

Christ is the Answer

Below is a quote written by Ari Cowan years back:

'We are here together in a vast universe, the full nature of which remains beyond our comprehension.

We are born into a world that is at once wondrous and foreboding, sustaining and dangerous, mysterious, and beautiful.

We are capable of extraordinary achievements, profound love, and a deep delight in this world.

We are also capable of dreadful acts.

We have arrived in this time, and in this place, never having chosen to be here.

We are presented with an inheritance of gender; skin, eye, and hair colour; intelligence; resiliency and vulnerability; parents and siblings; a unique point in history; economic circumstances; geographic and environmental conditions; social milieu: and challenges to health and well-being - all about which we have had no choice.'

Isn't this not the situation we are in? Isn't this what we can say about ourselves?

The last few days, our first readings have been from the book of Ecclesiastes, having dwelt so much on vanities of life he had the following to conclude with.

Ecc 12:13. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Have a reverential fear of God and keep his commandment for that is the whole duty for everyone.

Good week everyone

Fr Michael.



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: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
Intercession & Adoration: None until further notice

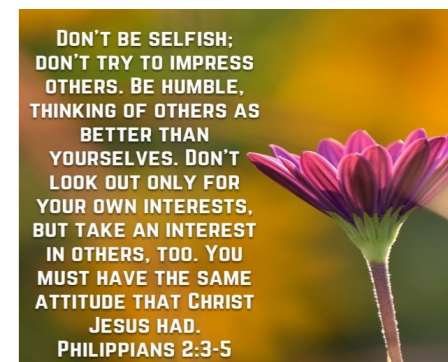
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - by appointment
Reconciliation: By appointment
Weddings: By appointment - restricted numbers
Funerals: By appointment - restricted numbers

For most of us, God is not the problem. The problem is with those humans that God created, especially the creeps who don't deserve to exist, or at least those who bother us. When people draw near, they bring trouble. Anyone close to us sooner or later restricts our precious freedom.

St. Paul had a great sense of this paradox: the best indication of our highest reach for God is the person within arm's reach. That is why relationship in community or family is so inextricably woven into our relationship with God. It is not at all only that the two "great commandments"—wholeheartedly loving God and loving our neighbours as ourselves—are similar. It's that our very relationships to each other embody our relationship to God.

Paul's Letter to the Philippians is well known for its great hymn to Christ Jesus, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness." (Phil 2:6) It was in Jesus' serving others, in his "emptying" of himself, even in his acceptance of death on the cross, that he found fullness and the everlasting praise of history.

But this exalted hymn is the application of a way of life that Paul has recommended in our relationships to each other. The hymn exemplifies the "mind" of Christ that we must "put on" when we face each other. We will find joy and consolation only when we die to ourselves: an unwelcome prospect. ... continued on page 3



Today's Readings: Ezek 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

Entrance Antiphon: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6
R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Next Week: Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

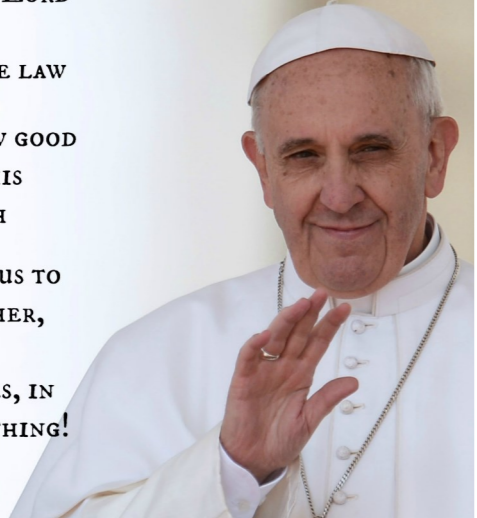


Recently Deceased:


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.


LET US ASK THE LORD TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE LAW OF Love. HOW GOOD IT IS TO HAVE THIS LAW! HOW MUCH Good IT DOES US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING. YES, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING! -Pope Francis



Schools in our Parish



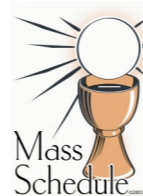
St Thomas Aquinas Primary School
Principal - Ms Marina Hardy 4723 3800



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.

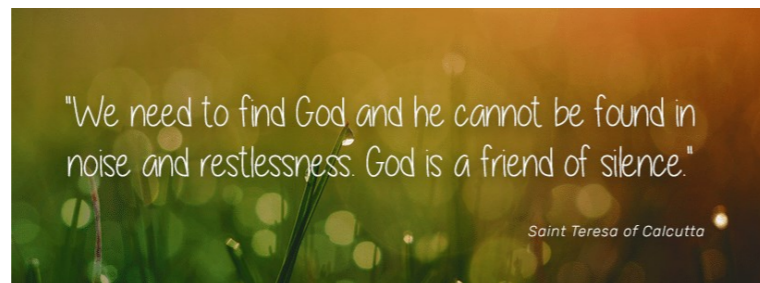


Spring Forward !!

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

Fr Paul will be on Leave

From Tuesday, 29th September until early November Fr Paul will be away on annual leave. During this time, there will be Liturgy of the Word on Tuesdays at Springwood. Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday at 5.00 pm at LAWSON. Weekend Masses will remain as normal. Fr Robert Anderson will be sharing weekend Masses with Fr Michael whilst Fr Paul is away.



The reason why people avoid parenting (not just making babies) is the cost. The reason we avoid community life is the challenge it makes to our narcissism. In authentic relationship, the love we dream about is tested and purified by the actualities of "this particular person at this particular time."

St. Paul is inescapably direct: In the name of the encouragement you owe me in Christ, in the name of the solace that love can give, of fellowship in spirit, compassion, and pity, I beg you, make my joy complete by your unanimity, possessing the one love, united in spirit and ideals. Never act out of rivalries or conceit; rather let all parties think humbly of others as superior to themselves, each of you looking to others' interests rather than his own. Your attitude must be Christ's. (Phil 2:1)

But that is the very attitude we resist. We live on rivalry, we cherish our conceits. Our rarest concern is the other's good—unless it is hard won through arduous relationships of covenant and trust.

In the story Jesus told to the chief priests and elders, one son mouths the words but does not act; the other son resists at first but eventually labours in the vineyard. The second child actually does God's will. Words are not enough. That is why converted tax collectors and prostitutes enter the kingdom before those who merely talk of righteousness.

We jabber about love. But the living of it requires a great winnowing of our lives, a shaking down of our pretence. Love in dreams is easy, Dostoevsky wrote; but the reality of it is a dreadful assault—not on our deepest longings, but on those tawdry delusions that pose as solutions to them.

John Kavanaugh SJ

Poem

At times we refuse your asking.
We say no to what you bid,
but later we actually do as you ask.
And at other times we say yes,
but alas, our lives
spell out a big no.


Jesus, please change our hearts,
change our minds to always say yes.

Let feet follow
words.

Anne Osdieck



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



O come let us adore Him! Would you like a weekly Holy Hour in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel in Katoomba? The Chapel is now open for private prayer between 9.00 am Monday and 9.00 am Saturday (followed by Benediction and Mass). We invite you to come and experience a time of strength, guidance and rest with Our Lord, away from the busy world. If you would like to find out more about becoming a rostered weekly or temporary fill in Adorer, please contact Jacquie Harsh on 0405 600 1255. In the words of St Mother Teresa "if you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to Adoration."