

The Perspective of Justice - Fulfilling God's Promise

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. It is time, the prophet Baruch says, "to take off your robe of mourning and misery," for God is leading his people "with his mercy and justice for company." God's people "are wrapped in the cloak of justice from God," and they "will be named by God forever the peace of justice."

Paul, too, speaks of joyful anticipation, of waiting for "the day of Christ Jesus." He encourages the Philippians to grow in "love, understanding, wealth of experience, clear conscience, and blameless conduct," and he concludes with a wish: "that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you."

The message of John the Baptist is to prepare the way for the coming of Christ, to make straight the windings and to make smooth the rough ways.

We need a "baptism of repentance," a cleansing from the old ways of "greed and darkness" and a commitment to a new way of living. We need to challenge the wisdom of the world in the way it was challenged by that prophet in the desert.

While we are warned that it profits a man nothing if he gain the whole world and lose himself, the expectation of a new earth must not weaken but rather stimulate our concern for cultivating this one. For here grows the body of a new human family, a body which even now is able to give some kind of foreshadowing of the new age.

Vatican II, Constitution on the Church
in the Modern World, 1965: 39

Gerald Darring

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



CatholicCare Drop-In Centre Springwood is currently seeking the support of volunteers, across a number of roles, within a partner organisation, Junction142 in Katoomba. Food Services of Junction 142 has re-opened its doors to the community and is looking for volunteers to fill a number of positions! This has been an essential service for some of the most vulnerable people in the Mountains and, with your assistance, can help re-connect and support people once again. You will be required to assist with: **Cooking and plating up food; Food service to patrons; Clear and clean tables; Wash dishes and help clean kitchen at the end of service; Prepare and handout food hampers; Record data for serving food and hampers to patrons.**

Experience in a food handling environment would be great, however, is not essential as training and induction will be given. There will be Sunday shifts available, as a priority, and mid-week as well. If you feel called to support a wonderful community hub and service, please get in touch with Sally at **CatholicCare** on 0499 077 511 or sally.butler@ccss.org.au.

Sunday, 5th December : *Second Sunday of Advent*

Monday, 6th December : Feast of St Nicholas of Myra

Wednesday, 8th December : Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, 12th December : *Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)*

Saturday, 25th December : *Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*

Sunday, 26th December : *Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Monday, 27th December : Feast of St John the Evangelist

Tuesday, 28th December : Feast of the Holy Innocents

December Dates



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
Parish Website: 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**

THE FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.

Awaken us.

Help us shed our clothes of mourning.

Help us shake off our misery.

Show your splendour
in glorious
robes.

Give us a new name,
O Jesus.

Please give us
your name,

Peace.

Anne Osdieck

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

That your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value.

Our Father, you know our needs.

So please, give us, this day,

every kind of wisdom

and knowledge,

discernment,

and love.

Please,

we ask you,

continue to complete

the good work you began is us
until the day of the coming of Christ Jesus.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: *Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6*

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 125

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Next Week: *Zeph 3:14-18; Is 12:6-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18*



Recently Deceased: **Margaret Grant**

Sick: Molly Hurley, 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.

25th Anniversary: *Jim Quinlan*

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

CLEANERS WANTED: Are you able to help our Parish and have a spare 2 hours every 3 weeks - we would love to hear from you as we seek volunteers to be added to our cleaning list for vacuuming or dusting our beautiful Church. Please contact the Parish office on 4754 1052. Thank you.

CCD MASS INFORMATION (LIVESTREAM): If you would like to watch the **CCD Mass live** please follow this direct link: <https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/> and if you wish to view the stream at your leisure, please follow: <https://bit.ly/SAAPM>. Only the Facebook page will have the livestream otherwise, YouTube will be available about 30 minutes after the Mass concludes this Friday (3rd Dec).

