

Spirituality of the Readings - The Inside Story

Be alert for the Spirit within other persons and respect them for it, even if you do not like them.

You and I, we have an exterior, but also an interior. This seems to be the key to Sunday's Gospel.

Our *exterior* is what we often use to interact in a daily fashion with everything and everybody else, without thinking about it. This is our outside. Acting from it, we may come across to others as, e.g., decisive or fun-loving or threatening or shy or easy to talk to, or who knows what else. It is how we make our way through the day in a busy world, or even in a non-busy time (e.g., watching TV, staying busy all the time, and so on).

We can find clues to our *interior* self in the calm we find at a quiet lake or at the sight of a budding tree or in the company of a much-loved friend. Stillness then emerges, a hushed sense of well-being. This deep interior is where feelings and thoughts can be themselves, can be just as happy or as sad as they want to be.

The Spirit of God chooses to dwell in these interior depths. Not because there is something wrong with our outside, but because the deep interior is where we are made in God's image. There we are quietly open, desiring to receive real love from other people and to give it. And, if we knew it, from and to God.

The exterior sometimes lives in storm, sometimes in sunlight. It is able at times to out-shout the inside! I want food. I want revenge. I am grouchy. I got three hours of sleep last night, gimmee rest. Gimmee triumph. I want everything. Gimmee!

Fine, but what if you get all these demands? What if you gain the whole world but in the process lose your very self?

You and I do get caught up in gaining external things. For instance, in Luke 12:15-24 Jesus points out this tendency. He says something like this:

You have built still another barn to hold your riches! But this very night God will ask your very soul of you, and what will you take with you? Your riches? No. The way you look? No. Your interior self is all that can come with you when you die. God dwells in that inner self, in the quiet centre of your being.

Those who lead others away from their interior self are not well-received in today's Gospel. Jesus says how he might react to anyone who teaches children in such a way.

Whoever causes sin in one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. Gospel

Maybe you were taught in this way. But do you really want now to ignore such a crucial part of yourself, while there is still time to find it? Why not let your inner self have a chance, as Jesus suggests.

How?

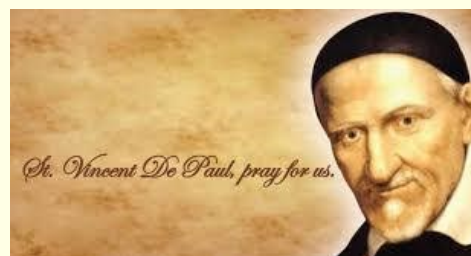
Spend some time in quiet each day. Have the heart to give a cup of water to someone thirsty. Be alert for the Spirit within other persons and respect them for it, even if you do not like them.

You will be following Sunday's Gospel!



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

SEPTEMBER



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*

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS begins at 2.00am on Sunday, 3rd October.

Remember to put your clocks **FORWARD** by one hour

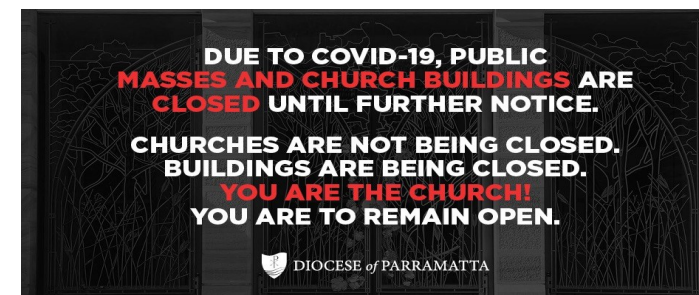


St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



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

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Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0418 461 316
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Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



A Poem to Sit With

There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.
(Gospel)

Be kind to yourself
take care of yourself

some people walk their dogs and
buy them presents and take better
care of them than their own selves

and **be kind to others**
even if they upset you

remember I made them too
and be **good to your mother and father**

remember they make mistakes too

and I love them
as
I love you.

J.Janda

THE GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

For whoever is not against us is for us.

Who is for us?

Those who
give welcome to the refugee?
Who shelter the homeless,
who care for the earth,
who feed the hungry,
teach the ignorant,
stand for justice,
who give a drop
of water in his name.

Jesus,
all we want
is to be on your side.

To care for your children, to serve your poor,
to welcome the immigrant,
to free the prisoner.

Lord, we ask you, give us only
your grace.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Num 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Entrance Antiphon: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 18:8, 10, 12-14

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.



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

POSITIONS VACANT (NEW): **Project Coordinator- Catholic Youth Parramatta.** A unique opportunity to learn from, and work alongside, a nationally recognised and successful youth ministry team accompanying youth and young adults in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. **Digital Content Creator - Diocese of Parramatta** and also **Accountant (General)/Analyst – Diocese of Parramatta.** If you would like more information on either of these positions, a copy of the full job description or to have a confidential chat, please email Ms. Deeanne Martin on parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org.

DIocese OF PARRAMATTA LAUNCHES 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.

