

The "Inquiry Questions" are not, as has wrongly been claimed, the content of the curriculum. They are questions that might arise and that will be critiqued through a Catholic perspective. Put another way, students will learn the Catholic response to these questions, if and when they arise in class.

I again point you to the vast resources developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta on this curriculum. Their website contains podcasts, videos, and discussions on the new curriculum. Please visit www.parra.catholic.edu.au for more information.

Any questions can also be directed to a dedicated email address we have established to help address your concerns feedback@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Yours in Christ

Very Rev Christopher de Souza

Vicar General
Episcopal Vicar for Education
09 September 2020

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.



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: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 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

Today's readings made me realize how hard it is to forget things we think we've forgiven, like being bullied. "Forgive your neighbour's injustice then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven."



It's something all of us need to work on. You don't get through life without hurting others and being hurt. It's pretty easy to SAY you forgive someone but actually DOING it (if you're honest with yourself) is another matter.

One of the most useful models for forgiveness that I have encountered comes from AA, the step where the person in recovery makes amends to everyone they have hurt. It's healing for both parties as I discovered when someone I am extremely close to went through the process.

You don't have to be in a 12-step program to do it – just a simple note or phone call can help heal a broken relationship if both parties are open to it.

It helps to recognize that we can become better, deeper and more compassionate people from experiencing the hurts others inflict on us. Would I have the inordinate number of amazing friends who have blessed my life if grade school hadn't been so awful? Who knows, but we have to trust that "God writes straight with crooked lines."

If nothing else, we almost always feel better when we try to forgive and forget rather than cherishing favourite grudges. We know that God is merciful and understands our struggles so we're not doing this unassisted.

Eileen Wirth

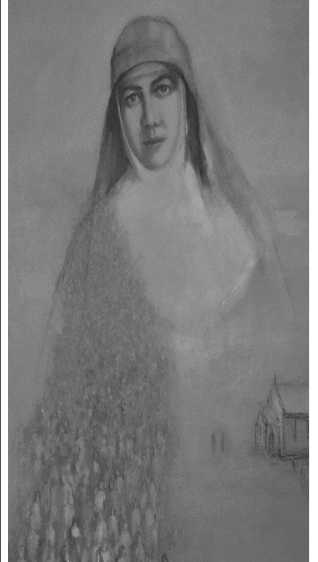
Today's Readings: Sirach 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35
Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8
R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have love you. Alleluia!
Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.
Next Week: Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24, 27; Mt 20:1-16



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.

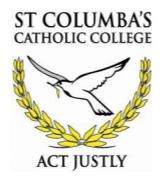


In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to
"Take fresh courage."
 This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary's canonisation. During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support Mary MacKillop Today, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works and carry on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

Change of Mass Time

After an overwhelming response, we are moving our Sunday 9.45am Mass to 9.30am on Sunday, 4th October, also Daylight Savings starts this weekend. Our Saturday evening Vigil Mass will remain at 5.00pm as will our 8.00am Sunday Mass.

Child Protection Sunday - 13 September 2020

This 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 and www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding

FREE Online Pilgrimage

Join over 43,000 people from over 90 countries around the world for a FREE online pilgrimage! It is a Biblical journey through the life of Jesus Christ, with Mary, through the Rosary. Each day there is a short reflection video on a mystery of the Rosary, and there are bonus talks and interviews. To register go to: <https://www.parousiamedia.com/the-spiritual-rosary-pilgrimage/>



Daily Prayer This Week

This is a good week to imagine how much we are like Jesus' disciples. We clearly want to be his follower, and we do follow him. The humbling reality is that we are inconsistent. At the very time that Jesus is telling us that he wants us to find ourselves by losing ourselves, we are too often being competitive and trying to be on top somehow. Fortunately, he keeps telling us about the real meaning of discipleship. Paul lays it all out in this week's first readings. The parable of the sower is quite helpful this week. We can imagine ourselves as each one of the soils Jesus describes.

Each morning, as soon as we can after waking up, perhaps associated with some automatic behaviour like putting on slippers or a robe or getting a cup of coffee, we begin the day in the presence of our Lord. We can get into the habit of greeting our Lord, "Good morning, Lord. Thank you for this day." Even if we didn't have a good night's sleep and we are waking up fairly tired, this habit can part of our routine. Naming our desire for the day can become the way we begin our day with the Lord. Repeating it, with more details, as we encounter the people and responsibilities of our day, will deepen our relationship with the Lord. Brief conversations (what we normally call "prayers") sustain the connection all day.

In one circumstance this week, I might say, "Lord, here I am being that very hard ground. Please get through to me in the part of me that is still 'receptive soil.'" Another day, I might catch myself trying to make myself look good and I can say, "Dear Jesus, your reminder helps me right here. Let me be a servant in this situation, with these people - forgiving, listening, compassion and freer." Sometime this week we might encounter someone who needs us to be like Jesus - healing something that is broken, or even deadly and we can say, "Lord, let me do your will, imitate your faith in God here. Thank you for being with me."



Draft New Curriculum

Following my letter to you on 28 August 2020, I write to update you on the Draft New Curriculum that is in development through Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.

The important things to note about this curriculum are:

- ◆ The curriculum is still in draft form, consultation is continuing;
- ◆ The curriculum completely adheres to the Catholic faith; and
- ◆ The curriculum does not teach gender theory or gender studies or associated material

I wish to reiterate that this curriculum does not teach students anything that is contrary to the Catholic faith. The curriculum review process is not complete, and the document is still in draft form. We are currently in draft one of a four draft process.

We, in the Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta, take the trust you have placed in us to educate your children extremely seriously. We would never teach anything contrary to Catholic Scripture and Tradition.

The final version of the curriculum will only be implemented once the review and consultation process is complete. If changes need to be made, we will ensure this happens.

Media Commentary: Some of the commentary we have seen in the media (print media, social media, television) on this topic is wrong and misleading. Most public commentators have not sought clarification from the Diocese of Parramatta about this curriculum and instead have relied on secondary sources for their information.

I understand your fear and anger based on these reports. It is your right to be concerned with these reports, if they were true. Yet, they are not. I wish to be clear and direct on this point. There is no truth to reports that we are developing a curriculum that goes against the Catholic faith. It's nowhere to be found in the curriculum, and completely untrue to say this curriculum teaches gender theory or gender studies or associated material. That is just wrong. Without any shadow of a doubt there is nothing in the curriculum, specifically the "Essential Content" component that is not Catholic.

A lot of confusion, as appearing on social media, rests on the "Inquiry Questions" of the curriculum. To clarify, these questions are not necessarily taught. It is important to note these questions were derived from our students, who raised thousands of questions during our seven-year survey and consultation process.

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