: Jn 20:19-31**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 20:27**

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



**3rd Sunday of Easter  
Year C  
30 & 1 May 2022**

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32. 40-41

Second Reading: Rv 5:11-14

Gospel: Jn 21:1-19

## Scripture Commentary for 2nd Sunday of Easter - Year C

It is understandable that the Church should celebrate the octave of Easter by reading as the Gospel the appearance 'eight days later' of the risen Lord to Thomas (20:19-31). It is important, however, not to neglect the highly significant events that take place on the earlier occasion, late on Easter Sunday.

In his long discourse at the Last Supper on the night before he died, Jesus promised the disciples that they would receive 'another Paraclete' (the Spirit) to be their guide, enlightener and comforter for the time when he would no longer be physically with them. Now on this Easter Sunday evening he makes good that promise in what is really the 'Johannine Pentecost'.

The disciples are fearful, huddling behind closed doors. Jesus comes among them and reassures them: 'Peace be with you.' He shows them the physical reality of his hands and his side to guarantee his identity and continuity with the Lord they had known. Their fear now turned to joy, he announces that they are to be a new link in the chain of mission that he has from the Father: as the Father has sent him into the world – to be the embodiment of divine love in the world – so he now sends them, to be in their turn and through their mutual love for one another, the embodiment of that same divine love (13:34-35; 17:17).

Jesus then imparts the Spirit to the disciples by breathing on them (the same Greek word *pneuma* serves for both 'breath' and 'spirit'). He explains this gift of the Spirit in terms of the power to forgive – and correspondingly to retain – sin. We might well ask why he specifies the gift of the Spirit in this way. Basically, it has to do with reconciliation: the reconciliation of the human race to the Father, which is the essential work of Jesus. John the Baptist had pointed him out as 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world' (1:29, 35). Jesus had died on the cross as the (Paschal) Lamb whose bones were not broken (19:36). Now the gift of the Spirit is empowering the Church to take up that reconciling mission for the time ahead when Jesus will no longer be physically present.

Thomas is one of the most clearly defined characters in the Fourth Gospel. Born loser, realist, pessimist, he has missed out on the Easter night appearance of Jesus. He won't believe in the resurrection simply on the other disciples' claim 'we have seen the Lord'. He lays down his explicit, highly 'physical' conditions.

With the divine 'courtesy' that seems to be a feature of the risen Lord in all the appearance stories of the gospels, eight days later Jesus is prepared to meet Thomas' conditions exactly. But, at the sight of Jesus, Thomas abandons them. Instead he, the late-comer, the obtuse one, makes the most exalted act of faith contained in the gospel: 'My Lord and my God!'. The confession takes us back to the Prologue: '... the Word was with God and the Word was God' (1:1); 'No one has ever seen God; it is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known' (1:18). At this climactic moment of the gospel it is Thomas, the hesitant, the doubter, who brings out the full identity of Jesus.

But that is not the end. Jesus adds a comment that brings us into the picture too. Thomas has believed because, like Mary Magdalene and the other disciples present in the room, he has seen the risen Jesus. Others – succeeding generations of believers – will not see Jesus. Unlike Thomas, they have to believe simply on the report handed down in the Church's preaching: 'We have seen the Lord'. On them – that is, on us – Jesus pronounces a blessing: 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Why 'blessed'? Because from them/from us a faith greater than that of Thomas and the others will be required: the greater the faith the more scope for the power of God.

So the first 'edition' of the Gospel (chapters 1-20) ends with this solemn assurance that believers of all subsequent generations are in no way at a disadvantage compared to the original disciples who saw and heard and touched the Lord. The written gospel imparts to those prepared to believe all the knowledge necessary for a life-giving encounter with the Lord.

The First Reading, Acts 5:12-16, jumps ahead rather of the setting of the Gospel to describe how the apostles, empowered with the Spirit, were now able to healing and exorcising ministry previously conducted by Jesus.

The Second Reading, Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19, is notable towards the end for the splendid self-description of the risen Lord, introducing himself to the seer, John.

© Brendan Byrne SJ

Since returning from graduate studies in Oxford in 1977, Brendan Byrne has been Professor of New Testament at Jesuit Theological College in Melbourne, Australia, of which he was Principal (1992-97). He was Rector of Campion College, Kew (1979-84) and a delegate to the 33rd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus in 1983. He was a visiting professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, in 1993 and has also taught in East Asia and East Africa. He was a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission (Rome) (1990-96) and President of the Melbourne College of Divinity (2000-01). He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1999. Brendan Byrne is the author of nine books, edits the theological journal *Pacifica* and regularly gives workshops on scripture to clergy and parish communities.