

## Reading Roster 25/26th June

Date: 25/26 June

Mass Time:	VIGIL	8:00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Bernie Ellis
Commentator/ Prayers of the Faithfull:	Colleen Baker	Jim Gresser	Ingrid Merchant
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Sandra Sheean	Katherine Mahns
Second Reading:	Margaret Smith	Loida Derbyshire	Steve Bishop
Music:	Andrew Wilson		E Street Band

Date: 02/03 July

Mass Time:	VIGIL	8:00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Richard Merchant	Ed Junis
Commentator/ Prayers of the Faithfull:	Anne-Maureen Scarf	Kim Crawford	Steve Bishop
First Reading:	Colleen Baker	Jim Gresser	Katherine Mahns
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Sandra Sheean	<i>Need someone</i>
Music:	Elizabeth Wilson		Chris Wilson



*Please let the parish office know if you are able to help at any of our parish Masses. Thank you.*



Back in June 2020 - a time that seems like a world away, St Thomas Aquinas Parishioners began a drive to gather food for refugees in our diocese. The result was amazing!

In total, the STA faith community donated three trailer loads of food items to Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) How of Welcome (HOW).

In May 2021, we planned to conduct another food drive. A number of people came on board to work together to co-ordinate a regular effort that would offer some food security for people in desperate need of food to survive.

What we have here is clear evidence of the generosity of people who are in great need. If we watch people walking our streets, it is impossible to recognise people who are hungry, this is why JRS and HOW are a wonderful team to work with.

We have a team to coordinate this effort, but we do need more people who can share in this effort. Could it be you? You WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Please email Vic and Liz O'Callaghan on vicocallaghan@gmail.com.



*"Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet's resources which are meant to be shared by all." - Pope Francis*

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777  
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Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email:	email: <a href="mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org">springwood@parracatholic.org</a>
Parish Website:	<a href="http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au">www.stachurchspringwood.org.au</a>
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
Parish Pastoral Council:	email - <a href="mailto:springwoodppc@gmail.com">springwoodppc@gmail.com</a>
Parish Office Hours:	Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am  
**Weekday Mass:** Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am

**Rosary & Devotions:** 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 GOSPEL

[Luke 9:51-62](#)

*But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead."*

*But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.*

Jesus, you say to us, "Follow me.

Go, proclaim the kingdom of God."

Deepen our trust. Loosen our attachments, so many they may be, and whatever fastens us also to our safe spots.

Allow us to go where you call us today: fields of war and bias, whatever destroys our climate, wherever there is hunger and violence.

Let us take your kingdom everywhere in our day. And let us lay our heads where you lay yours.

Anne Osdieck

## A Poem to Sit With

## Christ Our Earth

Yet he will not force  
our allegiance  
the struggle  
the years  
the deaths  
for Truth  
the suffering  
the humiliation  
the unknowing  
for Truth  
can it be otherwise?  
The vision of  
the child  
the poet  
the prophet.

J. Janda

**Today's Readings: Kings 19:16,19-21; Paul 5:1, 13-18; Luke 9:51-62**  
**Entrance Antiphon:** All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11. R. cf. v. 5**

**R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening; you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

**Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 66:10-14; Paul 6:14-18, 13-18; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20**



**Sick:** 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

**CLEANING ROSTER:** If you have volunteered for any of the cleaning roles for the parish, you will find the cleaning roster ready to be collected from the back of the church.

**EXERCISE CLASS:** Alf would like our parish community to know that the exercise class has resumed at the back of the Springwood Presbyterian Church every Monday morning at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome. Please seek medical advice before starting any form of exercise.

**HOME CARE PACKAGES:** Buckland homecare ensures you are provided with the very best care while in the comfort of your own home. With over 80 years' experience in providing on going care to the blue mountain's community, our dedicated staff know what it means to deliver the highest level of care to promote a lifetime of independence at home. Buckland homecare can provide personalized support around the home to assist with all activities of daily living, such as:

- Personal Care
- Domestic Assistance
- Home Maintenance
- Transport Services
- Social Support Services
- Meal and Food Services

If you want to know how best to maintain your independence or that of a loved one, please give us a call at 4752 2500 or email [homecare@buckland-rv.com.au](mailto:homecare@buckland-rv.com.au), and we will be more than happy to help you.

