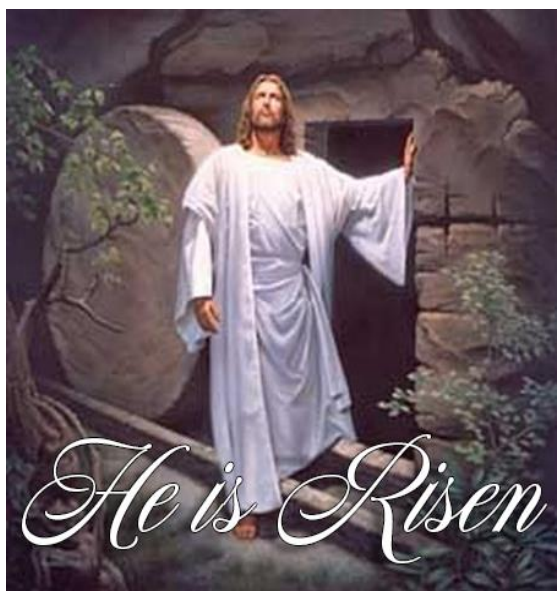




Administrator: Fr Gustavo Farfan
Parish Secretary: Sally Torkamani
Parish Council Contact: Marian Kelly
2 Alice Street, Auburn NSW 2144
Telephone: 9649 3855
Website: <http://www.stjohnofgod.com.au>
email: cathpara@tpg.com.au
Facebook: @SJGparish
St John's Primary School:
77 Queen Street, Auburn NSW 2144
Principal: Mrs Louise Maguire
Telephone: 9649 3045
Email: info@stjauburn.catholic.edu.au

SUNDAY, 24th April 2022 – SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



SUNDAY MASSES:	Vigil Saturday	5:00 pm
	Sunday	8:00am, 10am
WEEKDAY MASSES:	Tuesday to Saturday	9.15am
ROSARY:	Tuesday to Saturday	8.30am
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday – 4.15pm or by appointment	
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:	Saturday	4.15pm
BAPTISMS:	By appointment, Sundays after 10am mass	
WEDDINGS:	By appointment (minimum of six months’ notice required)	
ANOINTING MASS:	2 nd Saturday of the month March, June and September	
PARISH SECRETARY:	Tuesday & Friday	9am to 3pm
	(Mass Intentions & news items for the bulletin must be left at Presbytery by 12pm Wednesday)	
This Church is equipped with an induction loop for the hearing impaired		

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Recently Deceased: Zofia Mucha

Anniversaries: Leandro P. Lacsin

We remember the faithful departed Angelina Teodoro, Mary Madeleine Grahah, Maxwell Thomas Grahah, John Edmund Grahah. Gerald Attard, Constance Philomena Etto, Nida Sonon, Seamus Mulligan. **"May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."**

ROSTER: 1st Week

Time	Readers	Acolyte	Altar Servers
Saturday 5pm	Jackie Daniel Nicole Daniel	Tony Allan	
Sunday 8am	Nina Saulekaleka Karen Abood	Elia Saulekaleka	
Sunday 10am	Velonika Vakauta Christina Kazzi	Sione Anasi	Chuma brothers

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS I take this opportunity to thank the Multicultural Choir, the Filipino Choir, acolytes and altar servers team, liturgy team, the Parish Council, the parish secretary, the church readers, the Rosary group, St Vincent the Paul Society, cleaners and housekeepers, counters, palm leaf donators, mass co-ordinators, extraordinary ministers of communion, volunteers for the Paschal Triduum, and all other volunteers for making these Easter celebrations so successful for our parish community. May the peace of our Risen Lord fill your hearts and all your lives. **HAPPY EASTER!**

ENTHRONIZATION OF THE DIVINE MERCY ICON AND PARISH MORNING TEA
Sunday, 24TH April 2022 after 10.00am Mass As we come together to commemorate Sunday of Divine Mercy, the Parish wishes to invite you all to a special morning tea in McDermott House. I look forward to seeing you all there.



In Loving Memory: It is with sadness that we advise of the death of Mrs Zofia Mucha. Mrs Mucha passed away on Easter Saturday night 16th April 2022, she was 101 years of age.

