

Glancing Thoughts - Denying Yourself

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus says that anyone who wants to be his follower has to deny herself.

She has to take up her cross daily. But how do you do this?

You might think that denying yourself requires you to give up any desires of your own and just accept whatever God sends. If God wants you to live, you are happy to live. On the other hand, if God wants you to die, you are happy to die. *Anything whatever* that happens is fine with you.

But if anything whatever is always fine with you, you will never have a desire that is frustrated. Nothing that happens will ever cause you sorrow; nothing will make you weep. You will be content with anything whatever.

This is to try to deny yourself by having no desires of your own, in fact, no self of your own at all. But, then, how could you count as crucifying yourself? You can't crucify a self you don't have. And so this can't be the kind of self-denial Jesus is calling us to when he tells us to take up our cross daily.

If we take Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane as our model, we see a different kind of self-denial.

In that prayer, Jesus asks God to let the cup pass from him. Jesus has a desire of his own. *Anything whatever* is definitely not fine with him.

He wants to live. He does not want to die.

But Jesus finishes his prayer this way: "not my will but yours be done." He wants God's will to win out over his own will, if his own will and God's will are in conflict. He wants his own will to be frustrated if it has to be frustrated in order for God's will to be done.

So here is what Jesus' prayer teaches us. To deny yourself requires first having a self to deny. It requires having desires for ordinary good things, for life rather than death. But it also requires trusting the love of God and wanting God's will to win out over your own, when God's will is opposed to yours.

This self-denial is compatible with frustration and sorrow; it allows for tears when you lose the good things you wanted and your desires are denied. But if you crucify your self in this way, then your sorrow and tears come with trust and love for the Lord who carried his cross for you.



Eleonore Stump
Eleonore Stump is a Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, 12th September - *Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary*

Tuesday, 14th September - *Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

Tuesday, 21st September - *Feast of St Matthew*

Thursday, 23rd September - *Memorial of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)*

Saturday, 25th September - *Feast of St Finbar*

Sunday, 26th September - *Migrant and Refugee Sunday*

Monday, 27th September - *Memorial of St Vincent de Paul*

Wednesday, 29th September - *Feasts of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael - Archangels*

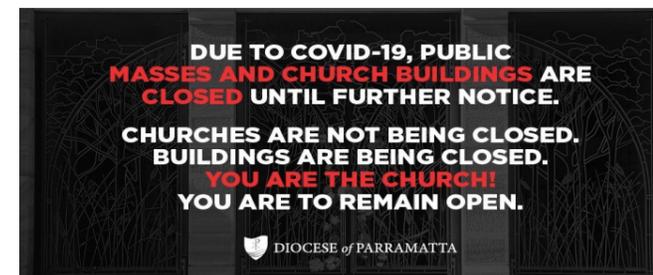


St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



Parish Website:
Parish Facebook Page:
Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:
Parish Pastoral Council:
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Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



A Poem to Sit With

Christ Our Earth

He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly. (Gospel)

We are given
moments of clarity

which give
meaning to what we do

without obliterating
the fact of suffering
which we have experienced
and know we can experience

a peace
a joy
a knowing.

J. Janda

THE GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-35

"But who do you say that I am?"

Jesus,
you ask us
over and over,
"Who do you say
that I am?"

Show us who you are.

In every joy, take our hands.
In every sorrow, take our hands.
Then we will know you well,
love you well.

Raising up your cross will not be so hard
if you are there with us,
holding our
hands.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: *Is 50:5-9; James 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35*

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that you prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 114:1-6, 8-9*

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men see shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Week: *Wis 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16 - 4:3; Mk 9:30-37*



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



BLUE MOUNTAIN'S MAYOR'S WELLBEING REGISTER: Mayor Mark Greenhill has launched the Mayor's Wellbeing Register which will allow members of the community to register vulnerable, or at risk residents of the Blue Mountains local government area, with the Council. You can register for yourself, or on behalf of someone you are concerned about. Council will then contact those residents to assist them in assessing the support services they need during these challenging times, including welfare checks or emergency food boxes. Please contact the Council at goodneighbour@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or call 4723 5000 (Lower Mountains) or 4780 5000 (Upper Mountains).

