

ANZAC Day 2021

Every year on the 25th of April, hundreds of thousands of Australians and New Zealanders around the world gather at dawn on Anzac Day.

Anzac Day is a time for the community to come together to remember and recognise the service and sacrifice of members of the Australian Defence Force. Originally a commemoration of the landing of Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli in modern-day Turkey in 1915, Anzac Day is a public expression of gratitude and reflection which resonates to the present day.

History of Anzac Day

ANZAC is an acronym and stands for Australian New Zealand Army Corps, the name given to the body of troops raised by the two countries to aid the British Empire in the Great War. Throughout the war Australian and New Zealand troops, or 'Diggers' and 'Kiwis', would live, fight and die alongside each other creating a bond between the two nations that still exists today.

Anzac Day is inextricably linked with the landings at Gallipoli in the Dardanelles Strait on the 25th April 1915. On this day ANZAC troops were committed to their first major action of the war, and though the campaign would ultimately prove a bloody failure and leave more than 8,000 Australians dead, it marked the beginning of the Anzac legend.

This legend was poignantly put into words by Sir William Deane, Governor-General of Australia on Anzac Day 1999: Anzac is not merely about loss. **It is about courage, and endurance, and duty, and love of country, and mateship, and good humour and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency** in the face of dreadful odds.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice, For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
**In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.**

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
**In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.**

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ANTHEM

E Ihowā Atua,
O ngā iwi mātou rā
Āta whakarangona;
Me aroha noa
Kia hua ko te pai;
Kia tau tō atawhai;
Manaakitia mai
Aotearoa

God of Nations at Thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

Parish Website:
Parish Facebook Page:
Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:
Parish Pastoral Council:
Parish Office Hours:

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Email: springwood@parracatholic.org
www.stchurchspringwood.org.au
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 **Emergency ONLY:** 0418 461 316
Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 **Emergency ONLY:** 0415 077 969
Email - springwoodppc@gmail.com
Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am
Weekday Mass: Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am
Rosary & Devotions: Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 am
Adoration, Rosary & Chant: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
Intercession & Adoration: None until further notice
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment
Reconciliation: By request
Weddings: By appointment - restricted numbers
Funerals: By appointment - restricted numbers

THE ODE

*"They shall grow not old, as we
that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the
years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and
in the morning
We will remember them."*

**THE GOSPEL**

John 10:11-18

I am the Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd knows his sheep
and calls them each by name.
They listen, they wait for
the sound of his
voice.

We are
so like them.
O Jesus, Shepherd,
we long to hear you call us.

Hold us in your arms awhile.
Then help us take your unconditional love
– **the lay-down-your-life kind of love
that you got from your Father** –
and wrap it around us
into the lives of
all people
every
where.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29**R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone or Alleluia!**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Next Week: Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8



Sick: James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Kate Moore, Luca Hurley 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.

Parish and Local Community News

DIocese OF PARRAMATTA COVID-19 UPDATE: Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have COVID-Safety plans in place requiring social distancing, maximum attendance figures (170 maximum for our Parish) and other safety measures. It is currently highly recommended that masks be worn to Mass and other services. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19

JOIN THE BELLRINGERS OF ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: The Peal of Bells of St Patrick's Cathedral have been officially installed. Bell ringing commences 10.30am Sundays ahead of the Solemn Mass. If you would like to enquire about learning to ring the bells, please contact Fr Christopher Del Rosario on Christopher.Del-Rosario@parracatholic.org. For further information, please visit <https://stpatscathedral.com.au/bellsfstpatricks/>

POSITIONS VACANT: Young Christian Students Worker (full-time) – Parramatta Young Christian Workers – Applications close Monday 30 April. More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Volunteer Bookkeeper Position: Assisting poverty reduction (15 hours per week) - Palms Australia is a Catholic agency who recruits, prepares, sends and supports qualified and experienced Australians to assist communities in Asia, Africa and the Pacific seeking to reduce poverty. This is a great opportunity to make a difference from within their Petersham North office, where a small wonderful and hospitable Palms Australia team will make you feel very welcome. If you know your way around accounting processes, and either looking for experience, or a meaningful retirement, Executive Director, Roger O'Halloran, would love to hear from you. roger@palms.org.au or 9560 5333 in business hours.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: 1 – 2 MAY 2021: How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. You are given a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 1 – 2 May. For further information and to register, visit www.engagedencounter.org.au/

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETS 1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH: St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Parish Council meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month. Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th May at 7:30 pm, STA Church. Please Email - springwoodppc@gmail.com if you would like to contact the Parish Council.

