

FATHER'S DAY 2021



A Father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.

Wishing all the Dads, Grandads, Uncles, Step-Dads and Father figures blessings for a wonderful Father's Day.

Lockdown Lemons



It began when the Catholic Women's League members were organising a street stall in June. They provided me with empty jars and I filled them with Jams and Pickles to be sold. Well this year has been exceptionally good for citrus fruit! Our lemon and orange trees have fruited better than they have for some years.

With the abundance of lemons, I froze about 2 litres of juice and started making Lemon Butter. A dozen jars of the Lemon Butter went to the Catholic Women's League Street stall and another dozen to the free food table at the Catholic Care drop in centre in Springwood. We still had plenty of lemons so I made more butter to take to Bathurst to give to some nun friends who live there. The plan was that our three youngest granddaughters and I would deliver them to the sisters in the first week of the school holidays. However the COVID lockdown intervened.

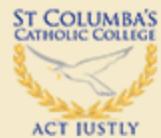
Our next door neighbours also have a lemon tree and placed their excess fruit with a 'FREE' sign on a box at their gate, and a family down the road had a milk crate outside their fence offering 'lockdown lemons', and I'm not one to see good food go to waste so the jars of Lemon Butter in our fridge increased to 48.

Our 'neighbourhood fairy' delivered jars to homes in the street, two medical practices our family attends, six essential workers in our area and to a few people living on their own during the lockdown. At present I am down to 10 jars in my fridge, which hopefully we will be able to take to the friends in Bathurst when this lockdown ends.

A parishioner gave me a tub full of oranges, some of which have been made into marmalade and some given to families. So I am already preparing for the next street stall!

Now I have just one problem! I don't have a single **empty glass jar in the house** and the way things have been for the past few months I wouldn't be surprised if more fruit, to turn into jam, came my way. If anyone can **supply me with small jars I am happy to pick them up from your front yard**, while keeping a safe social distance of course. Just ring Margaret on 4753 1031.

A Message from Mr Paul Ryan, Principal, St Columba's Catholic College:



I am calling for a Wellbeing day for the students on **Monday the 6th of September**, where I am encouraging all students across the College to turn off all their devices and to spend some time exercising or doing something that completely changes their thinking processes and allows them to replenish their drooping spirits. I hope that this will in some way alleviate some of the exhaustion that you also may be feeling at this time.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the changes that this virus presents to us each day. Take care and stay safe and abide by all COVID orders.

Plenary COUNCIL

Only five weeks until the Plenary Council meets to discuss the future of our Church. We've launched a new website to help you find the information you need quickly, including a new Diocese of Parramatta Plenary Council prayer. Go to: parracatholic.org/plenary-2021

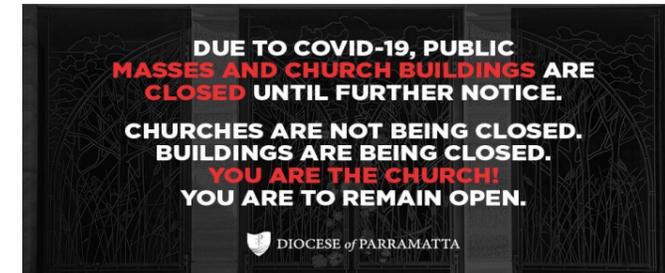


St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



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

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Email: springwood@parracatholic.org
www.stachurchspringwood.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



A Poem to Sit With

The Light

You cannot change others, no

but you can see them with new eyes

Christ eyes

who sees all with respect and Understanding.

J. Janda

Prayer To Our GUARDIAN ANGEL

*Angel of God, my guardian dear
To whom God's love commits me here
Ever this day be at my side
To light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.*



Today's Readings: Is 35:4-7; James 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145:7-10

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Next Week: Is 50:5-9; James 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35



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

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

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.

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

MENS NIGHT: You are invited to join a series for men called "We Will Rise" by Chris Stefanick and is being run by the Disciples of Jesus Community via zoom on Tuesday, 28th September from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. RISE gives men a battle plan for daily living, while walking alongside them each day. It's for every man, whether they're just seeking, or have been well-formed, because it takes them deep into their own hearts, and challenges them to make what they've learned practical. The results are nothing but life changing. We would love you to join us! For more information and to register text or call Chris Longan on 0407 007 028.



Never underestimate the healing power of a quiet moment in the garden.



RUOK? DAY
WEBINAR
Learn when and how to ask

really Are they OK?
Ask them today

RUOK?
A conversation could change a life.

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](http://rsvp.to.ruok.org.au).**

Date: Thursday 9 September 2021
Time: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (AEST)
RSVP: ruok.org.au

THE SPRINGWOOD MUSTARD SEED



In 2004, some ladies in the Springwood parish were invited to teach children at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School to knit as part of the school's craft programme.

Thus a seed was planted.

It was decided that the students would knit squares which would be sewn into blankets. Well this idea took off with so much enthusiasm that soon grandmas and aunts were joining in to knit and crochet squares, and those who couldn't knit or crochet come together to sew the squares into blankets. These blankets, made with love and care, are donated to the local St. Vincent de Paul conference to be distributed.

The mustard sapling was growing bigger and stronger as new students learn the art of knitting and experienced the joy of doing something personal for those in need.

Each year, at a school assembly, the blankets are presented to a representative of the Vinnies conference and the children told how some of them are gifted to people who often get quite emotional when handed these special rugs.

Families are encouraged to wrap themselves up in the rugs as they watched TV to save on heating costs.

One lady cried and said, "My nanna died when I was little but I remember she had a rug just like this. It is like having my nanna back." An elderly gentleman was delighted to have one in the same colours as his favourite football team.

Newly widowed people are sometimes given a rug with the suggestion that they might wrap themselves in the rug and imagine their loved one is embracing them.

The rugs not only gave warmth but a feeling that there are people, particularly children, who care enough about them to give their time, share their ability to knit or crochet and make something so personal that the rugs have become a symbol of love and caring.

The sapling was growing into a tree; the tap root - the ladies from the parish, and the many small outreaching roots and limbs, the students and staff of St Thomas Aquinas School.

In 2009 students at St Columba's Catholic College, Springwood, some who had been in that first knitting class at St Thomas', responded to the suggestion by one of the staff members that they also knit blankets for Vinnies.

Our mustard tree was growing a strong new branch with more supporting roots and reaching out to ever more people needing special care and love.

Every year Springwood Vinnies are presented with large bundles of brightly coloured, beautifully made blankets which are distributed far and wide. They are gifted to families in need in our local parish area and other parts of the Blue Mountains; families fleeing domestic violence; people affected by fires, floods and droughts; aboriginal families impacted by the stolen generations policy; homeless people, refugees and the newly bereaved.

In 2018 some Sisters of St Joseph, who were convalescing from surgery, formed another beautiful branch of our tree by making quilts. This branch goes back to the very beginning of the St Thomas Aquinas School, as it was the Sisters of St Joseph who opened the school in 1921.

Over the past 18 years more than 600 blankets have been given to Vinnies to distribute.

Our mustard tree has grown into an enormous structure of care and compassion, it has sheltered, nourished and protected so many because of the loving efforts of all those involved.

Our Catholic faith leads us to care, share and love each other. St Mary of the Cross McKillop is attributed as having said, "Never see a need without doing something about it". **The Springwood Mustard Tree is a beautiful example of 'faith in action'.**

Who would have thought that such a seemingly insignificant idea all those years ago would have such an enormous impact on so many?