

## (Origins of) Remembrance Day

### Why is this day special for Australians?

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919 two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom". The two minutes' silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920 the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triumph in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the unknown soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.

In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993 Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Memorial's Hall of Memory. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11 am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.



Four years later, in 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11th November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute's silence at 11 am on 11th November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

*Last updated: 17 April 2020*

<https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day/traditions>

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** members are reminded that the final Mass and meeting for this year will be held **NEXT FRIDAY, 19th November at 9.30am.**

*During the Mass the names of our deceased members will be mentioned.*

*Everyone is welcome.*

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777  
PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777  
Parish Office: 02 4754 1052

**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm  
**Parish Email:** [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook Page:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0418 461 316  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0415 077 969

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am  
**Weekday Mass:** Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am

**Rosary Devotion:** Tuesday - Friday 9.00 am  
**Adoration, Rosary & Chaplet:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm  
**Intercession & Adoration:** None until further notice

**Baptisms:** 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment

**Reconciliation:** By request

**Weddings:** By appointment - restricted numbers

**Funerals:** By appointment - restricted numbers



**MASKS ARE  
COMPULSORY**



## World Day of the Poor - Sunday, 14th November

*Let us love, not with words but with deeds.*

Sunday, 14th November, 2021 marks the fifth World Day of the Poor, initiated by Pope Francis in 2017 with the theme of "Let us love, not with words but with deeds." Our Holy Father calls us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need, through loving acts of kindness and charity.

*"The poor you will always have with you" (Mk 14:7)*

Jesus spoke these words just days before his Passion. He wants us to continually remember and encounter Him through the faces of the vulnerable. It is unrealistic to end poverty, but we can all do our part to reduce its impact on people's lives by walking and accompanying them wherever they may be.



**Today's Readings:** Dan 12:1-3; Heb 10:11-14, 18; Mk 13:24-32

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 15:5, 8-11

**R. Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful, pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

**Next Week:** Dan 7:13-14; Apoc 1:5-8; Jn 18:33-37



**Sick:** Gerry Thistleton, Roshan Rupesinghe, Evelyn Robinson, 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

**ST FINBAR'S ADVENT RETREAT:** The goal of this retreat is to reflect on the birth of Jesus. Advent is the beginning of the new Liturgical year. We can come in touch with God through reflection on creation and through prayer, walking meditation in the garden with the Stations of the Cross and through the reading of Scripture and quiet meditative examen of conscience. Morning tea and lunch provided. \$5 per person. Please RSVP to secretary@stfinbars.org.au prior to 29th November.

**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](http://www.stchurchspringwood.org.au) or **Facebook:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood.

**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](http://www.massforyou.com.au).

**DISPENSATION:** As advised previously, Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta are from 20 March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (Canon 1248 §2 and Catechism 2181.) There is no change to this dispensation at this stage.

**POSITIONS VACANT:** Digital Content Creator – Diocese of Parramatta; Human Resources Partner – Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited, Diocese of Parramatta. For further details, please visit [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

**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](http://www.unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta)

## NOVEMBER MASS FOR DEPARTED SOULS

Wednesday, 24th November, 7.00pm - St Thomas Aquinas Church

ALL Parishioners are invited to attend Mass which will be celebrated for the Repose of the Souls of family members.

A candle ceremony will be part of the celebration of the Mass, so if you would like your loved one remembered by lighting a candle, which your family member will place on the Sanctuary, please contact the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, 23rd November.

A framed photo of you loved one can be placed on the Sanctuary **before** the commencement of Mass.

### November Dates:



- Sunday, 14th November - World Day of the Poor (Holy See)
- Sunday, 21st November - International World Youth Day Celebration
- Sunday, 21st November - Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Christ the King)
- Wednesday, 24th November - November Mass for Departed Souls
- Thursday, 25th November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Saturday, 27th and Sunday, 28th November - Bishop's Christmas Appeal
- Sunday, 28th November - First Sunday of Advent
- Tuesday, 30th November - Feast of St Andrew the Apostle



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*



This is the time of year when the St. Vincent de Paul Society members ask parishioners to support families in need by providing something special for Christmas.

We are aware that our Mass attendee numbers are well down, and that everyone has in some way been affected by Covid-19, so conference members have decided that this year our main area of support will be vouchers for food, fruit, vegetables and meat or fish.

Envelopes for your donations are available on the table near Our Lady's statue at the entrance to our church and conference members will be at all Masses on the weekends of 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> December to accept all donations.

If your family feels able to provide **towards a hamper** that would be wonderful. Please make it suitable for a family of 2 adults and 2 children. We have a priority list of families which, with your support, we will endeavour to fill. Many thanks for your ongoing support to Vinnies and the people we support. Any inquiries may be made to Margaret on 4753 1031.



## A Parish HSC Prayer

Heavenly Father, we bring before you our HSC students.  
Give them the gifts of wisdom, right judgement, knowledge and courage.  
Bless them with calm hearts and clarity of mind as they sit for their exams.  
May they be affirmed in their efforts and may they know that you are there with them.  
We pray that they will stay calm under pressure and work to the best of their ability.  
May they feel your loving presence in their lives, now and always, and may they be strengthened by the prayerful support of us, their parish community.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
Amen.

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish Sacramental Program 2022

### First Reconciliation

- First Parent Meeting - Tuesday, 1st February 2022, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
- Second Parent Meeting - Tuesday, 8th February 2022, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
- Commitment of Candidates - Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th February 2022 at any of the weekend Masses
- First Reconciliation - Tuesday 29th March, 5.30pm and 7.30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

### First Holy Communion

- First Parent Meeting - Tuesday, 10th May, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
- First Holy Communion - Saturday, 18th June, 10am, St Thomas Aquinas Church

### Confirmation

- First Parent Meeting - Tuesday, 19th July, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
- Second Parent Meeting - Tuesday, 26th July, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
- Commitment of Candidates - Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th July at any of the weekend Masses
- Confirmation - Tuesday, 30th August, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

### Confirmation Candidates 2021

If your child is currently in Year 6, 2021 and they would like to be confirmed at Easter 2022, please contact the Parish office before the end of November so arrangements can be made.