

The Perspective of Justice - Free and Responsible

The theme of the liturgy is the law of God.

God's law is just, it demands careful observation, and it is the key to life on earth. It is not a matter of clinging to what is human tradition but rather of practicing justice: "He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord."

The Pharisees misunderstood what the law was all about. For them obeying the law meant such things as "scrupulously washing their hands and the washing of cups and jugs and ket-tles."

James, on the other hand, understood the meaning of the law of God, and he provides us with a pointed definition of the religion of Yahweh/Jesus: "Looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself unspotted by the world make for pure worship without stain before our God and Father."

The law of God forbids all those things that set people against each other: theft, murder, greed, etc. The positive command of God's law is "to serve God in each other," to walk blamelessly, do justice, and to not harm one's fellow-man.

The codes of Israel reflect the norms of the covenant: reciprocal responsibility, mercy, and truthfulness. They embody a life in freedom from oppression: worship of the One God, rejection of idolatry, mutual respect among people, care and protection for every member of the social body. Being free and being a co-responsible community are God's intentions for us.



US Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986: 36

Gerald Darring

World Day of Prayer for Creation & Season of Creation



Pope Francis has established the **1st of September** as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

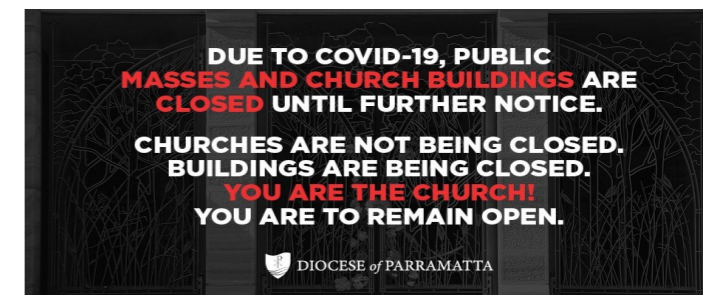
Join Pope Francis and Christians around the globe in praying for and taking action for our common home on the 1st of September and during the Season of Creation (1 Sept – 4 Oct). For more information, resources, and activities in the Diocese of Parramatta, visit parracatholic.org/seasonofcreation

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



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

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Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



A Poem to Sit With

Christ Our Earth

We may learn that we are rooted in Christ
that regardless the atmosphere
regardless our stunted growth
regardless our daily dyings
we have the potential
we are the potential to bloom
because of Christ our earth
because of Christ our atmosphere
we are the seed from the Father's hand
we are the breaking shell
sending down roots
reaching our shoots
up stretching toward our Maker.

J. Janda

THE FIRST READING

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Lord,
dwell in our hearts.
When we tend the sick,
feed the hungry,
make clean your planet,
be within us –
so that all that we do,
we do in your love.
Stretch us, please.
Let us reach out to our neighbour
when we are too busy or much too tired.
Let the world know we are your disciples
not because our hands are clean,
but because they are dirty
with the mark of all your children.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: *Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 14:2-5

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Next Week: *Is 35:4-7; James 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37*



Recently Deceased: John Redwood Baker, Peter Sheean

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



VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRES ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED: St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call the Support Centres in Blacktown on (02) 8861 9777, Harris Park on (02) 8861 9757 and Penrith on (02) 8861 9770. To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS RECORDED MASS: Fr Paul would be honoured if you could join him each week - Every week since March 2020, Fr Paul has recorded Mass at Lawson and it is uploaded onto our Website and Facebook pages every Saturday morning. You are able to view at any time. **Web:** www.stchurchspringwood.org.au or **Facebook:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood.

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.

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.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRST COLLECTION while in lockdown: With the continued lockdown of our Church, you may wish to make an EFT contribution to support your Clergy, i.e. what you would normally place on the first collection. To do, please use the following details: BSB: 067950 Account No: 00004265, Account Name: Diocesan Clergy Reference: 6036 SPRINGWOOD. This will enable us to credit your donation to your parish. **Thank you for your contributions - they are much appreciated.**

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground. Donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal by visiting www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll-free.

JRS / HoW DONATIONS: Due to the current lockdown, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the House of Welcome (HoW) cannot receive physical food and toiletry donations. However, many Refugee families are still relying on their foodbanks or the provision of food vouchers. In this difficult time, please support JRS and HoW with a cash donation if you can. Please go to our Parish Website on: <https://stchurchspringwood.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HoW-Cash-donations-during-lockdown.pdf>.

R U OK? DAY: Thursday, 9th September. Join the **R U OK? Day** webinar to learn when and how to ask **R U OK?** so you can have a conversation that could change a life. Speakers include Sam Mac, weatherman sunrise and R U Ok? Ambassador; Katherine Newton, CEO R U Ok?; Ann-Maree Fardell Hartley, psychologist and suicidologist. Time: 12.30-1.30pm, rsvp to ruok.org.au.

THE BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL: Traditionally held on Father's Day, raises much needed funds for the Clergy Support Foundation to continue its work supporting retired clergy and those in ill health. Due to the current lockdown, the Appeal will be held via mail and online. Your thoughtful donation will mean so much to those who have put the care of others before themselves. Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482.

MISSION - ONE HEART, MANY VOICES CONFERENCE 2021: Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd September, Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Mission offer a unique opportunity for parishes and schools to attend the MOHVM virtual conference. This virtual conferences gives the opportunity of participants to experience a diverse range of international and local speakers with broad-lived and practical experience in their respective field. This MOHVM conference will encourage participants to explore 'Leadership for Mission Now' through the frame of an open mind, open heart and open will, embracing curiosity, compassion and courage. Participants can register for 1, 2 or all 3 days of the event. **Registration - 3 days: \$185 Daily: \$70. Saturday September 4, 2021: \$60 (This is a special day with young people exploring issues that are especially relevant to them and for us all. It is open to all).** For further information relating to individual registration visit www.mohmv.com.au. Ph: 1800 257 296 and Email: mohmvconferenceteam@castholicmission.org.au.

FAN THE FLAME - TOWARDS PLENARY ASSEMBLY ONE OCTOBER 2021: "This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me." *Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23*. Unless we train ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey? (*Pope Francis, Meeting with the Bishops of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 28 July 2013*). www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/

Spring is in the Air

For Flowers That Bloom

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
 For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
 For song of bird, and hum of bee;
 For all things fair we hear or see,
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!



For blue of stream and blue of sky;
 For pleasant shade of branches high;
 For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
 For beauty of the blooming trees,
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

*“What day is it?” asked Pooh, “It is today”, squeaked Piglet.
 “My favourite day”, said Pooh.*



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

29 August 2021



The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven *Laudato Si'* Goals. These Goals are: *response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action.*

The Social Justice Statement 2021-22 provides theological foundations to ground and inspire efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. The Statement reflects on creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life.

The Statement especially encourages Catholic families, communities and organisations to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered in *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*; and plan their next steps towards the *Laudato Si'* Goals.

More information:

ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace
www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au
 or Tel 02 6201 9845

