

SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY, SUNDAY, 30TH AUGUST 2020

This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: **To Live Life to the Full - Mental Health in Australia Today.**

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. The Bishops' invites us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Download the Statement at <http://bit.ly/SocialJustice2020>.

SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY ONLINE WORKSHOP

The Social Justice Office is also proud to present an online workshop dedicated to the Social Justice Statement 2020-21 on Monday 31 August from 7pm to 8.30pm via Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dioceseofparramatta.zoom.us/j/3106617457?pwd=WEZneTZSbHdta1orSTZpWDhaN3FYdz09>

Meeting ID: 310 661 7457 Passcode: justice

Join with people from across the Diocese to break down the Social Justice Statement and hear from the experts on Mental Health and the everyday tools you can use in your life and ministry, what resources are available in the diocese and how we can work together. To RSVP, please contact: patrice.moriarty@parracatholic.org



THE WEARING OF MASKS

We are pleased to see so many of you wearing masks and we sincerely thank you for your understanding and for playing your part in keeping our community safe. The health of our parishioners and wider community are our highest concern. Please Note: If you are not feeling well, have any COVID symptoms, or have been in any of the known 'hot spots', **we urge you not to come to Mass.** Thank you.

PLENARY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Plenary Council continues to prepare for the first session of the Plenary Council in October 2021. A national team is currently preparing a working document, known as the *Instrumentum Laborum*, which will be the foundation for the Plenary agenda. A calendar has been released flagging key next steps.

In the meantime, the team at the Plenary Council have developed a wonderful resource for our communities to both discern the Writing Papers developed from National Themes and to bring local actions to life. <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Reflection-Resource-2020.pdf>

WEEKEND MASSES UPDATE

Bookings must be booked through our Parish office. A few Parishioners are STILL NOT booking prior to turning up to Mass. We have a permanent list at each Mass time and if your name is on that, you do not need to re-book for your Mass time. You will note when you arrive that there are **TWO TABLES** for you to sign in. Please follow the Usher's instructions and move quickly to sign in, maintain social distancing and move to a pew. **You DO NOT need to sign out again.**



CONFIRMATION PRACTICE REMINDER:

A reminder to ALL Confirmation families that we will be holding a Confirmation practice on **Wednesday, 2nd September**. This practice will start at 3.30pm and will run for approx. 45 mins. Please contact the Parish office if you have any questions. *Thank you.*



St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Swift, and reckless,
we flee the cross
whenever it comes close.

Lord, out of love you gave up everything on behalf of us.
Be with us now. Show us a way to carry our cross.
Show us how to lose ourselves,
and find ourselves in you,
in love.

Anne Osdieck



Today's Readings: Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2
R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Next Week: Ezek 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20



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.

Could you please help us.... If you know that your family member is no longer required to be on the sick list, please let us know so we can update our list. Thank you.

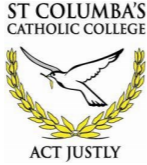
Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.



Schools in our Parish



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



St Columba's Catholic College
Principal - Mr Paul Ryan 4754 8900

ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH UPDATE

It has been over six months since all of us have made changes to how we worship.

We thank you for the willingness and speed with which we have seen you embrace these changes, some of them difficult and possibly confusing. The positive response by the Catholic Community of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains was recently reinforced by NSW Health who are working with us through our Diocese to make sure what we do at church keeps us safe. We sincerely appreciate all you are doing to ensure that this happens.

We have witnessed how easily the virus can spread at churches, and we support the government's regulations and recommendations. Our Parish is a registered COVID-safe organisation, and in order to remain so, we need to follow certain practices. By now you will be used to parts of our plan such as setting a maximum attendance, **pre-booking at weekend Masses**, recording contact details, sanitising our hands, and sitting in the marked pews.

At the Saturday 5pm Vigil and Sunday 9.45am Masses, we are asking for two volunteers to help us with ushering services. Please contact the Parish office if you have 15 minutes free prior to either Mass.

We are also pleased to see so many of you wearing masks. This is a practical way you can show you care for the health of others, and we would like to see our entire parish to take up mask wearing whenever you come to church.

Thank you for following the advice issued so far. We are sure you will have heard this pandemic referred to as a marathon rather than a sprint. The bottom line is our concern for everyone's safety, and your compliance means you are all playing an important role in keeping our community safe. **Thank you and God Bless.**



A Poem to sit with...



Christ Our Earth

We are given moments of clarity
which give meaning to what we do
Without obliterating the fact of suffering
which we have experienced and know we can
experience

a peace
a joy
a knowing

that what was begun in us will be completed in us

a desire
a wisdom
a love

in us over which we have no control
but much control
for this we thank you Father.



J. Janda

My Ways Are Not Your Ways

Peter knew that Jesus was the messiah awaited by God's people, but he did not understand that Jesus would be a suffering messiah. *God forbid that any such thing ever happen to you!*

But it did happen to Jesus, and it happens to those who follow him: "If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self (and) take up his cross."

Jeremiah had foretold the suffering of those who work for the coming of the kingdom: "All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me ... The word of the Lord has brought me derision and reproach all the day."

It is not easy, this business of following Christ.

You work for peace, and people accuse you of being unpatriotic. You stand up for the poor, and people write you off as a naive dreamer. You work for nonviolent change, like Martin Luther King, or Ita Ford, or Archbishop Oscar Romero, and they shoot you. Meanwhile, you calmly go about your life, praying that God *fill our hearts with love and increase our faith.*

"Do not conform yourselves to this age," Paul wrote to the Romans. We pay a price for such an approach, but we do so willingly because of our faith in the "promise of salvation."

The Church, like a pilgrim in a foreign land, presses forward amid the persecutions of the world and the consolations of God, announcing the cross and death of the Lord until he comes.

By the power of the risen Lord, she is given strength to overcome patiently and lovingly the afflictions and hardships which assail her from within and without, and to show forth in the world the mystery of the Lord in a faithful though shadowed way, until at the last it will be revealed in total splendour.

Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church*, 1964:8

Gerald Darring