

Celebrating the Easter Season – 7th Week of Easter

This is the final week of the Easter Season. We are guided all week by the story of Paul's journey, all the way to Rome.

The final words of Jesus to his apostles, and to us, fill this week. They are comforting. His deep desire for unity among us is powerful. They prepare us to hear him praying to the Father for us.

It is a week in which we can intensify and deepen our prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We can ask for the grace all week to be open to the Spirit's coming and work in our lives.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Fill the hearts of your faithful.

Enkindle within us the fire of your love.

Allow us to join you in renewing the face of the earth.

May, the Month of Mary

Many things can be said about Catholics, but it can never be said that we don't honour our Mother! In addition to the myriad feast days honouring Our Lady in her many titles and virtues, the entire month of May is especially given to her praise.

In the words of Pope Paul VI, May is "a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God."

So, how can you honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in a special way this month, and allow her to conquer your own heart? Here are nine ideas

1. Flower Your Mary Statue
2. Pray a Novena to Our Lady
3. Spread Devotion to the Rosary
4. Learn About a New Marian Devotion
5. Share the Miraculous Medal
6. Memorise a Marian Prayer or Hymn
7. Get Invested in the Scapular
8. Read a Book About Mary
9. Pray the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary



<https://www.goodcatholic.com/nine-ways-to-celebrate-the-month-of-mary/>

The Brown Scapular

The [Brown Scapular](#) is a sacramental sign of special devotion to Our Lady.



A Sign which stands for the decision to follow Jesus as Mary did:

- open to God and to God's will,
- guided by faith, hope and love,
- close to the needs of people,
- praying always,
- discovering God is present in our life;
- with Mary's help, strengthens our desire to be with God forever.

The blessing of these Brown Scapular's will take place at St Thomas Aquinas Church during the time of the Rosary, 9.00am, Tuesday 7th June. Please let the parish office know if you would like to be part of this devotion.

"Out of compassion for us He descended from heaven and although He ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in Him by Grace - St. Augustine"

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.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



A Poem to Sit With Solemnity of the Ascension

*As they were looking on,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.
(Gospel)*

Angel's seeds
with
angel hair
sing
serviam
and
holy—holy—holy

J.Janda

THE GOSPEL

[Luke 24:46-53](#)
[John 17:20-26](#)

*I in them and you in me, that they may be brought
to perfection as one.*

Jesus,
here are the rich and poor, world-wide.
You take all of us who believe
straight to the heart of
infinite love, to the
creator of all
things.

To the prime mover and
our *raison d'être*.
The Father sent you because he is love.
Give us an understanding of the
infinite love that dwells
in us all.

We are the Father's gifts to you.
Then let us be gifts to
one another.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Acts 1:1-11, 22-29; Paul 1:17-23; Luke 24:46-53

Entrance Antiphon: (Vigil) You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia **(Sunday)** Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 46:2-3, 6-7, 8-9. R. v. 6

R. God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (Vigil) Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia **(Sunday)** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.



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

Parish and Local Community News

If your loved ones no longer need prayer intentions for being sick, please contact the parish to let us know of their recovery, thank you.

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: *Counselling – 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 2nd and 4th 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 or call 8843 2545 for more information.

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.

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 or phone 8912 4848.

FR SHINTO ON LEAVE: We wish Fr Shinto well on his trip back to India to visit his family during the end of May and early June. **Bon voyage and safe travels lovely Fr Shinto.** During his absence, please join us in welcoming the visiting Priests at each of the Masses. Names will be placed on the Church doors closer to each Mass.

READERS FOR MASS: Please help us by joining our Mass Reading Roster. We would like to create a roster where we know in advance who is reading at each Mass. Please speak directly with the Parish office or send an email to springwood@parracatholic.org and let us know which Mass you would like to read at.

2022 SAFEGUARDING CHAMPION: Each Parish Priest has been asked to nominate a Safeguarding Champion for the 2022-2023 year from their Parish. Each Parish Safeguarding Champion will be commissioned by Bishop Vincent during the Safe Parishes Week Luncheon on Wednesday 8th June at St Andrew's Hall, Breakfast Road, Marayong. It is for an initial 12-month appointment. Please go to www.stachurchspringwood.org.au for further information.

APOLOGY: Fr Gregory from Mt Druitt apologises profusely on behalf of his parish as the Priest that was meant to be here last Saturday night to conduct Mass was unable to attend at the last moment. STA Parish apologises to our parishioners as we couldn't do anything at such short notice.

Parish Carpark / Driveway

Over the coming weeks our parish carpark will undergo some maintenance. We will be removing trees, shrubs, clearing pathways and re-locating the Vinnies clothing bins so there will be better visibility for all vehicles and pedestrians. More work is planned for along the driveway, and we will keep you updated for when that work is set to begin.

Holy Communion

The Holy Communion Sacrament requires the collaboration of several key people and that is mostly made up of parents, who are taking turns this year, to guide small groups of children via zoom. Thank you for guiding and preparing your children as they grow in their faith and love of Jesus Christ.

Please note the below dates in your diary:

≈ There will be a short practice on Thursday, 16th June at 3.30pm

≈ First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 18th June at 10.00am

The Perspective of Justice - Unity

"That they may be one, as we are one—I living in them, you living in me—that their unity may be complete." The goal of the entire paschal mystery, and Jesus' wish for all of us, is unity: that we may be one as Jesus and his Father are one.

Today's world is more characterised by division than by unity. We face off against each other as rich and poor. North and South, African and Asian, Jew and Arab, Christian and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, male and female, young and old, suburban and inner city, conservative and liberal.

Every once in a while, a Stephen comes along, someone so dedicated to the principles which can bring us together that he is willing to surrender his life for the cause. And of course, we gladly take it.

Come, Lord Jesus! Come with the life-giving water that will wash away our divisions and make our unity complete.

The Catholic Church considers it her duty to work actively so that there may be fulfilled the great mystery of that unity which Jesus Christ invoked with fervent prayer from His Heavenly Father on the eve of His sacrifice. She rejoices in peace, knowing well that she is intimately associated with that prayer, and then exults greatly at seeing that invocation extend its efficacy with salutary fruit even among those who are outside her fold.

Pope John XXIII, [Address at the Opening of the Second Vatican Council](#), 1962

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

News from The Diocese of Parramatta

St Marys Parish Perpetual Adoration: Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, is looking for Eucharistic Adorers to commit to a rostered weekly hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in their Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Those who would like to assist can contact either Steven Buhagiar on 0415 600 290, Stella Buhagiar on 0415 600 103, or the parish office directly on (02) 9623 1962.

Support Mass for You at Home: Many people who are isolated, in prison, in hospital or don't have internet rely on Mass for You at Home. The Catholic Mass is broadcast free-to-air each Sunday morning on Channel 10 and WIN at 6am. Find out more at www.massforyou.com.au

Donate to Caritas Australia's Ukraine Appeal: Caritas Australia's long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground providing shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support. Donate now to help the people of Ukraine. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free. Keep up to date on how Caritas agencies are responding to this crisis by visiting www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news

Catholic schools across the Diocese are enrolling now! Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta are enrolling now for 2023. To learn more please contact your local Catholic school or visit our website www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/find-a-school.

Adult Confirmation: 1 September: Adult Confirmation 2022 will be held on **1 September 2022 at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral** with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on **Saturday 20 August at 9:30am at the Bede Heather Centre** (formerly known as the IFM). Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, but are yet to receive the Confirmation. If you would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.stanton@parracatholic.org.

MAY

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