

The Perspective of Justice - Revolutionary Love

As hard as it was for the people of Jesus’ native place to accept, the fact is that he was a prophet, no less a prophet than Jeremiah.

Just as Jeremiah had been warned that “they will fight against you, but not prevail over you, so the people rose up and expelled Jesus from the town. But he went straight through their midst and walked away.”

The message of Jesus and the prophets before him was to love all men as God loves them. The reason why they ran into problems is that so many people do not want to hear about “love for one another even as God has loved us.”

The love that Jesus preached “is not snobbish,” so it includes the filthy poor and the stinking homeless.

It “does not brood over injuries,” so it asks not how we can get even with this criminal but how we can help restore this human being.

It “does not rejoice in what is wrong,” so it causes us to react strongly against all forms of injustice and oppression.

This is revolutionary love.

“Prophecies will cease.” One day the talk about love will end, and the kingdom of love will become a reality. Of that there is no doubt.

The only question, in the meantime, is about who will “be filled with indignation” at the prophet of love, and who will be walking with the prophet through the midst of the crowd.

The missionary is a person of charity. In order to proclaim to all his brothers and sisters that they are loved by God and are capable of loving, he must show love toward all, giving his life for his neighbour. The missionary is the ‘universal brother,’ bearing in himself the Church’s spirit, her openness to and interest in all peoples and individuals, especially the least and poorest of his brethren. As such, he overcomes barriers and divisions of race, cast or ideology. He is a sign of God’s love in the world - a love without exclusion or partiality.

Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, 1990:89.

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

Gathering of Talents

The Gathering of Talents will be **relaunched** on the weekend of the 12th / 13th February. Kim Crawford will be speaking at the Masses that weekend to update you on future plans.

Our Scripture Team needs you..

Start the new year off in an inspired way - *by teaching students at our local schools.* We have fantastic teaching materials, we will help you prepare for each class, will guide you through the introductory classes, including child protection... Does this sounds like you? The scripture team would like to hear from you!

We would like:

- a 3/4 teacher for Winmalee public on Wednesday (full training provided)
- a 5/6 teacher for Winmalee and Ellison on Wednesdays (full training provided)
- a 5/6 teacher for Faulconbridge and Springwood on Thursdays (full training provided)

The rewards are plentiful, ask God.

Please contact Wilhelmina on 4751 3319 or if you already know another SRE, talk to them!!

You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending. C.S. Lewis

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 - Saturday 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
Reconciliation: By request
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: By appointment

MASKS MUST BE worn in Church

Prayer for Tonga and the Pacific

Loving God,
We hold before you in our hearts
The people of Tonga in this time of need.
We know that the communities of the Pacific often
experience fragility.
Now, with a volcanic explosion leading to both a Tsunami
And degradation of land and water through ash,
We ask that your people find strength
and feel closer to you than ever.
They are communities of great faith.
May they turn to you for peace and
reassurance.
May they turn to each other for comfort and community.
And may they turn to us for support and solidarity.
We all share this mysterious world
Which you have entrusted to our care, as one family.
May your Holy Spirit give us wisdom and courage
And fill us with the gift of Hope.
Amen.



The First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.

Father, you knew us in our mothers’ womb.
Before we were ever born you loved us.
We cling to the pledge you made
to Jeremiah, to Jesus
and to each of
us.

“Whatever you do,
I will be there
with you.”

Anne Osdieck

Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13; Luke 4:21-30

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 70:1-6, 15, 17. R. v. 15

R. I will sing of your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

We acknowledge the Darug and Gundugarra people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to elders both past and present.



Recently Deceased: *Rose Julie Wilson-Scott, Joe De Silva, Tony Beekman*

Sick: Ross Baker, 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.**

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

DUSTERS NEEDED: If you are available to dust our beautiful church on a monthly roster, please contact the parish office. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

CLEANING ROSTER: There is a new cleaning roster at the back of the church ready for collection.

ANNUAL LEGAL RED MASS: The Annual Red Mass, which gives thanks for the work of those who serve the law, will be held on Thursday 3 February at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7pm, followed by a light supper. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to justice and faith. For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance by emailing mili@stpatscathedral.com.au or by phone to (02) 8839 8400.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS (CANCELLED): Please be aware that due to the coronavirus, the World Day of the Sick Mass that was scheduled for 11 February 2022 at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown has now been cancelled. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact comms@parracatholic.org or (02) 8838 3400

POSITIONS VACANT: Project Officer – Parramatta Young Christian Workers; Pastoral Formation Facilitator – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta. More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES: 22 – 26 June 2022 Every three years since 1994, the Church has celebrated the World Meeting of Families in a different city of the world. In 2022 the event will be hosted by the Diocese of Rome with Pope Francis leading special celebrations. However, the Holy Father has also asked that the World Meeting of Families be celebrated concurrently in every diocese of the world in 2022. The idea is for families to gather locally in Parishes and/or Deaneries and explore and celebrate the theme of "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness". Stay tuned for exciting opportunities to participate with the Diocese of Parramatta in 2022.



