

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

168 Hawkesbury Road, SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777

PO Box 4410, WINMALEE NSW 2777

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

In the Gospel Reading, Christ tells Peter that the rock on which he will found his church is exactly, Peter. The gates of hell will not prevail against him or against the church which is built on this rock. This seems a deeply comforting thought.

The Church is not a collection of the sinless, and it was not meant to be.

The problem is that it so often looks as if the gates of hell have prevailed against Christ's church. The problem actually begins with Peter. The apostle who is the rock of the Church betrayed the Lord he loved in Jesus' worst need. A betrayal like that seems to have something hellish about it, doesn't it?

In fact, wasn't Peter's betrayal of Christ just like the betrayal of Judas? But the Gospels say that Satan entered into Judas before Judas betrayed Christ ([John 13:27](#)). There is something hellish about the betrayal of Judas, then. Why not think that the gates of hell prevailed against Peter too?

What is left of that deeply comforting thought about Christ's Church and the rock that it is founded on being safe from Hell?

But there is a difference between Judas and Peter. It is not that Peter repented and Judas didn't. The Gospels say that Judas repented, too ([Matthew 27:3](#)). Rather, the difference is this. When Judas saw the sin of his betrayal for what it was, he killed himself. He threw himself away as irredeemable. Peter came back to Christ. He cleaved to the Lord he loved even in the face of his own brokenness.

And that is why Peter is the rock on which the Church is founded. The Church is not a collection of the sinless, and it was not meant to be. The Church was founded on Peter, who loved, and sinned, and held on to the Lord anyway.

The gates of Hell cannot prevail against this kind of love. This is a deeply comforting thought.

Eleonore Stump

Today's Readings: Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Next Week: Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 26:21-27



Recently Deceased: Thelma Murphy

Sick: Michael Mercieca, 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.

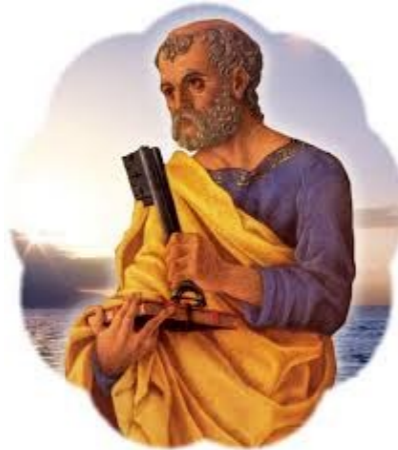
Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

*Peter said to Jesus:
You are the Christ,
the Son of the living
God.*


*And Jesus replied:
You are Peter and upon
this rock I will build
my church.*

Cf. Mt 16:16, 18

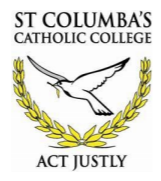
*St Peter the Apostle
Pray for us*



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

Change of Mass Time

We are considering moving our Sunday morning Mass from 9.45 am to 9.30 am from Sunday, 4th October. Our Saturday evening Vigil Mass will remain at 5.00 pm as will our 8.00 am Sunday Mass. **Watch this space for further news to come on this change.**



St Thomas Aquinas Parish needs your HELP

Are you able to spare 15 minutes prior to Mass on a Saturday night at 5.00 pm and Sunday morning at 9.45 am to help with ushering?

If you are able to help, please contact our Parish Office on 4754 1052 or via email on springwood@parracatholic.org.

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

Thought for The Week

We come to know him "in the daily encounter with the Lord, each day. Through our victories and through our weaknesses." ...

We come to know Jesus ... as disciples on the path of life, following behind him. ... This is a work of the Holy Spirit, who is a great worker: he is not a union organiser, he is a great worker. And he is always at work in us: and he carries out this great work of explaining the mystery of Jesus, and of giving us the mind of Christ.

[Meditation](#) in the Chapel of the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*
February 20, 2014

Jesus Speaks

*I make everything you see
I make everything you hear
I make everything u touch and
taste and smell to surprise you
But if you don't open your eyes
and you don't open your ears
or taste things or touch things or
smell things
well then you will never know
me.
All that I do is to show my love
for you.*



An End of an Era

The Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians, a special group of women whose congregation took shape in the Australia of the 1920's. The driving objective of the founding Sisters was ministry among Australia's Indigenous peoples. There was a pre-history in the Kimberly region of WA and pioneering missionary service on the Palm and Fantome Islands off the northern coast of Queensland. St Columba's College, Springwood, however, provided the Sisters with a settled base and on-going support as they undertook the domestic care of the seminary.

Sadly, Sr Paul, the last of the Nuns at the Seminary passed away on the 18th August 2020, leaving behind a legacy which will be written in the history books for all to read. May Our Lady Help of Christians protect all the men and women in our community, may our Lord guide and protect us all.

