

AUSTRALIA DAY - 26TH JANUARY

Australia Day is an opportunity to celebrate our cultural diversity and rich migrant heritage, which is very much part of our unique Australian identity and has helped shape a nation proud of its strong and successful multiculturalism.

Regardless of our origins or our past, it's a day for Australians from all backgrounds and communities to come together to share stories, embrace our diversity, and celebrate our unity.

We all belong, and we all contribute to this nation's story and achievements.

May the celebrations of Australia Day this year fill your hearts, souls and homes with happiness.

God bless.



Celebrating our Patron - St Thomas Aquinas

On Friday 28th January it is the feast day of Saint Thomas Aquinas, doctor of the Church and patron of students and Catholic schools. An Italian Dominican friar, he entered the order against his parent's wishes and persevered in his vocation. He studied under St Albert the Great and surpassed all his fellow students in learning and virtue. He is considered one of the Catholic Church's greatest and most influential theologians and philosophers. One of his famous quotes include: **"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."**

With our students heading back to school in two weeks, **Saint Thomas Aquinas pray for us.**

A Student's Prayer by St Thomas

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance.

Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion.

This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever.

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**

A Poem to Sit With

*He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed
go free (Lk 4:18).*

But if you
don't open
your eyes

and you don't
open your ears

or taste things
or touch things
or smell things

well then
you will never
know me

all that I do
is to show
my love for you.

J. Janda

The Second Reading

1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27

We were all given to drink of the same Spirit

Father,
We thank you.
Your gifts are great.

From them words flow, smooth as nectar;
they heal, or else they teach,
often tell stories that lead

Their hearers straight
to heaven.

Our finances suddenly balance.

Holy Spirit, thank you.
Let us all, fancy
and plain,
praise you.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 18:8-10, 15. R. Jn 6:63

R. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

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

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.



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

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY COURSE: A new pathway for leadership in youth ministry is here! Duc In Altum is an initiative of Catholic Youth Parramatta designed to provide practical youth ministry training, build community between youth leaders across the Diocese, and offer intentional time for prayer and reflection. It is a year-long journey with the first Leaders' Summit to be held on Saturday, 29 January 2022 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. For more information and details to sign up visit parracatholic.org/ducinaltum/ or email qwayne.guevara@parracatholic.org

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS: The Annual World Day of the Sick Mass will be celebrated by Vicar General Fr Peter Williams and clergy of the Diocese on 11 February 2022 at 11am at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. The Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes will be celebrated and will include the Rite of Anointing of the Sick and prayer of blessing for all carers. Refreshments will be available after Mass. For catering purposes, please RSVP to anne.stanton@parracatholic.org or (02) 8838 3456.

POSITIONS VACANT: Pastoral Formation Facilitator. In this full-time role you will be supporting Catholic communities in the Diocese of Parramatta. Applications close 31 January 2022. For a job description go to catholicoutlook.org/were-hiring-pastoral-formation-facilitator/ or email Deeanne Martin at parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org

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.

The Perspective of Justice - A Right To Justice

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jesus stood up in his home town and announced his program: to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners. It may not sound particularly religious to some, but it was a program established by one who had returned to Galilee "in the power of the Spirit."

Sunday's liturgy juxtaposes the story of Jesus reading in the synagogue with the story of Ezra reading the law to people upon their return from exile. The suggestion is that Jesus' program is a kind of law, a rule that should govern our lives. Bringing good news to the poor, liberating people from all their oppressions, this is not some optional activity that one can engage in only if one is inclined. It is "the law of the Lord," it is the program for which we have all been anointed.

The unity and peace we pray for at the beginning of Mass will only come if Jesus' followers accept his program as their own.

In his plan of salvation. God gave Israel its law. ... Of this collection of laws, love of God above all things and of neighbour as oneself already constitute the centre. But the justice which must govern relations between people, and the law which is its juridical expression, also belong to the sum and substance of the biblical law. ... It is in this context that one should appreciate the biblical law's care for the poor, the needy, the widow and the orphan: They have a right to justice according to the juridical ordinances of the people of God.

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,
Instruction on Christian Freedom and Liberation, 1986: 45

Gerald Darring

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

*There is nothing on this earth more to be prized
than true friendship.*

St Thomas Aquinas