

Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 Update

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have COVID-Safety Plans in place requiring social distancing, maximum attendance figures and other safety measures. We also highly recommend wearing masks to Mass and other services. You are encouraged to check with your parish on what measures they have in place before attending. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19.

THE WEARING OF MASKS

On consideration of the most recent NSW Health advice, the Diocese of Parramatta **highly recommends** all worshippers at Masses in the Diocese to wear a mask **to, during and from Mass** and other services.

We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern. We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.



BOOKING FOR WEEKEND MASSES

WEEKEND Masses MUST be booked via the Parish Office on 4754 1052 during office hours Tuesday - Friday 8.30am - 3.30pm. Our numbers are increasing and our maximum numbers have almost been reached. If reached we would have to turn Parishioners away. We would be terribly sorry if this was to happen but please understand that we have to work with the guidelines as set out to us by the NSW Government or we would be left with a hefty fine of up to \$26,000.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR RETIRED PREISTS - FATHER'S DAY APPEAL 2020

Owing to COVID19 pandemic and its social and financial impact on families, communities and Churches, the Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese of Parramatta will not be holding its Annual Bishop's Collection for Retired Priests, i.e. the Father's Day appeal, this September. Like many other organisations, the CSF will use its own resources to support the retired priests in this financial year. Donations will always be accepted, however, via our BPOINT portal at www.parracatholic.org/csf or electronic funds transfer to BSB 067950 Account No 00001691 Account Name CSF No 1 with Reference your name. IF you would like a tax deductible receipt for your donation, please send email to csf@parracatholic.org with your name and address details.

The CSF Committee thanks you for your support of the Clergy Support Foundation over the last 15 years. May God bless you at this difficult time in all our lives.



PARISH CENTRE KEYS

Could all Parishioners who have keys to the **Parish Centre** please return them to the office as soon as possible. These will be returned once our current situation is back to normal. *Thank you for your help.*

BLUE MOUNTAINS TREK FOR TIMOR 2020 GOES VIRTUAL!

The official website launched on the 1st August 2020 so you can go online NOW and start raising funds!

The Blue Mountains Trek for Timor is a biennial trekking event held to raise funds for crucial education and development projects in Timor Leste. Trek for Timor 2020 has been thwarted by fires, storms and COVID-19 so there was no way to safely organise a physical trek this year.

The Virtual Trek for Timor is a fundraising event based **wherever you like, or wherever you are!**

Trekkers will commit to walk 10km, 20km, 50km or 100km cumulatively over the month of October 2020 - or 'Trektober' - and raise at least \$200 per person. You can sign up at www.trekfortimorbm.org.au and start organising your walks and your sponsors.

Trekkers track your own mileage (this can be through any means available i.e. estimates, maps, pedometers, strava, smart applications etc) and enter them onto your personal page on the Trekker website. As you add to your kilometres along the virtual route you will discover many fascinating historical, cultural and environmental stories along the way, and you will end up in Hatobuilico district where the money that you have raised by trekking will be used and appreciated by everyone.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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Phone: 4754 1052 Email: sta@internode.on.net
springwood@parracatholic.org



Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 **Emergency:** 0418 461 316
Assistant Priest: Fr Michael Gathuku - 4754 1052 **Emergency:** 0474 272 605
Parish Pastoral Council: Email - springwoodppc@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesdays to Fridays 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.45 am
Weekday Mass: Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am

Rosary & Devotions: Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 am
Adoration, Rosary & Chaplet: No Adoration or Devotions until further notice
Intercession & Adoration: None until further notice

Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - by appointment
Reconciliation: By appointment
Weddings: By appointment - restricted numbers
Funerals: By appointment - restricted numbers

A theme running through today's readings is that of universalism. In the First Reading we find: *even the foreigner ... will be accepted ...*, a non-genetic incorporation: *my house ... a house of prayer for all peoples*. The Psalm Response sings: *O God, let all the nations praise you*. And in the Second Reading Paul presents himself to the Romans as *apostle of the Gentiles*.

It is against this background awareness that today's Gospel reading stands out as a crumbling of barriers between Jews and Gentiles. We observe a very tender "haggling" between Jesus, a Jew, and the non-Jewish Gentile woman in an almost typical middle-easterner haggling. The woman was arguing from her heart, not from theological principles, and her heart reveals a faith and trust that could not be articulated at a theological level. Jesus gets her message and tells her: *you have great faith*. The scene and its outcome are reminiscent of the exchange between Jesus and Mary at the Cana wedding, where Jesus states *my hour has not yet come* and yet Mary's heart wins the day. In today's scene we seem to hear *my hour to expand beyond the boundaries has not yet come*, but the woman's heart wins the day.

