

## Your Contributions ...

The First Collection assists the Priests of the Diocese.  
The Second Collection supports **OUR PARISH**.



Donations to our Church and Parish are always gratefully accepted and help us to support the Priests of the Diocese and maintain our ministries and services including the upkeep of our Church and facilities.

## The Well

You are invited to visit the Well – “a new online platform that provides free, ‘on-demand’ inspiration for families, children, young people and faith communities.”

Explore this link to find out about this amazing opportunity.

<https://www.catholicoutlook.org/new-diocesan-platform-offers-a-well-of-resources/> or view the video at <https://tinyurl.com/thewellparramatta>

With over 80 (and growing) videos, podcasts and other online resources, at any time of day or night, you can watch and listen to:

- High-energy children’s shows;
- Information and reflections on the sacraments;
- Recordings of young musicians around the Diocese leading praise and worship;
- Thought-provoking discussions from local and international speakers;
- Inspirational sharing from young people and young women.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, described The Well as being an initiative of the various ministries and agencies of the Diocese that responds to the “growing need for a strong Catholic presence online.” “Through our work with our youth, with our parishes, and our councils, we have understood the importance of offering a relevant and engaging online space, and what is being offered seeks to support and complement the work of our faith communities, as we work together to share and grow our faith in Jesus Christ.



### Adoration



On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month we will resume our Adoration from 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Please sign in on entry and ensure that social distance measures are taken into consideration and please do not attend if feeling unwell.

### Child Protection Sunday - 13 September 2020

Next weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.

Find out more at: [www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday) and [www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding](http://www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding)

## 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](mailto:sta@internode.on.net)  
[springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)



**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://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](mailto: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:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, re-commencing 09 September 2020, 7.30 - 8.30 pm  
**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

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

### Love one another

(1 John 4:7)



If it is love that activates relationships, and if it is the love of God that sustains them, that says something vitally important about the Christian God, namely that not only is the human made in the image of God but, more importantly, that the human is made in the image of love in virtue of the Christian definition of God as love. The human carries in her being the imprint of love and this hallmark of love is stamped upon the being of every person. Love is not just another dimension of the human; love is at the core of human identity and human flourishing because we are made in the image of a God who is love.

Excerpted from 'Theology and Ecology in Dialogue: The Wisdom of Laudato Si' by Dermot A. Lane

**Today's Readings:** Ezek 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

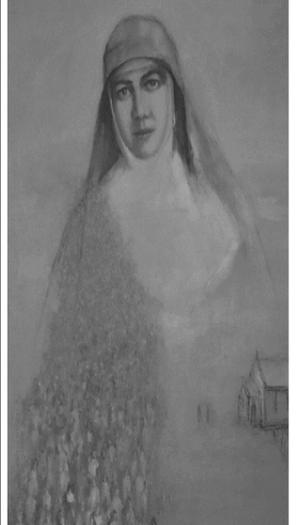
**Next Week:** Sirach 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35



Recently Deceased:

**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, 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, Emile Amine, 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.**

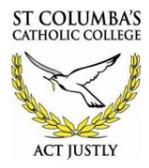


In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to  
**"Take fresh courage."**  
 This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary's canonisation. During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support Mary MacKillop Today, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works and carry on the legacy of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross.  
 For more information please call 02 8912 2777 or visit [marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://marymackilloptoday.org.au)  
**MARY MACKILLOP**  
*today*

**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

On Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September, a beautiful group of children are participating in a Confirmation commitment ceremony, over two sessions in the evening. Please keep these students, and their families that have been preparing them, in your prayers. This year we tried a new model of the parent meeting where the students and parents participated together via zoom. The initiative worked well, and we are very thankful to the small group of parent volunteers who lead these meetings.



**Please join us in praying for the children as they celebrate their Confirmation:**

*Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them. As we prepare these children for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Challenge in Community

As if particularly sensitive to the demands of Christian community life, the readings from the Lectionary's Cycle A this month provide contrasting sets of virtues and vices, ones that foster and destroy relationships. Willingness to communicate and forgive enhances a common life of faith. Jealousy and envy, as we will see in subsequent weeks, rip communities apart.

Community life, whether in a family, intentional grouping, religious congregation, or the church itself, is the great testing ground of faith. St. Teresa of Avila thought that relationships in community were often a greater indication of one's relationship to God than the heights of mystical prayer.

**Our human relationships mirror our relationship with God.** An activist like Dorothy Day was wise enough to see that injustice and exploitation were as present in small service communities as in political empires. Paul reminds his Roman audience that love, tested in immediate relationship with our neighbour, is the fulfillment of all laws. Even dramatic sins of adultery, murder, and stealing are variations of the more domestic betrayals of deception, manipulation, and egotism. In each case it is a lack of love, a harming of the neighbour, that occurs. This is why our one duty, our sole "debt," is to love one another.

Today's Gospel provides a practical scenario on community relations: "If your brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out his fault, but keep it between the two of you. ... If he does not listen, summon another, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses." Only after these careful encounters is the conflict to be referred to the entire church. Then, if recalcitrance persists, there is separation. Sounds simple enough.

The problem is, it depends upon behaviours that do not come easily. We don't often enjoy directly confronting another person, especially someone with whom we are having difficulties.

Some families will go years before addressing a problem. Grudges or resentments within a community more often die with those who hold them rather than come to resolution in quiet conversation. Misdeeds of friends or relatives are usually discussed with anyone but the accused.

Encountering the truth with another person daunts us because it makes us face another being who cannot be reduced to our own desires or projections. We may try to make others a function of our egos, but it fails. Rather than enter the struggle, we ignore it.

If, however, we seriously love another person as an "other," and not a mere instrument of our wills, we experience the kind of self-transcendence that is required in our relationship to God.

Is it any wonder, then, that what we bind and loose on earth is somehow bound and loosed eternally? Our human relationships mirror our relationship with God. Whenever we encounter each other—not only in prayer—Jesus is in our midst.

John Kavanaugh, SJ