Funeral mass: Saturday, 30th April at 10:30am at St John of God Church.

Burial 12:00pm Rookwood Catholic Cemetery, Polish section, Lawn A.

We would like to express our sincere condolences to Barbara and Sophie Mucha; our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

PROJECT COMPASSION We wish to thank all of you who have donated to one of our most crucial appeals and to making a difference in so many people's lives. It is now time to return any Project Compassion boxes. Once they have all been collected we will be forwarding the money to Caritas on your behalf. We thank you for your generous donations.

Fr Mike Schmitz to Address the Archdiocese of Sydney | Live Online | Saturday 28 May 2022 | 10 – 11:30 AM Fr Mike Schmitz, presenter of the 'Bible in a Year' podcast, will address the faithful of Sydney on the topic, 'Why make disciples? What our Tradition tells us about calling and forming disciples.' In this fourth part of the *Reclaiming Evangelisation* series, Fr Mike will examine the great adventure of calling and forming disciples which saints and sinners have been living from the apostles until the present day.

Please register at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events. Inquiries: parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

We acknowledge the Watergora people of the Darug Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which St John of God church stands. We pay our respects to the past, present and emerging Watergora generations

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading Acts 5:12-16 **he 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.

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

Second Reading Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19 **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.'

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! **Jesus said: 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 **The Teaching of the scripture is that he must rise from the dead. Eight days later, Jesus came again 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

The prayerful atmosphere of this gathering of disciples is rudely interrupted by the stubborn disbelief of Thomas. The only way he will believe that Jesus is risen is to put his fingers into the wounds of Jesus. Good Friday had ended all the hopes he had pinned on Christ. It shattered his faith to the point where he makes no attempt to hide his doubts. Thomas is a precious figure and he does us all a favour in demanding proof of the resurrection. In fact, he is only echoing the doubts and voicing the uncertainties which darken our minds and cloud our faith from time to time, when dreams are crushed by an unexpected death, a broken relationship or some such heavy cross. The gospel points out that faith does not always come easily. Sometimes believing is not a problem, at other times it can be a struggle against despair and a real challenge. Ultimately it is faith that makes life meaningful because it's an adventure of the spirit searching for an encounter with God.

It is worth remembering that the faith of the apostles was no overnight experience but something gradual which increased as they became more intimate with Christ. The same is true of our faith, it will grow and deepen provided we are more Christ-like in our daily living. The biggest obstacle to the spread of Christian faith today is not so much intellectual doubt as the unchristian lifestyles paraded by so many of us who regard ourselves as good Christians. We are very much citizens of this world, content to look on religion and worship of God as a Sunday obligation which has little or no relevance to the rest of the week. ***Half-hearted and lukewarm followers do untold damage to the cause of Christ.*** The challenge of Thomas, for all who profess to believe, is to be more outgoing and to touch people in such a way as to bring hope and encouragement to their existence. By the witness of our lives we produce unfailing evidence that Christ is risen.

Like Thomas we are a strange mixture of belief and unbelief. We have faith in our hearts and doubts in our mind. It is no small wonder we pray: **'Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.'**

THE DIVINE MERCY MESSAGE AND DEVOTION

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple: ***God loves all of us.*** He wants us to recognise that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive.

The devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread. The message and devotional practices proposed in the *Diary of Saint Faustina* are completely in accordance with the teachings of Church and are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior.

A MESSAGE REGARDING SAFEGUARDING ISSUES A copy of the Safeguarding Policy has been uploaded to the website of St John of God and a copy will also be attached to our notice board. If anyone would like a copy of the Safeguarding Policy, one can be provided to you upon request.

As part of the Safeguarding procedures, the Parish is now making available a suggestion box especially for children and young people in order that we take into consideration their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions in a more proactive way. The Suggestion Box is placed in the church foyer.

Also, as part of the Safeguarding procedures, it is available for parents, guardians and the general community a protocol 'Managing Safeguarding Complaints'. We value the process in moving forward positively in relation to all Safeguarding measures. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Priest.

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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 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 legal obligation to report crimes to the police.