



St Mary's on Swanson

(Our Lady of Perpetual Succour)

An inner-city Catholic community
In the care of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Welcoming all to celebrate with us.



We acknowledge the
traditional custodians of
the land, The Gadigal
people of the Eora Nation



Second Sunday of Easter

28 April 2019

A week after Jesus rising from the dead, the disciples are still locked behind doors. What difference did Jesus' rising make? They remained locked in fear. It can be easier and safer to avoid realities and people before us by locking the 'doors' of the house, presbytery or nation – and thus locking up our hearts. Jesus is our of the tomb but the disciples have created their own!!

Jesus' resurrection: constant invitation to do life differently but fear can prevent us from seeing that life can be different. A friend amongst her Easter greetings sent me the following quote by Fr. Eamonn Bredin *'For the early Christians, the resurrection was not a dogma to be believed but a daring, decisive, power-filled call to live as Jesus lived.'*

It is intriguing that we make more of Thomas' 'doubt' than the disciples' fear. Doubting at least leaves one open to the new, whereas fear closes one off. Doubt is not the opposite of faith. Fear closes us off to the reality of the world and other people. Thomas' position left him open by his questioning. Let's not forget his confession, 'My Lord and my God!' where he recognised and named a new relationship, a new way of seeing and a new way of being in the world.

Thomas demands to see his wounds. To believe in the resurrection means that we do have to look at our own wounds and those of others around us. Other peoples' wounds are very much before us and for a response: persecution of Christians in Africa and Middle East; the massacres in churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, the shootings in the Mosques in Christchurch to name a few examples. Crucifixion and rising up. How can we believe in the resurrection if we are afraid to look and touch. It is easier and safer to avoid the concerns of people by locking the doors of the house or nation and our hearts. Jesus' appearance in the upper room is not dissimilar to his appearance at the tomb of Lazarus. We need to roll away the stones that do not allow mercy, compassion, courage and peace to emerge. As Jesus said to Lazarus, he says to the disciples, 'Come out!' He is breathing the Spirit of life and peace upon us for us to emerge from our barricaded hearts and take his peace to others so that they will not make the tomb their natural habitat. I cannot focus on the so-called doubting Thomas. I do not believe he was. He may not have had faith until he could see that it is something that walks, touches and responds.

Excerpted from homily notes prepared by Fr Claude Mostowik msc



Appeal for Contributions towards the Purchase of Thurible

Donations to help with the purchase of a new Thurible, may be made via the [SUPPORT US](#) Link on our

website please use '1340454—Other' from the dropdown and use 'Thurible' for the Purpose of Payment, or if you would rather make your donation in cash please place an envelope marked 'Thurible' In the 2nd Collection at Mass.

The cost to the Parish is \$2,310.

Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

Want to make Donation to the Parish?

You can now make donations or payments via our parish website. Visit our website, www.stmaryserskineville.org.au

[SUPPORT US](#)

and click on button at the top right of the screen and follow the prompts.

Listening Circle

The Impact of the Church Abuse Crisis

Last Tuesday of the month

7:30pm - 9pm Parish House

An opportunity for us to express how we have been impacted by any form of abuse within the church and wounded in any way. All of us have been impacted in some way, especially victims, survivors and their families. We can support each other in the shock, trauma and confusion by gathering and speaking openly and listening empathetically. Come along and be part of this welcoming safe space.

This is a sharing, it is not a discussion nor debate. A space to talk and be heard and express our feelings in a safe place.

Need more information contact Patricia Thomas [0438 263 036](tel:0438263036)

Mass Times

Saturday 6pm

Sunday

9am & 6pm

Mon & Tue 6:30am

Wed—Fri

9:15am

Call2Mercy Mass

2nd Sunday of the month

11:30am

Healing Mass

1st Tuesday of the month

10:30am

Individual Reconciliation

Sat 5:15pm—5:45pm

Sun 8:15am—8:45am &
5:15pm—5:45pm

Baptisms (1st Sunday of the Month) Please register your enquiry online at:

<http://www.stmaryserskineville.org.au/sacraments/baptism>

Weddings By Appointment

Year C

Easter	3rd Sunday 5/5/19	4th Sunday 12/5/19	5th Sunday 19/5/19
Gospel	John 21:1-19	John 10:27-30	John 13:31-35
1st Reading	Acts 5:27-32, 40-41	Acts 13:14, 43.52	Acts 14:21-27
2nd Reading	Revelation 5:11-14	Revelation 7:9, 14-17	Revelation 21:1-5

