

The Perspective of Justice - The Great Sign

“It is not good for the man to be alone,” God says in the reading from Genesis (First Reading). Humans are social beings: God created us to live and work together, to share our lives, to care about and for each other. Shortly after this story in Genesis, Cain asks the rhetorical question: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” The rest of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures answer with a resounding: “YES!”

The great sign of the social nature of men and women is marriage, in which the “two of them become one body, the two shall become as one.” Another sign is the Eucharist, for as Paul says in the Communion Antiphon: “we, though many, are one body, for we all share in the one loaf and in the one cup.” Marriage and Eucharist are signs of sharing lives and living together.

The unity of humankind is shattered every day by the many scourges of injustice: racism, poverty, hunger, homelessness, war. We are constantly violating the fundamental principle: “let no man separate what God has joined.” God has joined us in a society of brothers and sisters because it is not good for us to be alone: let no one separate that society through collusion in injustice.

Man’s social nature makes it evident that the progress of the human person and the advance of society itself hinge on each other. For the beginning, the subject and the goal of all social institutions is and must be the human person, which for its part and by its very nature stands completely in need of social life. This social life is not something added on to man. Hence, through his dealings with others, through reciprocal duties, and through fraternal dialogue he develops all his gifts and is able to rise to his destiny.

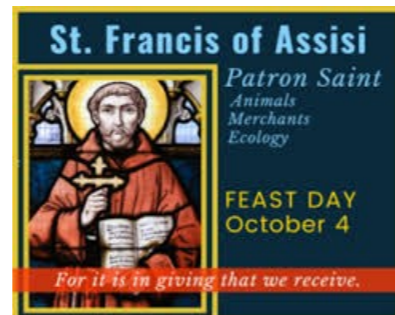
Vatican II, *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*
1965:25

Gerald Darring
Gerald Darring is an adjunct instructor of Theology at Spring Hill College, Alabama

*‘If we want to be always in God’s company,
We must pray regularly and read regularly.*

*When we pray, we talk to God;
when we read, God talks to us.’*

(St Isidore of Seville)



- Friday, 1st October - **Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus**
- Saturday, 2nd October - **Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels**
- Monday, 4th October - **Memorial of St Francis of Assisi**
- Thursday, 7th October - **Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary**
- Monday, 11th October - **Feast of Pope St John XXIII and Feast of St Canice**
- Saturday, 16th October - **Memorial of St Margaret Mary Alacoque**
- Monday, 18th October - **Feast of St Luke the Evangelist**
- Friday, 22nd October - **Memorial of Pope St John Paul II**
- Sunday, 24th October - **World Mission Day (Holy See)**

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
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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS begins at
2.00am on Sunday, 3rd October.
Remember to put your clocks
FORWARD by one hour

**DUE TO COVID-19, PUBLIC
MASSES AND CHURCH BUILDINGS ARE
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**CHURCHES ARE NOT BEING CLOSED.
BUILDINGS ARE BEING CLOSED.
YOU ARE THE CHURCH!
YOU ARE TO REMAIN OPEN.**

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Join Bishop Vincent at Mass for the opening of the Plenary Council

On Sunday, 3rd October at 11am, you are invited to join Bishop Vincent as he celebrates a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit for the Plenary Council from St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta.

Watch the Mass live on the St Patrick’s Cathedral Facebook and YouTube channels.



Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/saintpatrickscathedralparramatta>
and YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksCathedralParramatta>

THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:2-16

Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

At the
end of hard days
we who are ragged and bothered,
come running like children, to you, Lord.

We take shelter in your warm embrace.
Your hands are on our heads and
on our whole weary world.

Bring
all the works of your hands
and all of your children
into your kingdom,
together, and
hold us all
there,
safe

Anne Osdieck

Today’s Readings: Gen 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16

Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 127

R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

Next Week: Wis 7:7-11; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30



Sick: Evelyn Robinson, 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

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE DAILY SILENT ADORATION LIVESTREAM: The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW, is livestreaming daily silent adoration from 8.45am to 8.45pm on their 'Divine Healing & Retreat Centre Sydney Australia' YouTube Channel. **You are free to send prayer requests at any time during the adoration.** To tune in, visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuFdwfRHPRD95UYnOIFa-IQ>

NATIONAL CARERS WEEK: 10-16th October. It's an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contribution carers make to our community, and to give a little something back. This year it is going virtual, with a wonderful program of 30 online events, designed to give carers some much needed respite and a little entertainment. From the check in and chat sessions, to trivia, the Great Race gameshow and yoga, and even information sessions – there's something for everyone. All events are free and there's no limit to how many you can attend. Get the full program and start registering now at: <https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/carersweek>

