

Light of Welcome

Loving God, author of all gifts;

We praise and thank you for all the gifts you have entrusted to us.

Pour out your Spirit upon us so that, true to our baptismal promises, we may form faith communities that recognise and promote the gifts in all people so that we may all share in the mission of Jesus.

Inspire us to be a Church that is welcoming and accepting, and which sees everyone as an expression of Christ.

May our faith communities nurture and commission all members to live our particular gifts as a reflection and imitation of Jesus' life.

Give us the courage to be the light of welcome in the darkness of exclusion, a voice of gentleness in the wilderness of the unheard and an outstretched hand of love to those longing for community.

Amen.

The Prayer of St. Francis de Sales

Patron Saint of writers and journalists

Be at Peace

Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them. He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in his arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and everyday. He will either shield you from suffering, or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

Amen.

VERY
Thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed

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 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 0418 461 316
Assistant Priest:	Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 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**

A Poem to Sit With

The mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3)

Prayers made
in secret -
in the inner recesses
of one's own heart

never go unanswered

Ask - you shall receive

Seek - you shall find

Knock - the door
shall be opened

the white stone
shall be given.

J. Janda

The Second Reading

1 Cor 12:4-11

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit

Was Puccini's
music for his ears alone?
Was Starry Night for Van Gogh's eyes only?

Is discernment of spirit
better than the act of prophesying?
Is it better to be a healer than a preacher?
Was Mother Teresa more important
than the Jesuit brother who
answered the door?

Is green better than red?

All gifts are from the same Spirit.
They are all a part of the whole
and given to each of us for each other
and for the common good.

Lord, help us understand.
Thank you for
your gifts.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Cor 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95:1-3, 7-10.

R. Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



Recently Deceased: Patricia Reading, Christopher Watson, Joe Lopez

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

THANK YOU: From Mary Lopez - I am very grateful to the parishioners who attended Joe's funeral Mass on the 21st December. Your kind words, cards, flowers and prayerful support meant a lot to our family at this time.

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.

BMCC RE-USE SHED: Visit and be inspired at the Blaxland or Katoomba RRWMF Reuse Shed these school holidays! There are some great items donated that you can love again, repurpose or repair. Check out their Facebook page for some photos of recent items at: <https://www.facebook.com/ReuseShed>

LIBRARIES ALL OPEN: ALL library branches are open again, including weekends, from the 4 January 2022. Did you know that there is also a weekly, free, return bus service, sponsored by the BMCC? The service provides a return trip between the *Springwood Hub and Blaxland Library* allowing customers to access the larger collection of resources at Blaxland Library. **ALSO** If you know someone who is isolating at home without access to Library resources we can assist them through our Pop-Up Library @ Home service – please contact the library for more information. Email: bmlibrary@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; Katoomba: Ph 4780 5750; Blaxland: Ph 4739 4284; Springwood: Ph 4780 5040.

COMMUNITY AND THANK YOU DAY: The postponed Community and Thank You Day is back on! **Join us on Saturday 26 February**, from 10am-3pm. After a long and hard two years, we wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate being together again, and say thank you to the helpers, frontline workers and emergency services personnel who have worked to keep us safe. The Blue Mountains community is wonderful and unique, and we know it's important to all of us to come together and give something back to the men and women who put their lives on the line for us in the hardest times. What's happening? The Community Day is being held at all Council Leisure Centres and Pools. Enjoy free entry and access to the pools, as well as activities, fun and games for the whole family. You can join us at any of our Leisure Centres and Pools (Glenbrook, Springwood, Lawson, Katoomba or Blackheath).

MAYFIELD GARDEN: Located 35 minutes from Bathurst, Mayfield Garden offers a great day out for the whole family. Explore hidden gems across 16-hectares, from the 13 metre tall Obelisk, behind the waterfall to the Grotto and everything in between. The numerous pathways are designed to be explored, with many nooks-and-crannies to discover. The mobility-friendly Camellia Walk that provides access from the lower to the upper sections of the garden for those with mobility aids or prams. Play the interactive garden games or take a stroll and explore all Mayfield has to offer. Featuring the country's second-largest English Box Hedge Maze, Cascade and Temple, Croquet Court and Rose Garden, and the Chinese Pagoda over Mayfield Lake. Mayfield Garden is open 363 days a year (9am – 4:30pm, final entry at 3pm). 530 Mayfield Road, Oberon NSW 2787, Tel: 02 6336 3131 and info@mayfieldgarden.com.au.

DISPENSATION: On the 20th March 2020 Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta were dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (Canon 1248 and Catechism 2181) by virtue of a Decree issued by Bishop Vincent Long. From the 15th December 2021 this Decree is now revoked and the Sunday obligation is imposed once again.

The flower doesn't dream of the bee.

It blossoms and the bee comes.

Mark Nepo

The Word Engaged - *Lovely in Eyes Not His*

"You shall be called 'My Delight.'" (Is 62:4)

Isaiah is not alone among the prophets in portraying our relationship to God in images of covenantal love. Hosea's Yhwh will "betroth you to myself forever, with tenderness." Ezekiel spins a marvelous tale of courtship, betrayal, and redemptive pardon to explain the history of God's commitment to Israel.

But Isaiah goes beyond the others. He presents an outright celebration of nuptials: God's relation to Israel, to us, is an undying covenant of love and fidelity. "You shall be called 'My Delight,' your land, 'Espoused.' For the Lord delights in you, and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you. As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you."

God's desire and delight is to be one with us, to share in our life and destiny through thick or thin, to possess the same Spirit of love over all our miscellany of time and disposition. It is that Spirit, writes Paul, that we have been given in Christ and that unites us in body, worship, and common labors.

Thus, it might be more than happenstance that the first miraculous "sign" of Jesus recounted in the fourth Gospel occurs at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Not only does his presence bless the covenant of marriage; he personally heightens the celebration. Prompted by his mother, who informs him that there is no more wine and who alerts the attendants to do "whatever he tells you," Jesus transforms six stone jars of water into wine.

And it is good stuff. "People usually serve the choice wine first; then when the guests have been drinking a while, a lesser vintage. What you have done is keep the choice wine until now." This first sign of Jesus revealed his glory, and thenceforth the disciples believed in him. The glory revealed is that of the great God of transformations, a God who takes a mere creature for beloved spouse, who becomes our food and drink as if our bread and wine.

We have a God who refashions the human body into a temple of flesh inhabited by divine life. We are new arks of the covenant.

Jesus himself, of course, is the greatest sign of all. He, in one body, true God and true man, is the marriage of heaven and earth. He is the nuptials of God and flesh. He is the reason why, after Christmas, every new child bears the one Spirit wherein God calls each one, "My delight, my joy, flesh of my flesh, my spouse."

Gerard Manley Hopkins puts it thus in "As Kingfishers Catch Fire":

**For Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his.**

*John Kavanaugh, SJ
Father Kavanaugh was a professor of Philosophy at St. Louis University in St. Louis.
He reached many people during his lifetime*

Monday, 17th January: Memorial of St Anthony
Friday, 21st January: Memorial of St Agnes
Monday, 24th January: Memorial of St Francis de Sales
Tuesday, 25th January: Feast day of The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle
Wednesday, 26th January: Australia Day
Friday, 28th January: Feast day of St Thomas Aquinas