Parish Diary 2019

4 May	Liturgy Committee Meeting	3-5pm
4/5 May	Charitable Works Fund Appeal	All Masses
7 May	Pastoral Council Meeting	5:30pm
28 May	Church Locks Changed	
29 May	Applications for First Eucharist close	
3 Jun	First Eucharist Parent Information Night	7pm
21 Jun	First Eucharist Retreat Day	9am-3pm
23 Jun	First Eucharist Mass	9am

Kylie Cullen fmvd from the international Catholic aid organisation, **Aid to the Church in Need**, will speak briefly at the end of each Mass this weekend. ACN was founded in 1947 by Dutch priest Father Werenfried to alleviate the sufferings of the millions of displaced persons after World War II. Today ACN is the only International Catholic Organization that focuses on the spiritual and pastoral support of suffering Christians

Church Security

The locks on the Church doors will be changed on 28 May. New keys are available for a non refundable charge of \$30 per key. Keys will need to be paid for and collected from the office on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 8:30am and 1pm, all keys must be signed for by each user and copy of a current photo ID must also be provided.



Charitable Works Fund 2019 Pastoral Appeal

The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal** will be held next weekend, our parish quota is \$5,600 per appeal (\$16,800 per annum), the shortfall is paid from Parish funds so we need your help. The work of CWF's benefiting agencies represents our Christian values of mercy, social justice and compassion (visit www.cwf.org.au to find out more), giving your gift the power to change lives for the better. Please use the special envelopes provided or alternatively, visit the CWF website to donate securely by credit card (please remember to include Erskineville as your nominated parish as this helps us too). To find out more, phone **1800 753 959** or email cwf@sydneycatholic.org. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Thank you.

Take a look at our updated website
www.stmaryserskineville.org.au

Prayer for Sri Lanka after the bombings on Easter Sunday

God of peace, we come to You in our shock and sadness. We grieve this sudden loss of lives in senseless acts of violence. We seek protection, strength and comfort in this time. Make your presence be made known to all who grieve and your strength be with survivors, who will carry the memory of this moment in their minds. We remember all the people of Sri Lanka who carry within them the wounds of past conflict, as we pray for all who have experience horror and violence from acts of terror in our world.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, we remember your words to us that we pray for our enemies and all who would persecute us. We pray for the perpetrators of these acts of violence and brought fear and death to so many. Fill us with your Spirit of Peace so that our lives may not be dominated by anger and revenge but mirror your image in this world to be peacemakers and take the road of peaceful living wherever we are.

God of peace, show us through the example of Jesus, how to do justice, love mercy and kindness, and walk humbly in your presence. Rather than seek revenge, may we seek you're justice, your way of life that renews and restores relationships in our world. May we not live in fear but walk in hope together.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Sacramental Program 2019

Registrations are now open for First Eucharist please see website for application form and full details.

Sacramental Programs are for baptised Catholic children only. Please contact the Parish Priest for further details.



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 at 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@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.



Budget Enshrines Neglect of Older Women

*Rosie Williams,
Eureka Street, Vol. 29, No.7, 12 April 2019*

Each year since the 2014-15 federal budget, the government has published its spending data in a file that can be used to make the budget searchable. Most reporting focuses on the short-term winners and losers through cuts or increases in spending. These announcements are usually all the public hears about the budget and the politicians probably like it this way as the lack of context allows them to score political points.

After all, if people knew that the latest spending announcement constituted less than one per cent of the overall budget spend (as 414 of this year's programs do) would it sound so impressive? One of the fascinating elements of working with the budget data is the understanding it provides of the relative size of various programs. Each year there are over 400 programs in the federal budget and most people, regardless of their educational background, have no idea which of those programs constitutes a significant proportion of the total cost, or which are a fraction of a percentage. However, there are lessons in this type of analysis that need to be heeded if, as a country, we are going to face up to future funding issues.

The ABC 7.30 Report has been running a series on superannuation, featuring retirees who are not able to rely on superannuation and must fall back on the age pension. Featured prominently throughout, former federal treasurer Peter Costello states that if people want to be fully independent of government and not rely on the age pension, they will need to put money into super above and beyond the compulsory system for their entire working lives.