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 so, please go directly to our website on www.stachurchspringwood.org.au and follow the links. This will enable us to credit your donation to your parish. *Thank you for your contributions – they are much appreciated.*

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.stachurchspringwood.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.

SIGN THE PETITION: Sign the petition to welcome 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan. In a sign of unity, major Australian church denominations and Christian organisations have come together to urge the Prime Minister to provide a special intake of an additional 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan and support the ongoing wellbeing of all Afghan refugees and their families. For more information and to sign the petition go to www.unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta

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 and 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://stachurchspringwood.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HoW-Cash-donations-during-lockdown.pdf>.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION: Pope Francis has designated the 1st September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Join Pope Francis and Christians around the globe in praying for and taking action for our common home on the 1st 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

POSITION VACANT: Project Coordinator - Catholic Youth Parramatta. The Diocese of Parramatta is seeking a Project Coordinator to provide additional support to the delivery of Catholic Youth Parramatta's projects and programs. If you would like more information, a copy of the full job description or to have a confidential chat, please email Ms. Deeanne Martin on parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org. Applications close 10pm 24 September 2021.



CAMPION COLLEGE VIRTUAL OPEN DAY: Champion College, Australia's leading liberal arts college based in Toongabbie are holding a virtual open day on Tuesday 28 September from 10am to 5pm. This is the perfect opportunity for prospective students to find out more about the College and their liberal arts degree. For more information, and to register, please visit <https://www.campion.edu.au/virtual-open-day/>

Friends and good manners will carry you where money won't go.

- Margaret Walker

Safeguarding Sunday 12th September



St Thomas Aquinas Parish and the Diocese of Parramatta are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has designated the second Sunday in September each year as Safeguarding Sunday. This Sunday falls at the end of Child Protection Week.

Today is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the Diocese of Parramatta's Commitment to Safeguarding:

- We are committed to being a community of Safeguarding
- We will have zero tolerance to abuse of any form
- We are committed to ensuring children and vulnerable adults under our care are safe, protected and enabled to flourish.

Reasons why Safeguarding Training is important...

We are all driven by the call of the Gospel in our lives, in our work and in our parish ministry. We are called to 'love others just as God loves us'. This commandment to love challenges us to actively promote the rights and dignity of all people.

We also live in the contemporary world where we are faced with joys, challenges and, sometimes, confronting disappointments. Our Church also exists in such a world. The Diocese of Parramatta, led by Bishop Vincent, is steadfast in its commitment to 'ensure all children and vulnerable adults are safe, protected and enabled to flourish'. Bishop Vincent has also expressed his commitment to us – those involved in the life of a Parish – **that all volunteers and staff are trained, supported and skilled in their pastoral roles and ministry.**

Safeguarding Training is the practical demonstration of our Diocese's support of us in our ministries. It is also an expression of our own care for others, as it offers each one of us support and skills to ensure that the dignity and safety of all those we meet in ministry, especially those of children and adults at risk, is held as a paramount principle within our Parish community.

The Mandatory Safeguarding Modules...

Our Church and Parish life exists within the wider community. This means that those staff and volunteers who minister within parishes also have a very real role and responsibility in meeting the challenges and expectations given to us by government and legislation. One example that we have been used to for many years is the 'Working With Children Check'.

The Diocese of Parramatta's Safeguarding Training has been designed in response to the Children's Guardian Act (2019) which was expanded to include religious organisations and volunteer workers. Safeguarding Training will help staff and volunteers understand their role and responsibility in ensuring the dignity and safety of all people is upheld. This training is compulsory for all volunteers in our parish.

The Training will help parishioners:

- build knowledge of Safeguarding Principles,
- develop skills in ensuring Child Safe Standards are embedded within our ministries, and
- support understanding of how to recognise and respond to incidents of 'reportable conduct'.

The Safeguarding Office has scheduled a series of dates for zoom training in the afternoon of 12th, 19th and 26th October at 2pm, Module 1 – Tuesday 12th October at 7.00pm, Module 2 – Tuesday 26th October at 7.00pm, Module 3 – Tuesday 9th November at 7.00pm. Please contact safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org and a link will be forwarded to you.