BLUE MOUNTAINS EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE AND FIESTA: 2 – 3 January 2022; Celebrate the Christmas season with a two-day pilgrimage and fiesta! Choose from a classic pilgrimage experience or family adventure pilgrimage on Sunday, 2 January then join the family-friendly festivities at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook including Mass, a festive meal and children's movie night. Stay overnight at St Finbar's, then continue the celebrations on Monday 3 January with a morning pilgrimage and Mass in the bush. For more information and to register visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

ROUSE HILL PARISH CHRISTMAS NOVENA DAWN MASSES: This Christmas, Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill will be celebrating a Novena of Dawn Masses leading up to Christmas. Commencing on 16 December, they will be celebrated at 5am. Bookings are NOT required. For details, please contact the parish on rousehill@parracatholic.org or (02) 8883 4063.

REFURBISHMENT WORKS AT SPRINGWOOD CEMETERY: Refurbishment works at Springwood Cemetery start in one week. If you have placed any memorial items in the Ashes Garden Beds area, please remove them by the end of this weekend. Any items not collected will be removed by Council staff. If you can't get there before the day to collect your items, please let the BMCC know and they will do their best to place your items aside for you to collect. Springwood Cemetery is a bushland cemetery and will be restoring its natural bush and native feel. All works will be conducted with care and respect, and in line with BMCC's Cemeteries Policy and practices. This information was supplied by the Blue Mountains City Council. For further information: <https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/cemeteries>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2021:

	<i>Springwood</i>	<i>Lawson (OLN)</i>
Christmas Eve, Fri 24 th Dec	5.00pm Children's Mass 8.00pm VIGIL	5.00pm Children's Mass 8.00pm VIGIL
Christmas Day, Sat 25 th Dec	9.30am	9.00am
Boxing Day, Sun 26 th Dec	9.30am	9.00am
Tues 28 th , Wed 29 th Dec	9.30am	
Thurs 30 th Dec	9.30am	
Fri 31 st Dec	9.30am	
Sat 1 st Jan	9.30am	
<i>2nd Rite of Reconciliation</i>		
Tues 21 st Dec	7.00pm	Mon 20 th Dec 7.00pm (Lawson)

NO MASS / ROSARY - Tuesday, 7th December

Due to our Annual Safety Check, we are unable to have Mass on Tuesday, 7th December.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Christmas Giving Tree

This year, our Parish is supporting the **Wimlah Women's Refuge Outreach and Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service**, a specialist domestic violence service, located in the Blue Mountains.

They offer a Domestic Violence Support Group, and Family Law Support Group (National online support), in addition to residential crisis accommodation and many other forms of support.

We would love for our parishioners to this year wrap a small gift for a woman or a child (**Currently there are 4 boys in care - ages 10, 7, 6, 3, 18 months and 1 girl in care, 9 years of age**) to open this Christmas, who might otherwise not be able to open anything.

Please leave this gift under our Christmas Tree and it will be hand delivered the Wednesday prior to Christmas Day to the women and children who will be relying on the refuge this year as their safe haven - **a place to call home.**



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

St. Vincent de Paul members will be outside all Masses over the **next two weekends** to accept any donations you are able to make towards food vouchers for families in

need this Christmas. If your family has been able to organise a hamper please bring it to Mass on the weekend of **11th & 12th December**. Thank you for supporting those families who without your generosity would find Christmas a much more difficult time.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: No mother or child should be homeless and without support at Christmas. CatholicCare's Houses to Homes provides hope for vulnerable women and children facing abuse and hardship. Your kind donation today will help change the lives of homeless young women, who like Mary, seek a safe haven to raise their newborn child. Please give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal giving envelopes or online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

God of all people,

You have made us in your image, delighting in your creation.

Help us to see and receive each person as a beloved and unique part of your body.

We are all part of the Body of Christ.

You desire all people to use their gifts to enrich the world around them.

Help us to celebrate and support the participation and leadership of people with disability in our communities.

We are all part of the Body of Christ.

You give and sustain life, opening ways of thinking and doing that allow all to grow.

Help us to be inclusive in welcoming people with disability as a vital part of "us".

We are all part of the Body of Christ.

We ask this through Christ, who lives within us and calls us all to fullness of life.

Amen.

International Day of People with Disability



3 December
International Day of
People with Disability