The budget data is useful in providing context around this issue. A simple listing of the budget programs by size highlights a little-known fact that Income Support for Seniors (which is essentially the age pension) alone constitutes over eight per cent of the whole budget spend. In fact, it is the second biggest spending item in the budget, eclipsed only by the GST (General Revenue Assistance) collected by the federal government for distribution to the states.

The GST provides around half of the funding spent by state and territory governments who also shoulder responsibility for emergency services, health, housing and education. That gives you an idea of just how much money, comparatively speaking, goes into funding the age pension.

The reason this is important is because we have an ageing population. It is now becoming obvious that despite a compulsory superannuation system, many Australians will end up reliant on the age pension. Given that the age pension is already such a large cost relative to other programs, when the ratio between those of working age and those who are not increases with the ageing of the population, this has obvious implications for whether or not we will be able to fund the age pension in decades to come.

"This disparity has begun to show up in the form of homelessness, with older women now constituting the fastest growing demographic in need of shelter."

It will be women as a group who are hit hardest by any shortfall in government welfare. 'The system, I think, has failed working women and one of the big flaws of the system is not recognising that inequity in the original design of the system,' says Paul Howes, KPMG's partner in charge of wealth management. Women are particularly poorly served by the compulsory superannuation system due to the unpaid work we do raising families. This disparity has begun to show up in the form of homelessness, with older women now constituting the fastest growing demographic in need of shelter.

The National Foundation for Australian Women provides excellent summaries highlighting the lack of effort to resolve gender equality gap in budget priorities. The impact on older women states: 'Measured against the priorities for older women that we have identified, the 2019 budget contains very little to improve the circumstances of the poorest older women. The increases of 10,000 home care places announced in February are provided for along with an extra 13,500 residential places. An extra \$8.4 million is allocated to mandatory reporting against quality indicators in residential aged care.'

'Tax changes are of little import to older women living on pensions. They could provide only a slight benefit to those older women who earn some income. One-off energy payments of \$75 for an individual or \$125 for a couple will reach pensioners and carers. For an elder abuse hotline \$18 million is re-announced. Over ten years \$185 million will be allocated to establish a dementia, ageing and aged care research program. The crisis in housing affordability, unaffordable rents and homelessness among older women is not addressed.'

Women's groups were initially cut out of this year's budget lockup with just two representatives admitted after fighting tooth-and-nail for the privilege. With such hostility to our cause it is hardly surprising to find the budget holds little hope for women in resolving the structural inequalities baked into our lives.

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Thank you!  **Caritas
AUSTRALIA**

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2019. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you are helping to empower communities with hope and helping those in great need shape a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Lives change when we all give 100%.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

#projectcompassion

1800 024 413



LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading:

Acts 5:12-16

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

Responsorial Psalm:

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

2nd Reading:

Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19

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

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel:

John 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Lord, hear our prayer.



Please keep in your prayers:

Please contact the office if you know of anyone who can come off this list.

Arthur Haddfad, Nick Hurst, Nadia Kumar, Betty Brady, Bernie Newman, Graham Meyer, Gerard Cash, Trevor Wiencke, Mandy Hartas, Rosa Maria Santos, Barry Bamber, Colleen Bombaci, Ken Hogan, Sophia Gill, Lauren Learmoth, Basil Comely, Wendy Bridges, Keryn Wallace, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Joan McCormick, John Leahy, Val Hartas, Lee Tillam, Michael Dillon, Malcolm Skeritt, Margaret & Colin Farrugea, Ernie Anderson, Graham Sims.

In Memoriam:

Colin Stanley Kemp, Andrew Thomas Smith, Lesley Mulcahy, Ana di Narzo, Kathleen Mary O'Bryne, Craig Leslie Charlton

Recently Deceased

Anne-Marie Adam

Parish Team Contact List

Parish Priest	Fr Peter Guy msc	peterguymsc@gmail.com
Parish Administration	Mrs Debra Whaley	admin@stmaryserskineville.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator	Mr Michael Schiano	sc@stmaryserskineville.org.au
Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO)	Mr Damien Giurco	pssso@stmaryserskineville.org.au

Parish Ministries Contact List

Parish Pastoral Council Chair	Mr Jim O'Donnell	jimod012@gmail.com
Parish Finance & Maintenance Chair	Mr Paul de Botton	Paul.de.botton@macquarie.com
St Vincent de Paul (Erskineville Conference) President	Mr Andrew Adam	a.j.a.adam@gmail.com
Liturgy Committee Chair	Ms Libby Denny	elizabeth.denny@syd.catholic.edu.au
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