FAN THE FLAME - TOWARDS THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY: **‘If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.’** Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

The healing hands and support offered by a humble and merciful community are at the heart of a response to trauma and woundedness. Many need and yearn for full integration into the life of a loving community, where one is known and belongs. (*Humble, Healing and Merciful – Discernment Paper p. 12*). www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/

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.

SPRINGWOOD EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP: TRIVIA NIGHT Many of you have attended this event over the years and have been generous in your support of the people of East Timor. Since we can't get together we have been looking for other ways to support the struggling people of Timor Leste. Though Covid-19 has been so far well managed in Timor, the Delta variant has recently appeared there as well as thousand of families and businesses still trying to get back on their feet after the devastating floods at Easter, sweeping away houses, crops and livelihoods. Each month our group receives an update, directly from Timor, and it is always relayed how important the previous Springwood support has been to the medical responses in Deli. Therefore, the SETSG invites you to make a donation via direct debit to the account listed with **ALL funds raised** going to urgent responses to the Covid and flooding crises. A/C Name: SETSG, BSB: 062 601, A/C: 101 66960, Simply add your name as reference. For further queries, please contact Dennis Farrar on 025 209 840 or 4751 7096.

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>

NEW BABY - CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Christine and Martyn Ellis on the birth of their son! That's right a boy! A baby brother for Jacinta, Chiara, Josephine and Marissa. The beautiful Malachi Joseph Ellis was born on the 12th August. *The girls just love him and think he is the cutest.* Congratulations Chris and Martyn from the STA Parish community.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU: *My family and I recently moved to Kurrajong and I regret that it wasn't possible to say goodbye personally. I've loved being part of the STA community for the past 15 years and cherish the friendships I've made. We love Springwood and will visit family and friends often so I'm sure I'll see many of you again. In the meantime, thank you so much for your friendship, thank you to Father Paul and the staff and I wish each and every one of you the very best.* **Denise Makepeace.**



“I am with you always” – Matthew 28:20. The Diocese has launched a new website in response to the mental health crisis impacting our young people. The website parracatholic.org/withyou contains links and information about services that can help young people whose wellbeing is suffering. Please share widely with young people and their families.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees - Sunday 26th September

“I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME” (MATTHEW 25:35)

Pope Francis invites us to work Towards an ever wider **“we”** and embrace the resilience and contribution of Migrants and Refugees to the church and society. It is also a time where we bring awareness to the issues Migrants and Refugees face.

Find more information and resources at migrants-refugees.va and acmro.catholic.org.au or via the following link: <https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/resources/migrant-refugee-kit/booklet/1310-migrant-and-refugee-kit-2021/file>

Catholics across the country are being urged to consider how they can pray for and offer practical support to neighbours around the world as the Church marks the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on Sunday.

In his message for the 107th commemoration of the day, Pope Francis writes on the theme **“Towards an Ever Wider ‘We’”**. He encourages people to reject the temptation to create literal or metaphorical barriers with other people, and to instead recognise the barriers that exist due to individualism or nationalism. “

The truth however is that we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single **‘we’**, encompassing all of humanity,” Pope Francis writes. The message is written to the Catholics of the world, but also the wider human family. Addressing the faithful, Pope Francis says the Holy Spirit “enables us to embrace everyone, to build communion in diversity, to unify differences without imposing a depersonalised uniformity”.

“In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees, and in the intercultural dialogue that can emerge from this encounter, we have an opportunity to grow as Church and to enrich one another,” he wrote. When he switches his focus to the whole world, the Holy Father calls for **“we”** to take on a broader meaning “for the sake of renewing the human family, building together a future of justice and peace, and ensuring that no one is left behind”.

DID YOU KNOW...

In December last year Bishop Vincent Long, chair of the Catholic Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service (who was himself a refugee) established Catholics for Refugees. This network brings together the many Catholic organisations and individuals supporting refugees and people seeking asylum in our country. The network allows Catholic refugee supporters to inform and support each other and, in doing so, to help create a more compassionate and caring Australia for the vulnerable people who have come to our country seeking protection. <https://catholicsforrefugees.org.au/>

2021 is the year of Saint Joseph, who was also a refugee, and recently named by Pope Francis as Patron of Refugees. So, Catholics for Refugees is supporting a campaign, 150 Days of Action for refugees and people seeking asylum, led by the Sisters of St Joseph and the Justice and Peace Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney. The campaign seeks to engage with Australians, advocating to change our attitude and policies towards those seeking our protection. The campaign includes a coalition of Catholic organisations and individuals supporting refugees in our community.

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>.

A DIOCESAN Conversation WITH REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING PROTECTION

Find out more about this important issue & the situation in Afghanistan first hand

3.00pm - 4.15pm
Sunday 26th September on Zoom

RSVP: www.bit.do/diocesan-refugee

Hear personal stories from a refugee seeking protection
Questions answered by an expert working in the field