Universalism is at the root of Christianity, indeed the very word Catholic means precisely all-encompassing. The reason I can proclaim the Gospel in English is precisely universalism, since the Gospel was not initially proclaimed in English and, in fact, it was not even proclaimed in Greek, the language of the written Gospels, but in Aramaic. After centuries of circling the wagons, the Church has regained this universal perspective and ecumenism has been strongly present in the Second Vatican Council and in the Popes since that Council. A non-adversarial attitude.

Luis Rodriguez SJ

The three readings in a nutshell highlight that God's love is for everyone. The foreigner in Israel, the pagans mentioned in the Second Reading and the Canaanite woman in the Gospel were all seen as outsiders by the Jewish people. Yet, God accepted all of them. Reflect today on whether you need to widen your acceptance to include those seen as outsiders today.

Today's Readings: Is 56:1, 6-7; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R.v.8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

Next Week: Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20




Recently Deceased:

Sick: Diana Donnelly, Kate Moore, Pamela Pereira, Nicholas Zdon, Melissa Baxter, Mary Ellen Schell, Sue Downes, Joan Eastwood, Gwen Daly, Kerry Aitken, Anthony O'Connell, Wal & Anne Knoke, Angela Brown, Lea Dardenne, Nathan Duffy, Francisco Robles, Teresita Robles, Susie Ziino, Patricia Duffy, Sarah Walke, Jackie Davies, Kimberly Cusack, Margaret Healy, Colleen Lusty, Lorna Lyons, Christopher Coombs, Lucinda Goodwin, Angela Coombs, Leila Baker, Mary Coombs, Slawcia Pisarska, Luca Hurley (Child), Joan Lohrey, Sarah & Thomas McGoram, Frances Hinder, Shirley Anderson, Peter Doherty, Val Hardy, Carmel Chetcuti, Liz Miles, Emile Amine, Taunu Gaitau, Janice Glassington, Helen Meville, Susan Solomon, Thomas Glavas,
and all Private Intentions.

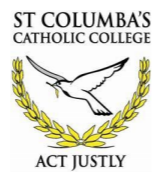
Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.



Schools in our Parish



St Thomas Aquinas Primary School
 Principal - Ms Marina Hardy 4723 3800



ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
 ACT JUSTLY
 Principal - Mr Paul Ryan 4754 8900

Office for Worship Resources available

The Office For Worship has a range of resources available for purchase for individuals and parishes. Resources such as parent material for a child's baptism and a collation of prayers can be purchased from the Office For Worship by contacting (02) 8838 3457.

Office for Worship Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Office For Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation course will recommence in August at both the Institute for Mission, Blacktown and St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith. Two workshops on Liturgical Ministry will also be provided in October at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. Note: due to restrictions there are limited places available. For more information, contact the Office for Worship on anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org

Out of School Hours Care accepting enrolments

The Diocese's network of 27 Catholic Out of School Hours Care services are all open and accepting enrolments for children in Years K-6 for Term 3. Child care fees are being reintroduced from 13 July and significant subsidies are available depending on your family circumstances. For more information and bookings, please contact eyec@parra.catholic.edu.au

Bishop Vincent Edmund Rice Centre Webinar: 19 August

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv addresses the climate emergency in the Pacific and how Australia should respond during an online webinar on Wednesday, 19 August from 6.30 to 8.00 pm. The webinar, hosted by the Edmund Rice Centre, will also feature the former President of Kiribati. Registrations are essential, so please visit <https://www.erc.org.au/events> to receive the link to the webinar.

Thought for The Week

The centuries old faith in the Assumption of Mary was proclaimed a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pius XII. He did not add to the faith of the Church; he merely expressed with utter clarity and certainty what was this faith all along. The Pope's proclamation says that "when her earthly life was over" Mary was "assumed body and soul to heaven." Most Catholics believe that Mary died. If her Son died, why not the Mother also? But there as been an idea around for centuries that Mary did not die. It is very much a minority view, but Pius XII did not want to condemn it, so he used the phrase "when her earthly life was over." The other phrase of the Pope is "body and soul" which is a rather dated way of speaking. A theologian speaking today might more likely use a phrase such as "Mary fully as a person was glorified." This would include all that was meant by "body and soul." The glorification is mysterious. We can say that whatever final glorification means, Mary already posses this gift.

In the Assumption, we look forward to sharing what Mary already possesses, the final glory marked out for her by God. In the symbolism of the early and medieval Church, Christ has always been likened to the sun and Mary to the moon. The moon has no light of its own, only what it receives from the sun. Christ's divinity was seen in the overpowering light of the Transfiguration. In the Assumption we contemplate the gentle light of the moon and look forward to the completion of glory in all others and ourselves.

Each evening the Church sings Mary's *Magnificat*. Through reflecting on the Assumption, we can more deeply penetrate Mary's words, fulfilled in a way that has transcended all the expectations of the young woman of Nazareth: "He that is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name (Luke 1:49).

Christopher O'Donnell, OCarm 2003

