

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.

DEANERY NEWS

The Spring edition of the Diocesan Catholic Outlook is now available for you to collect when you are next at Mass or online via the following link: <https://www.catholicoutlook.org/>.

As mentioned previously, our Plenary journey has been put back a year with the first Assembly in Adelaide, October 2021 and the second in Sydney, July 2022. You can read about the delegates and Plenary working documents in pages 36-38 of the Catholic Outlook.

Richard McMahon, Director of Pastoral Planning, explains the roles of the Diocesan, Deanery and Parish Pastoral Councils under the title 'The Voice of the People' on pages 44-45.

We are all invited to join with others online to be informed about the next steps for the Plenary Council 2020. You will experience how to use a simple guide to animate your local community to engage with the Thematic Writing Papers, and to develop Good News Stories in the spirit of Plenary.

If you are interested, please register for one of the following sessions:

- Saturday, 19 September at 2.30 pm: <https://tinyurl.com/plenary19september>
- Monday, 21 September at 7.00 pm: <https://tinyurl.com/plenary21september>
- Thursday, 24 September at 7.00 pm: <https://tinyurl.com/plenary24september>

Other news:

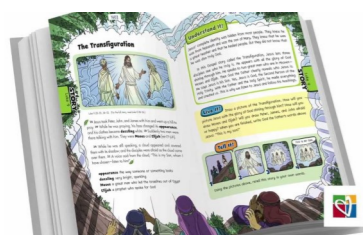
We welcome Father John McSweeney PP and Fr Abraham Kunnatholy AP to the Upper Blue Mountains (Katoomba, Leura, Wentworth Falls) and Blackheath Parishes. We wish Fr Jolly a fruitful mission in Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens. (No news of his replacement at Glenbrook yet).

The Australian Bishops have released a 200 page response to the Royal Commission recommendations. 'The Light from the Southern Cross' aims at promoting co-responsible governance with transparency and accountability in our Church. The full report and reading guide are available on-line.

Our Deanery initiative to support the Jesuit Refugee Service and The House of Welcome has been adopted across the Diocese. Participating Parishes will be rostered twice a year to donate to support refugees. Details will be published when confirmed.

Thank you and God Bless. Deanery Representatives - **Vic O'Callaghan and Kim Crawford**

SRE Learning from Home



During the school shutdown, CCD designed some faith resources for families to access for their children as they learned from home. These lessons, which are fun and prepared specifically for each age group 5-13, are a good way to encourage children to converse about topics of faith at home. These lessons which affirm that we are loved by God can be found at <https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>. For more information contact cecilia.zammit@parracatholic.org.

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
spring-



wood@parracatholic.org

Parish Website: www.stchurchspringwood.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 & Chapelet: 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

*What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?
 Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?
 (Mt 20:14b-16a)*

Embittered Moralizing

Imagine a man who during his whole life is entirely careless about God and morality. He's selfish, ignores the commandments, ignores all things religious, and is basically consumed with pursuing his own pleasure—wine, sex, and song. Then, just hours before his death, he repents of his irresponsibility, makes a sincere confession, receives the sacraments of the church, and dies inside that conversion.

Simply put, we will be rewarded with heaven and it will be wonderful.

What's our spontaneous reaction to that story? Isn't it wonderful that he received the grace of conversion before he died? Or, more likely: the lucky beggar! He got away with it! He got to have all that pleasure and still gets to go to heaven!

If we felt the latter emotion, even for a moment, we have never deeply understood the concept of grace. Rather, like the older brother of the prodigal son, we are still seeing life away from God's house as fuller than life inside God's house, are still doing the right things mostly out of bitter duty, and are secretly envying the amoral. But, if this is true, we must be gentle with ourselves. This is an occupational hazard for good, faithful persons.

Jesus, himself, expresses this in the parable of the vineyard workers. This parable was addressed to Peter in answer to a question. Peter, on behalf of the other disciples, had just asked Jesus what reward they were going to receive for their fidelity to him. Continued on Page 3

Today's Readings: Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24, 27; Mt 20:1-16

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18
R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Next Week: Ezek 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32



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.