IF YOU ARE OVER THE AGE OF 18, THIS MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU: The 2021 ACU Prize for Poetry will be awarded for outstanding poetry with the theme Resilience, reflecting on Jaeda DeWalt's supposition, "When we learn how to become resilient, we learn how to embrace the beautifully broad spectrum of the human experience," and Sharon Salzberg's thesis, "Resilience is based on compassion for ourselves as well as compassion for others." To enter, please go to: <https://catholicoutlook.org/18000-prize-purse-for-2021-acu-prize-for-poetry/> **GOOD LUCK!**

BELOVED 2021 WOMEN'S RETREAT: A retreat filled with peace, prayerfulness, adoration, Mass, reconciliation, inspiring guest speakers, praise and worship. St Finbar's Catholic Church, Glenbrook, 12th June 2021 from 8.30am to 8.30pm. Registration is \$60, and with places limited, register now at <https://forms.gle/KkBaTAVm1qkYYCzm8>. For enquiries, email beloved2021info@gmail.com.

DR LAURIE WOODS GOSPEL STUDY SERIES: CCD is pleased to offer a Study of the Gospel of St John with Dr Laurie Woods on 30 April and 7, 14 and 21 May at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown. These sessions, held from 10am to 2pm, will open our eyes to the depth of this Gospel and its application to everyday life, and are open to all. Please register with Maree at maree.collis@parracatholic.org or phone (02) 8838 3486.

Halcyon Avenue Update : April 2021

The Diocese of Parramatta is working in conjunction with the Blue Mountains City Council to prevent any further (illegal) dumping of rubbish and cars driving over plants/through properties at Halcyon Estate so fences have been erected while the plants are given time to re-establish.

Council envisages this to be for around 4-6 months.

Spirituality of the Readings - Is Greed a Virtue?

"All that you have and all that you are is a gift from God".

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus compares the good shepherd to a mere hired hand. A good shepherd cares about his sheep. The hired one cares about his salary and maybe when he gets off work.

What is wrong with working for hire, and doing your job even if you do not like the sheep you are tending? I imagine that a lot of us are like this about our jobs, out of necessity. We ask, why can't we work simply for gain?

Look at it this way: ** Imagine that there are "handles" on things, *poetically speaking*. Everything I own—honours that come to me, possessions, etc.—all of this has "handles" that someone could grab in order to wrestle it away. Home, car, looks, reputation, career, money saved up for the children's education, respect from others. Pleasure, youth, you name it.

We want to keep what we have.

We grab the handles tight. Who can blame us? But an ominous power comes into play at that point. The forces of greed and evil tell our hearts that everything in the whole world is there just to be grabbed for myself and kept. "Greed is a virtue," these forces say, in fact the only true virtue. The first decades of this century presented an economic crisis that seemed a perfect result of this way of thinking.

But there is an alternate way of life. It has to do with love, the kind that the good shepherd shows us. Love says, "the real value in life is to receive, not to grab and possess." **All that you have and all that you are is a gift from God. You can open your hands and let God pour into them whatever you really need. And if you keep those hands open, you can easily let what you have pass on to others, those who are in need.**

Two ways of life: on one side, "Grab and Keep." On the other, "Receive and Let Go." The hired hand says the first, the good shepherd the second.

Do you understand, this far? Good, because the story continues.

There comes an epic battle between these two ways of life. It is waged on the cross. Evil applies its weapons: it seizes and tears away from Jesus everything with "handles" on it—friends, followers, career, respect, relation to God, ordinary comfort, the ability to breathe, and then life itself.

It takes everything. Evil wins.

Except.

There is a fatal flaw in the grab-and-keep philosophy. Since this viewpoint thinks that everything whatsoever has handles on it, there is an important reality that it cannot recognise at all.

Love.

Love lets go, receiving humbly, giving humbly. Evil has no way to perceive love since there are no handles on unselfishness. So he burrows down to the innermost sanctum of Jesus' soul, greedy. He finds that this sacred space is empty. Completely empty! Present are the quiet stillness of receiving gratefully and lightly letting go, but they are without handles. He gives up and goes on his way, confident that everything is now his.

But it isn't.

Love wins because it has given everything away.

Shall we try it this Easter season?

With help from the Good Shepherd?

John Foley, SJ

Fr. John Foley, SJ, is a composer and scholar at Saint Louis University.

** I learned this simple poetic explanation from Rosemary Haughton. It helped me understand the contrast. This is one of my favourite insights so I have tried to boil it down and present it to you in this whole reflection. I make no promises about whether I succeeded.