

## Celebrating the Easter Season

We grow in a sense that Easter is not simply a one-day celebration. We celebrate Easter every Sunday. This is a season which lets us enter more deeply into the joy and the acceptance of the great gift of life everlasting.

Easter is a seven-week season of joy and grace. Starting with the Triduum in Holy Week and ending with Pentecost Sunday, this 50-day season has been called "the radiant centre of the liturgical year." We keep celebrating so that we might continue to enter into the meaning of the resurrection and to deepen the way it touches our daily lives.

After Easter Week's resurrection stories, the first reading for the rest of this long and glorious season is from the Acts of the Apostles. Every day we see how Jesus' followers reacted to his death, the challenges to their witness and the unexpected courage that comes to them. John's Gospel is used for the entire Easter Season, the one time of year we can enter into his poetic and layered stories on a daily basis.

## A REPORT: Music, Adult Faith Formation/Understanding the Gospels and Sacramental Connectedness Workshops

### Music Workshop (Facilitator: Chris Wilson)

There was an engaging discussion on the role and importance of music in the liturgy - this was made so obvious during the Covid embargo. Valid observations were made about involving youth in this ministry and music's role in ecumenical initiatives.

*Specific proposals were:*

- ◆ The creation of a deanery music group to meet 4 times a year;
- ◆ Plan and implement regular deanery youth Masses;
- ◆ Investigate an ecumenical music event eg Christmas carols.

### Adult Faith Formation/Understanding the Gospels (Facilitator: Laurie Woods)

Laurie broke open some Gospel passages by explaining their original context, their language and relevance to today and how to engage with scripture in prayer and mediation.

*Some specific proposals for ongoing formation:*

- ◆ Promote existing opportunities for scripture study eg Laurie's weekly reflections, St Finbar's faith formation program, Catalyst for Renewal mornings
- ◆ Investigate other avenues eg Zoom hours, incorporate video/slides into homilies, select family-friendly scriptures for reflection, investigate ecumenical scripture-based groups, promote diocesan initiatives more actively, identify resources people and invite them to share their wisdom

*Other areas identified for faith-formation included:* experiences of prayer and meditation, human formation especially psychology and human relationships, the role of ecology in prayer and spirituality, interfaith study and sharing.

### Sacramental Connectedness Workshop (Facilitator: Maureen Ryan)

It was designed for those working in the sacramental program and everyone seemed very encouraging of such an interactive and hands-on sacramental program that is offered in Lawson. The discussions were engaging and an interesting take away is that despite all of us liking this style of program that not all the parishes in the mountains are doing it, but hopefully that will change.

The second workshop was attended by the seminarians of the diocese and it was obviously a pleasant surprise for them. Lots of questions were asked and the positive energy of the group was obvious.

*Kim Crawford*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** A reminder to all families that the parent meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10th May, 7.00pm at St Thomas Aquinas Church. Please bring along your enrolment form and \$15 per child for Sacramental Program costs. We look forward to welcoming you on that evening.

## 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.stchurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stchurchspringwood.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 and by appointment

**Reconciliation:** By request

**Weddings:** By appointment

**Funerals:** By appointment

## THE SECOND READING

*Revelation 5:11-14*

*I heard everything in the universe cry out.*

Oh,  
Loving Father,  
please help us  
end war in Ukraine,  
fix the environment, mend  
all injustice, feed all the hungry  
and care for all children everywhere,

so that

everything in heaven and on earth,  
under the earth and in the sea,  
everything in the cosmos cry out:  
"Glory and honour and might  
and blessing be to  
the Lamb."

*Anne Osdieck*

Let us sing as we  
go. May our  
struggles and  
our concern for  
this planet never  
take away the  
joy of our hope.  
- Pope Francis



**Today's Readings:** Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Apocalypse 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 29:2, 4-6, 11-13. R. v. 2

**R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Christ is risen; the Lord of all creation; he has shown pity on all people. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat. And he took bread and gave it to them, alleluia.



### Recently Deceased: *Fr Roy Weaver, Catherine Dinkler-Meade*

**Sick:** Nathan Duffy, Baby Leonardo Diaz, Ross Baker, Roshan Rupesinghe, 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



**ANZAC DAY MARCH:** Students from St Columba's Catholic College, and St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, marched down Macquarie Street for the ANZAC Day March. These students proudly represented their schools in remembrance of those who fought for peace and who continue to work for



the safety of our country. *Lest we forget.*

**CATHOLIC CARE DROP-IN CENTRE:** Springwood is OPEN and looking forward to welcoming everyone again for a cuppa and chat, to register for one of our Wellbeing Groups or to access one of our many services, including: *Counseling – individuals, couples, kids, financial, gambling – free or sliding scale; Free fresh produce and pantry items; Free Digital Tech Support - Thursday afternoons; Community Women's Circle - every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month; Springwood Community Garden - Wednesday, and Saturday, working bees from 9.30am.* Volunteer opportunities are also available for Aged Care visitors, Driver to collect food once a week, and Reception Duties. If you have as little as 3 hours a week to spare and can offer a minimum 6 month commitment, we would love to chat to you about joining our friendly team of volunteers. Please email [springwood@ccss.org.au](mailto:springwood@ccss.org.au) or call 8843 2545 for more information.

