

## Glancing Thoughts - The Cheque is in the Mail

In the Second Reading, Paul says that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing and chosen us to be holy and without blemish before him.

These are wonderful words, aren't they? I'm not sure I know the names of every spiritual blessing in the heavens, but here are some of them: **love, joy, peace, patience, long-suffering**. Not only are we blessed with all of these, according to Paul, but there's also being holy and without blemish!

And now could we have a reality check? Is there anyone who supposes he is without blemish? And what about holy? Even to ask the question is to risk laughter, isn't it? And then there's love, joy, peace, patience, and the rest. What would you give for just an hour of these blessings in any day of your life?

So what does Paul mean by saying that God has blessed us with all these good things?

To see the answer, imagine that you are desperately poor, unable to pay the medical bills, worried about the mortgage, afraid the car will give out, anxious about the school costs for the children. And then you get a phone call: you have won the lottery. No, no, the caller says, it's really true! You have won *millions* in the lottery. The state administrators of the lottery are now doing the paperwork, and by the end of next month the cheque will be in the mail.

Now what? Well, you still can't pay the medical bills this month, and all the other bills are going to be a big problem, too. You are still desperately poor - *this month*. But you will face your poverty very differently once you know you have won the lottery, won't you? The problems are all still exactly the same, except that you know you have won the lottery. Your problems are not going to last. The cheque is in the mail.

*This* is what Paul is talking about. **We are what we are now, but we have won the lottery of life.**

*God's grace works its way slowly in our lives, but his blessings are promised and sure.* And so our struggle with our sins and failures is not desperate, but hope-filled.

Hope is itself one of God's spiritual blessings to us.

*Eleanor Stump*

Eleanor Stump is Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University

## Never regret anything that makes you smile.

*Audrey Hepburn*

### JULY DATES:

**Sunday, 11th July:** Sea Sunday National Appeal  
**Thursday, 15th July:** Memorial of St Bonaventure  
**Friday, 16th July:** Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
**Thursday, 22nd July:** Feast of St Mary of Magdalene  
**Sunday, 25th July:** World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly  
**Monday, 26th July:** Feast Day of Saints Joachim and Anne (the Grandparents of Jesus)

### ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY:

#### Celebrating 100 years

STA invites you to share your memories via the below link address. These memories will help STA to reflect on 100 years of their school history.

<https://forms.gle.KmSYF5BJFSXp1M6n7>

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



Parish Website:

Parish Facebook Page:

Parish Priest:

Assistant Priest:

Parish Pastoral Council:

Parish Office Hours:

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777  
 PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777

Phone: 02 4754 1052

Email: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)

[www.stchurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stchurchspringwood.org.au)

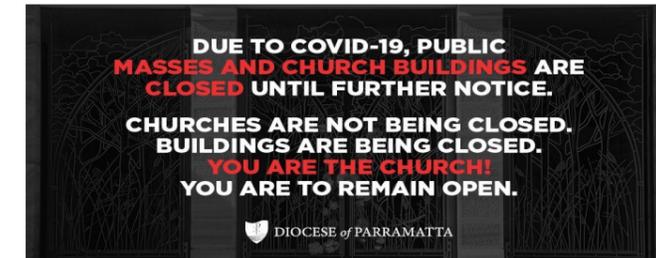
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood

Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 **Emergency ONLY:** 0418 461 316

Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 **Emergency ONLY:** 0415 077 969

Email - [springwoodppc@gmail.com](mailto:springwoodppc@gmail.com)

Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



### A Poem to Sit With

#### Core Samplings

If you reverence and  
respect all life

if you can forgive  
and forget

if you wish peace  
to all - and to none  
harm

if you do not judge  
criticise or condemn

you have God's heart  
beating  
in your body.

*J. Janda*

### THE GOSPEL

#### Mk 6:7-13

*Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two.*

Sent on a mission.

This is why we are here.

Lord, help us.

Let us take your healing love  
to all our neighbours,  
down all our back-streets,  
to the boarders and the ends  
of this earth and beyond,  
to the environment you lovingly  
give to us.

No money in our belts,  
no clean socks,  
no backpack no food.

Give to us this day,  
complete and  
total trust  
in you.

*Anne Osdieck*

Today's Readings: **Amos 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13**

Entrance Antiphon: As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 84:9-14**

**R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my Kind and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Next Week: **Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34**



**Sick:** Lisa Vaughan, Susie Ziino, 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

**SEA SUNDAY NATIONAL APPEAL:** The 11th July is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Even during a pandemic, seafarers continue to bring into our ports products that sustain our population and economy. The Appeal on Sunday is for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church which supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. To assist this ministry, please refer to bit.ly/seasunday2021.