FUNERAL MASS DETAILS: The Funeral Mass for Rose Julie Wilson-Scott, dearly loved daughter of Brandon and Johanna, will be held at St Thomas Aquinas Church on Tuesday, 1st February at 10.30am. *May Rose rest gently in the presence of God.*

2022 First Reconciliation

We invite you and your child to be part of our 2022 First Reconciliation Program.

Children in Year 3 or older in 2022, who have not yet received Reconciliation are invited to participate.

If you wish to participate in the program, please come along to both of the Parent Meetings on **Tuesday 1st February and Tuesday 9th February**, 7pm at St Thomas Aquinas Church. The first meeting is to introduce you to the program and the second meeting is to introduce you to your groups and give out the booklets required (meetings are again via zoom for this sacrament).

First Reconciliation will take place on Tuesday, 29th March 2022.

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 18th June, they must have received their First Reconciliation.

*First
Reconciliation*

Plenary Council Report

This is my individual response to the report published by the Plenary Council after its deliberations held remotely in October 2021. I hope that my thoughts may stimulate you to visit the full 106 page report available on line in preparation for the second Sydney gathering in July. In looking for a scaffold to organise my thoughts, I opted for a PMI (plus, minus, interesting) chart so this is meant to be a stimulus rather than a comprehensive summary of a weeks deliberation by over 300 people

PLUS

- ♦ The process was based on 15 wide-ranging questions which stimulated discussion and discernment. With one significant exception, groups stayed with their one question for the process: personal and communal conversion, healing wounds of abuse, ecological conversion, needs of the vulnerable, indigenous and immigrant spirituality, prayer, forming leaders for mission, equipping ordered ministers, parishes and other church structures, governance, education, social services. -
- ♦ The only topic discussed by all groups/members was Healing of Sexual Abuse. The reported feedback from all groups (discussion points and specific proposals) was honest and accommodated a diversity of views including contemporary teachings (Laudate Si) and issues (suicide and euthanasia)

MINUS

- ♦ Lack of clarity about the status of the 78 proposals with some resulting from week long group discussion and others originating from single individuals e.g. reintroduction of (meatless) Friday penance in reparation for sexual abuse and reverting to the ad orientum posture (all facing East) during Eucharist.
- ♦ Little explicit reference to the recommendations of the Abuse Royal Commission or what we have learnt about being parish or Church during Covid or pressing pastoral issues like ageing clergy and provision of Eucharist in rural areas
- ♦ Inherent and obvious contradictions in some proposals e.g. 48 'Resume the role/use of women deacons' and 49 says 'affirm the all-male diaconate (and priesthood) as the Church has always taught this'.
- ♦ Some terminology was hard to grasp. From Education (Q15): 'Schools as places of recontextualisation' and the proposal that 'Catechesis of Good Shepherd atriums be established in each diocese' ... and I taught for 40 years!!

INTERESTING

There was a strong and pervasive acknowledgement of the Christian vocation of all the Baptised. Single people, deacons, males in general and families were acknowledged as worthy of special and spiritual pastoral care. In contrast children and adolescents didn't seem to be a priority beyond the Education question.

There were calls for national action across many areas. Bidding for the 2028 International Eucharistic Conference as it will the centenary of the one Sydney hosted in 1928. Compilation of Australian prayer resources, researching the effectiveness of existing parish renewal programs, calls for Diocesan synods every 10 years and the national implementation of the 7-step action plan from Laudate Si.

Kim Crawford - 5th January 2022

Liturgy Formation Day - St Finbar's Parish

The Mass is supposed to be the "summit and climax of Christian life". We are also invited to participate actively and conscientiously. But how can we do it? Is the Mass not all about the priest saying and acting in the Mass? If you want to know, come and see!

Presenter: Very Rev. Peter Williams, VG of the Diocese of Parramatta and Lecturer in Liturgy at the Catholic Institute of Sydney

When: 19th February, beginning with the morning Mass at 9.15am and ending at 1pm with Lunch

Where: St Finbar's Catholic Parish, 53 Levy Street, Glenbrook NSW 2773

Cost: Donation for catering purposes

RSVP: By 15th February to secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Program: 9.15 am Mass presided by Fr Peter Williams – 10 am Coffee and Tea – 10.30am Talk by Fr Peter Williams, followed by Q & A – 11.30 am Coffee and Tea Break – 11.45 am – Discussion a) What is your impression about the way your parish conducts the liturgy (church's architecture, IT settings, music etc.)? b) What can we do to enable parishioners to actively participate in the liturgy – 12.30 pm Midday prayer, followed by lunch