**POSITIONS VACANT:** After more than 4 years service, Vic O'Callaghan and Kim Crawford are finishing their terms as STA reps on the Deanery Pastoral Council. There are 6 parishes in the Blue Mountains deanery with 2 reps from each parish. We have found the experience stimulating and enriching. Working with an enthusiastic team to implement the visions of Bishop Vincent and Pope Francis has certainly broadened our understanding of church. While Covid certainly was frustrating at times we managed to meet on-line and our work was book-ended by consultations for the Plenary Council and the more recent Catholics take Action gathering. These processes provided us with real experiences of hearing the voice of the Spirit in our communities. The latter gathering has been recognised within and beyond the diocese as a scaffold for others to adapt and adopt. In practical terms, the DPC meets each second Saturday 10-12pm, usually at Lawson, or Zoom if required. Over the last 4 years, friendships have been strengthened and the Beatitudes validated as we have tried to be improve communication within the diocese and build God's kingdom in the Mountains. Expressions of interest can be made to Fr Paul or Fr Shinto. Kim (0409676142) or Vic (0412703377) are happy to respond to any questions you may have.

**TRIVIA NIGHT:** SETSG is having a TRIVIA NIGHT at STA Primary School hall on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May from 7.30pm. \$20 per head. Numbers will be limited to 100 participants. Call Dennis on 0425209840 to book a table of eight or reserve a ticket. Payments via credit card can be made on the night. Bring your own nibbles and drinks for another fun-filled evening in the best company possible. All funds raised will assist Timor's health and educational needs.

**VOLUNTEER KNITTERS:** St Thomas Aquinas Primary School would like to put a little call out for volunteer knitters who would be able to mentor some *aspiring junior knitters* every Friday from 1.30-2.15pm. If you are able to assist, please contact the school on 4723 3800 and leave a message for Virginia Fortunat.

**FAITH AND POLITICS:** You are welcome to come and have a conversation with Mark Greenhill, OAM, Mayor of the Blue Mountains City Council on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 7-8.30pm. Hosted by St Finbar's Catholic Church, 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook.

**SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH PILGRIMAGE:** The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on the 18th October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on the 29th October 2022. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For further information email: [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or phone 8912 4848.

**SHINE WOMEN'S RETREAT 2022:** Adoration, Mass, Praise and Worship, Confession and Guest Speakers. Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 8.30am – 8.30pm, St Finbar's Catholic Church, 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook. \$85 pp, places are limited. All enquiries to: [universalsisterhoodpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:universalsisterhoodpodcast@gmail.com).

## Spirituality of the Readings - Simon Peter

What a scene it must have been. "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" If I were him, I couldn't have uttered an answer at all.

For his part, Peter would simply deny that he even knew who Jesus was. The people around him were members of the persecuting crowd, and he knew how delighted they would have been to tag him along with Jesus.

But before you give Simon Peter a simple excuse, *take a look at it.*

Have you or I ever felt unable to profess our own beliefs when caught in a threatening situation? I suspect that Peter was the representative of the rest of us, who are weak at heart. Previously he had been the only disciple who blurted out the true identity of Jesus. "You are the Christ, the son of the living God," he had said (Mt 16:16), and then protested that his love for Christ would never be discarded or die. His slide from believer to denier was a lot more than just a mildly excusable mistake. It was a change of heart.

In today's Gospel, Jesus does the unexpected: he asks Peter a second time, *not* if he was sorry for having sinned, *not* if he felt guilty, but whether he would affirm the real issue: love. Personal relationship is what was at issue.

"Simon, son of John, do you love me?" I notice that Jesus does not simply use the name he himself had given to Peter, but includes the unredeemed one, Simon. Is he letting Simon slide back to his pre-believing status? I do not think so. He seems to me instead to be giving Simon freedom to choose again his basic stance in life, to reaffirm himself as Peter, the Rock. Not a word is mentioned about the denials, but they form the substance of this scene. Jesus had handed over to him the whole post-Resurrection church, whose job it will be to take care of the beloved ones of God. Feed my lambs, feed my sheep. No one would be able to do this unless his stance were one of love and care, as opposed to just following the rules.

So, Simon Peter has affirmed his remarkable faith. That is the end of the scene, isn't it? Not at all. The dramatic third part follows, in which Jesus asks one more time the famous, intrusive question: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Simon Peter might have said, "I thought I had already answered your question. Lord, what was unclear?" But our reading says that instead he was distressed that Jesus asked him a third time.

Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. (Gospel). This squeamish sounding reply actually came from the truth-telling part of Simon Peter. It was not only a trust in Jesus' knowledge of him, but also a realization of the truth presented by his own innermost core. Peter was at core a believer and a lover of Jesus.

This is why Jesus said to him finally, "Feed my sheep," and why Peter could become such a promoter of the faith.

*John Foley, SJ*

*Fr. John Foley, SJ, is a composer and scholar at Saint Louis University, Missouri*



**Sunday, 1st May:** Feast of St Joseph the Worker

**Sunday, 8th May:** World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Holy See); Good Shepherd Sunday; Mother's Day

**Sunday, 15th May:** National Families Week

**Sunday, 22nd May:** World Communications Day (Holy See)

**Wednesday, 25th May:** The Feast of St Madeleine Sophie Barat

**Friday, 27th May:** Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week

**Saturday, 28th May, Sunday, 29th May:** Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal 2022

**Sunday, 29th May:** The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

**Tuesday, 31st May:** The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



**The Springwood branch of Catholic Women's League has withdrawn from the Parramatta Diocese CWL and has re-formed as "St Thomas Aquinas Ladies Fellowship".**

**We would like to invite ladies, of our Parish, to join us for morning tea on Friday, 20th May following 9.30am Mass. For further information, please call Colleen Kime 4754 4335.**