

Second Sunday of Easter

23rd April 2017

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

**First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2: 42-47**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

**Second Reading from the first letter of St Peter 1: 3-9**

**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: According to John 20:19-31**

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

**Saints of the Week**

St Fidelis (Mon 24/4) ANZAC Day (Tues 25/4) St Mark (Wed 26/4)  
St Louis Grignon de Montfort (Thurs 27/4) St Peter Chanel (Fri 28/4)  
St Catherine of Siena (Sat 29/4)

**PARISH 2020**

*Parish 2020, the new pastoral project launched last year, is a journey of renewal in the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. It is about all of us working together to explore and discern God's will for our Archdiocese. From January to March 2017, the Archbishop wishes to hear the views and opinions of as many people as possible across the Archdiocese on ways of renewing and strengthening our Parishes and communities for our future. You are invited to complete an online survey by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2V7XL9X>*

*For those unfamiliar with technology, a paper version of the same survey is available at the back of the Church. **Completed surveys can be placed in the (First Communion forms Box at the back of the Church).***

*For further information, presentations, resources and updates please visit <http://www.sydneycatholic.org/parishes/parish2020/>.*

**Easter Water** There is Holy Water in the church for parishioners. If you wish to have some, please bring a container .

**We Pray For The Sick :** Cyril Ferriere

**Recently deceased:** Eli Scicluna

**Anniversaries:** Ben Petricher, Mr & Mrs Konzen, Walter A Miranda Leon, Lawrence & Narcisa Parcasio, Antoinette & Cecil Rajakariar

**St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy**

*We are a community striving for growth, unity, equality, love and commitment*

**Administrator:** Rev. Andrew James  
**Assistant Priest:** Rev Thomas Alukka Varghese  
**Permanent Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Al Salu  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Anne Bennell  
**Parish Office Hours** Mon 10.00am—3.00pm  
Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm  
**Address:** 205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173  
**All correspondence to:** PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875  
**Website:** [www.stchristophers.org.au](http://www.stchristophers.org.au)  
**Email:** [stchris@tpg.com.au](mailto:stchris@tpg.com.au)  
**Tel:** (02) 9825 1679  
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**St Christopher's Catholic School—Through faith and love we serve**

**Principal:** Mr. Tony Boyd  
**School Tel:** (02) 9825 3251  
**School Mail:** 195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

**Second Sunday of Easter— Year A**

**23rd April 2017**

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

*Fr Michael Tate* ©



## Parish Collections

16/4/2017 **First:** \$1,595.70 **Second:** \$1,833.80

### **St Christopher's Parish news:**

**PARISH YOUTH GROUP** will meet next Sunday 30th April from 10.30am—12noon in the Parish Hall. Parents are asked to write their child's name on the sheet in the church foyer if they are attending. Marion & Ivan Fernandez will be the coordinators next Sunday due to Marie Teriana being on leave.

**200 Club (Cash raffle)** "Congratulations to this week's winners of the 200 Club draw: C. Ong, Y. Vithayathil, F. Ritorni, G. Ramajo and S. Bennell. All of the winning tickets have been put back in the barrel for the next draw. We're two weeks away from the major prize draw where one ticket will win \$1,000."

### **PARISH FUNDRAISING DATES FOR 2017**

April—Draw of "200 Club tickets"      May— Cake Stall (Date to be confirmed)  
July 23rd BINGO      August—Sale of Christmas Raffle ticket  
September 16th PARISH FETE      December 9th—Draw Christmas Raffle



**Parish Fete:** The Craft Stall always welcomes 'homemade items' knitted scarves, tea towels, baby items etc.

**The Garden Stall** is always in need of plants, while it is warm why not propagate some plants now and they will be established by Spring. Can anyone help these stalls, if so please

contact the parish office so we can put you in touch with these stall holders.

**PROJECT COMPASSION** over the last six weeks, our parish has helped support poor and vulnerable communities around the world and inspired hope in marginalised communities. Please return your Caritas Project compassion boxes no later than next weekend. These can be placed on any of the collection plates. We thank you for your generosity.

### **Understanding Parish Collections:**

**First Collection**—Money collected from the collection support the needs of priests of the parish which includes, the priests' monthly salary, and housekeeper salary. Upkeep of the presbytery, e.g. food, utilities, cleaner etc. A small percentage to cover the expenses of the Archbishop especially in caring for elderly priests.

**Second Collection**—Money from this collection supports the maintenance of the parish buildings and pastoral programs. The parish must work within its own budget and is unable to draw funds for expenses from any source other than its own parish income. Some of the expenses covered are: Parish running costs, e.g. administration, insurance, utilities, general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery and parish property. Parish staff salary including superannuation. Priests' car expenses, Charitable Works Fund shortfall per appeal (3 times a year).

**VALE:** Mr Eli Scicluna was a regular at our weekend Masses, for a number of years, although a member of Moorebank Parish. Eli passed away on Thursday.

Any parishioner wishing to pay their respects—his funeral will be held next Thursday 27th April at 11am at St Joseph's Moorebank.

## Mass Intentions

Saturday 22nd April 7.00pm.....Ben Petricher (RIP)  
Sunday 23rd April 8.00am ... Mr & Mrs Konzen (RIP)  
Sunday 23rd April 9.30am.....Parish Intentions  
Monday 24th April 9.15am.....Walter A Miranda Leon (RIP)  
Tuesday 25th April 9.15am.....On ANZAC Day we remember our  
Service Men & Women who have died serving our country  
Wednesday 26th April 9.15am.....Lawrence & Narcisa Parcasio (RIP)  
Thursday 27th April 9.15am.....Cecil Rajakariar (RIP)  
Friday 28th April 9.15am.....Australian troupes serving overseas  
Saturday 29th April.....**Reconciliation : 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM**

### **Syro-Malabar Liturgies:**

Wednesday Mass at 7.00pm

Thursday Mass at 7.00pm followed by Adoration (in English)

Friday Mass at 7.00pm **except on the First Friday of the Month.**

Saturday Mass at 9.30am

Every Sunday Mass at 11.30am **on the Third Sunday of the Month** this will be conducted in the School Hall.

**The Samoan Community** celebrates a **Sunday Mass** in the Church on the **Third Sunday of the Month at 11.30am.**

### **SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE NOTICES:**

#### **ANZAC Day Eve Mass of Remembrance - 5:30pm, St Mary's Cathedral Sydney**

All are welcome to join with Archbishop Fisher as we celebrate the Annual ANZAC Day Eve Mass of Remembrance at 5:30pm on Monday 24 April. This special service is to remember all those who have served and those who continue to serve our country.

**Australian Catholic Youth Festival** This three day festival will be held in Sydney 7-9 December 2017. The event will attract 15,000 young people and is for those aged Year 9 to 30 years. It's a Catholic Festival a bit like World Youth Day! We look forward to the whole Parish Community being involved. For more information, please go to [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au).

**ACYF Music Masterclass** An initiative of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, the Masterclass is a fantastic opportunity for young people aged between Year 9 and 30 years to develop creative skills in music and performance. Catholic industry professionals will lead workshops in liturgy, praise and worship, song writing, vocal training, band dynamics, music technologies, recording and performance. 6-7 May 2017 at Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College, Burwood. Cost \$100. Includes morning tea and lunch each day. Registrations close 5pm 28 April 2017.

**Lismore Flood Appeal** Archbishop Fisher is supporting the Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal that was launched by Bishop Gregory Homeming to help those who have suffered in the recent floods on the North Coast of NSW. To donate to the Appeal see [www.dioceseoflismorefloodappeal.org](http://www.dioceseoflismorefloodappeal.org)