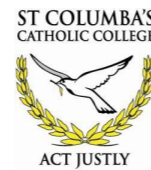
Each time we fix our gaze on the image of Christ crucified, we contemplate that He, as the true Servant of the Lord, has accomplished his mission, giving life, spilling his blood for the pardoning of sins. It is critical that we resist and never retreat in the face of the trials and suffering we witness every day. Our Mediatrix in Heaven intercedes for us, helping us in our struggle against our weakness and against the evil spirits that roar trying to devour us. The Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary is our weapon of choice in this dramatic battle. There isn't a more effective sword against the darkness.

POPE FRANCIS 2020

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

Change of Mass Time

After an overwhelming response, we are moving our Sunday 9.45am Mass to 9.30am on Sunday, 4 October 2020. Our Saturday evening Vigil Mass will remain at 5.00pm as will our 8.00am Sunday Mass.



Spring Forward !!

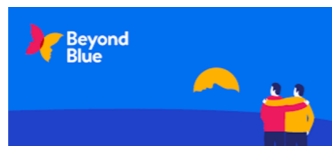
Daylight saving will begin at 2am on Sunday, 4 October 2020 when clocks go forward one hour.

Tips for Getting Active

Several studies have found that exercise is a good way to help prevent, or manage, mild to moderate anxiety and depression. Research shows that keeping active can help lift mood, improve sleep, increase energy levels, help block negative thoughts and/or distract people from daily worries, increase opportunities to socialise, and generally increase wellbeing. Exercise may also change levels of chemicals in the brain, such as serotonin, endorphins, and stress hormones.

Try to do some exercise every day, even if it is just going for a walk. Keep it simple and enjoyable.

For further support, please call a trained mental health professional on 1300 224 636 or email/chat online at www.beyondblue.org.au/getsupport



Jesus answers by telling him the story of a very rich and generous landowner who goes out one morning and hires workers to work in his vineyard. He hires some early in the morning, promises them a good wage, keeps hiring others as the day progresses, each new group having to work fewer hours than the group before them, and ends the day by hiring a group of workers just one hour before work is to end.

Then he tells his foreman to pay everyone a full day's wage. But this leaves the workers who toiled the whole day somewhat bitter. "This isn't fair!" they protest. "We worked the whole day and bore the heat of the sun and this last group worked just one hour. It's unfair that we all receive the same wage!" The generous landowner, obviously representing God, is gentle in his response: "Friend, didn't you agree to this wage? And isn't it a good wage? Are you envious and angry because I'm generous?"

Remember to whom those words are being addressed: Jesus is addressing Peter ... and, in effect, through this parable, is addressing all good people who are morally and religiously bearing the heat of the day. And Jesus is assuring us that we will be rewarded richly for doing this. But, as the parable makes clear, there's a catch: simply put, we will be rewarded with heaven and it will be wonderful; but, and this is the catch, we can have everything and enjoy nothing because we are watching what everyone else is getting!

Thomas Halik, a Czech writer, suggests that one of the reasons why so many people in the world reject the churches is that they see us as "embittered moralizers," older brothers of the prodigal son, doing our religious and moral duties, but bitterly, and criticizing those who don't live like us out of hidden envy. Nietzsche made a similar accusation more than a hundred years ago.

Sadly, there's more than a little truth in that accusation. Too often, we are embittered moralizers, secretly envying the amoral and criticizing our world out of bitterness. But that's an occupational hazard for the good and the faithful. Peter and first apostles struggled with it. Why should we be immune?

We needn't be immune, but we do need to be honest in admitting that, despite our real goodness and fidelity, this indicates that we are still far from being full saints.

Ron Rolheiser



A Poem to Sit With

You too go into my vineyard.
 (Gospel)

In our deepest selves if we can enter there,
 we may discover
 a peace and a goodness,
 a forgiveness, a gentleness
 and a hope Christ, in our deepest selves.

We may discover a desire, a most inner desire
 that what we want is to do God's will
 and that this desire is all we can really know
 or be sure of about our selves.
 Yet it is enough. It is a grace.

J. Janda