**MASS FOR YOU AT HOME:** Many people who are isolated, in hospital or do not have the internet, rely on Mass For You at Home. The Catholic Mass is broadcast free-to-air each Sunday morning on Channel 10 and WIN at 6.00am. Find some familiar faces from the Diocese of Parramatta celebrating Mass over the coming weeks. Find out more at [www.massforyou.com.au](http://www.massforyou.com.au).

**SPRINGWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN:** The Community Garden needs small round 10mm pots. If anyone has some spare, please call Elizabeth Farrar on 0409 849 186. Thank you.

**POSITION VACANT:** Youth and Networking Coordinator - 12 month contract. Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations. **Applications close Sunday, 1st August.** More details at: <https://catholicoutlook.org/the-columban-centre-for-christian-muslim-relations-is-hiring/>

**ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL LIVESTREAMED MASS:** Mass will be livestreamed daily from St Patrick's Cathedral via their Facebook page and YouTube channel. Copy the link to join on YouTube. <https://tinyurl.com/stpatsyoutube>. Livestreamed Mass Times: Monday to Friday 6.30am and 12.30pm, Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 11.00am.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SEMINARIANS: Our Future Priests.** Your kind-hearted gifts through the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal provides for the education, formation, spiritual guidance and practical experience our seminarians need to deepen their faith and prepare for a life of service to our community. Thanks to the generosity of our faith community (Diocese of Parramatta), we have almost raised \$300,000. Thank you for your kind prayers, faithful accompaniment and caring support.

**OFFICE FOR WORSHIP LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSE:** The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be running for a second time this August. This is formation for anyone interested in serving in the Liturgical Ministries of Communion and Communion to the Sick and Dying & Ministers. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 02 8838 3456 or email [anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org](mailto:anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org) or download the August enrolment form via [officeforworship.org.au](http://officeforworship.org.au).

**ST FINBAR'S CONCERT:** Saturday 7th August at 2pm enjoy the sounds of the Byrd Consort, Phoenix Chamber Singers and Bel A Capella, three choral groups plus an Organ recital will perform a variety of music and donate the proceeds for the upkeep and maintenance of the Heritage Organ. \$20 per person, accompanied children free.

**CATHOLIC CARE BLACKTOWN:** Blacktown Neighbourhood Aid, a program with CatholicCare, is looking for volunteers to support our senior clients in the Blacktown area to remain living in their own home. If you feel you would like to make a positive difference to other's lives in this way, please contact the Manager, Deb Woolacott on 0418 114 055 or email [deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au](mailto:deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au).

## Thank You:

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:** Members wish to sincerely thank all those very generous parishioners who kindly cooked and made many beautiful items for our recent street stall, making it possible for us to raise the wonderful sum of over \$1,300. This is a wonderful response given these most difficult times we are experiencing at present. **Once again we sincerely thank you one and all.**

**SPRINGWOOD EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP:** Members would like to especially thank STA parishioners who supported their recent successful cake stall with donations and their purchases. Substantial funds were raised which will go to COVID and FLOOD relief in East Timor. **Thank you.**

## A Message from Fr Paul

Dear Parishioners,

Rooted in the light of Christ's Paschal Mystery, our faith does not deny or ignore the sufferings of our times or our world.

It seeks to bring the service, the ministry of hope and love, especially to the most needy, lonely and abandoned.

"Faith is not a light which scatters all darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night, and suffices for the journey" – paragraph #57. The quote is from Lumen Fidei "The Light of Faith", a wondrous encyclical from Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict.

It reminds us that ultimately the love of God, which comes to us by grace, enables us to believe for "one believes with the heart" (St. Paul, Rom. 10:10) so, believing, let us share that love with one another.

*God Bless, Father Paul*

## CONFIRMATION 2021 - STA CHURCH

Dear Parents, the first scheduled **Confirmation Parent Meeting** on Tuesday 13th July at 7pm has been **POSTPONED**. We still anticipate the meeting on Tuesday 20th July, 7pm to proceed. **This meeting is compulsory should you wish your child to be part of the Confirmation Program for 2021.**

**WE WILL ADVISE YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SHOULD THE ABOVE CHANGE**

## THE SECOND READING

*Ephesians 1:3-14 or 1:3-10*

*In him you ... were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the first instalment of our inheritance.*

Forgiven. Redeemed.

Grace upon  
 grace heaped upon us.  
 The first "instalment of our legacy."

What is to follow?

Holy Spirit,  
 bottomless treasure,  
 open us to your good self  
 now and for all  
 eternity.



*Anne Osdieck*