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: **Inter-religious Dialogue Course Information Session - 20 October,** The Catholic Theological College is offering a six-week intensive course on "Christian Faith and World Religions: Inter-religious dialogue in Australia" over Zoom in Semester 2 2022. The College is hosting an information session on Wednesday 20 October from 7pm to 7.30pm AEDT, with registration essential at <https://divinity.zoom.us/j/784123333>. Contact the Academic Records Office for enrolment information and appointments on (03) 9412 3333 or registrar@ctc.edu.au

MADONNA MAGAZINE: **A gift of spiritual sustenance that lasts a whole year** - Madonna magazine, published by Jesuit Communications, is an ideal spiritual companion – containing daily prayers, deep reflections and faith-focused articles. We invite you to subscribe or consider taking out a gift subscription for a loved one for only \$53 a year. You can find out more about Madonna, how to subscribe, purchase a gift subscription or donate a subscription on the website: www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA LAUCHES NEW PLENARY COUNCIL WEBSITE: A new website provides resources for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta to stay involved in the Plenary Council, which is exploring what the future of our Church should look like. **The first assembly starts in October, so visit parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/** to find a range of information, a Diocesan prayer and more.

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.

2022 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS: Inspiration for daily life from the writings of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods with attractive coloured photos taken by the Sisters and Associates Dates to Remember... + Key events in the life of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods + Significant dates in Josephite history + Liturgical Calendar and Feasts of the Catholic Church + Public Holidays + School term dates for Australia + Phases of the Moon + Pull out Yearly Planner 2022, which may also be suitable for recording rainfall. \$8.00 along with a contribution to postage. Sisters of St Joseph NSW Locked Bag 3031 BURWOOD NSW 1805, Phone (b/h) 02 8741 2333, josephitecalendar@sosj.org.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ROSALIE RENDU FORUM: 21 OCTOBER - You are invited to the St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Rosalie Rendu Forum, which will be held online on Thursday 21 October from 6pm to 7.30pm. This year's Forum will explore the intersections between gender, poverty and domestic and family violence, as there are rising concerns of a shadow pandemic of domestic and family violence. Bookings are essential and early RSVP is recommended. Register by Monday 18 October by visiting <https://bit.ly/RosalieRendu2021>

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>.



Pastoral letter to all clergy in the Diocese of Parramatta on the reopening of churches for public worship

Dear brothers,

As you are all aware the result of the vaccination programme across the State is going to lead to a lessening of restrictions in a phased manner between 11 October and 1 December. The NSW Government have indicated that when 70% of the population has received their full vaccination that places of worship can reopen, but only for those who are fully vaccinated.

Discussion amongst the Bishops in the Province and more broadly across the country has led me to the conclusion that it would be counterproductive to reopen our places of worship only to the vaccinated. Whilst Pope Francis and other Church leaders have stressed the importance of being vaccinated for the common good of all, the Church also respects those who choose not to be vaccinated.

Therefore, I have determined that we should wait until the 80% threshold has been achieved before we reopen our Churches as this would then permit all Catholics to attend regardless of vaccination status. The projection is that this is likely sometime towards the end of October. The People of God have along with the rest of the community been deprived of many of the liberties and ability to participate in a range of activities that give meaning and purpose to their lives. It is to the core of our ministry that we resume our pastoral care of the people as soon as that is practicable.

Admission to both hospitals and aged care facilities to minister pastorally to patients and residents will require that clergy are vaccinated. As this ministry is at the heart of the Gospel, I would encourage all clergy if they have not already been vaccinated to arrange to do so as soon as possible.

Once a date has been finalised by the NSW Government as to when 80% fully vaccinated has been achieved an advice to reopen will come from the Chancery.

With my prayers for you and the communities you serve,

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta**

*Given at Parramatta on 29 September 2021
The Feast of Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels*



#Diary Files – The State Library of NSW

What have you been thinking about lately? As restrictions ease in the coming weeks, the **State Library of NSW** wants you to share your thoughts, feelings and experiences with #TheDiaryFiles, their online community diary.

Write about the things that matter to you, your observations of people and places around you, or the simple routines of your day. Reflect on what's happening in your backyard, in your community and beyond.

Write 20 words or 500, submit anonymously or use your name. It can be a poem, a letter, song lyrics, a short story - it's totally up to you! Your entry will become part of #TheDiaryFiles, and a permanent record of these times. Start writing at: <https://diaryfiles.sl.nsw.gov.au/>