## Upcoming Sacramental Dates:



### Confirmation 2022

**First Parent Meeting** - Tuesday, 19th July, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

**Second Parent Meeting** - Tuesday, 26th July, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

**Commitment of Candidates** - Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th July at any of the weekend Masses

**Confirmation** - Wednesday, 31st August, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

## St Vincent de Pauls

This year the Springwood St. Vincent de Paul Conference celebrates 85 years of support to the people of Springwood and surrounding villages. While we are able to assist people through major disaster events our main work has been to support people through difficult and challenging times in their lives. Sometimes that support is only needed for a short time until people are able to get their situation sorted however some people benefit by having us journey with them for many months and sometimes for a much longer period of time.

Our members meet people for support at the Catholic Care office in Macquarie Rd., Springwood, (down the little walkway next to Blooms the Chemist), every Thursday between 10am and 12noon, we are also available in the small office in the Parish Pastoral centre from 10am to 12noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month.

If anyone would like to discuss their situation and find out how we can help you can ring our call centre 1800 606 742 or simply drop in at either office at the advertised times. If there is need we also can visit people in their homes. Confidentiality in all matters discussed is assured.



## Holy Commitment

Everything else paled when Elisha was anointed by Elijah. He left all for the call. The commitment became his life. The promise was all he would keep of himself.

We do not easily make commitments. Still less easily do we keep them. This is true of any time and nation. And yet it is particularly true of us. These days, it is difficult for a person to keep a promise fifty hours, much less fifty years.

And so we avoid commitments or postpone promises. "I will be your follower wherever you may go." But it will have to wait. I have other things to do, jobs to accomplish, plans to realize. "Let me bury my father first. ... Let me return to what I cherish." I am not ready to give it all away.

It is often presumed that freedom is a state of being loose and unattached. Some people go so far as to think they lose their freedom when they commit themselves. Freedom is construed as giving in to any immediate desire and impulse. And yet such a notion of freedom—"giving free rein to the flesh," Paul calls it—is slavery.

We only begin to be free when we start the process of self-definition called commitment. And our freedom is only realized when we give ourselves away in love.

Our commitments, ultimately, are our homeland, our nests, our lairs. They are where we reside, where we centre our being.

Such a prospect is awesome: that our fundamental task and responsibility is to commit in love. This is why, like the Galatians, we might be frightened by such liberty. Comfort and escape, as well as other cravings of the flesh, entice us when we confront freedom's awesome implications.

Viktor Frankl, in *The Doctor and the Soul*, wrote of the stakes involved when we face our true liberty:

As soon as we lend our minds to the essence of human responsibility, we cannot forbear to shudder: there is something fearful about human responsibility.

But at the same time something glorious. ... It is glorious to know that the future of the things and the people around us is dependent—even if only to a tiny extent—upon our decision at any given moment.

What we actualise by that decision, what we thereby bring into the world, is saved; we have conferred reality upon it and preserved it from passing."

Perhaps the only lasting things we humans make in this world are our promises, our commitments. Perhaps, too, our promises are the only parts of us that we ultimately keep.

Without such making and keeping, it could be possible that we die having never fully lived.

But when we make bold to respond to the vocation of our humanity, that call to loving commitment given us by God and nurtured by Christ's Spirit, we partake in the very life of our Creator.

*For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm  
and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. (Second Reading)*

John Kavanaugh, SJ

## POSITIONS VACANT:

- Parish Office Admin Assistant, every Thursday (6 hrs) and Friday (6 hrs). **Immediate Start.**
- This role requires compassion, discretion, complete confidentiality, a "can do" attitude and a willingness to work autonomously. It requires a person who understands the nature of the frontline responsibility for "Sharing God's Love". This position does require an understanding and support of the ethos of the Catholic Church. You must be competent in the use of Microsoft Office programs; able to work as part of a team; have experience in an office environment, be accurate and process work in a timely fashion. Must have a WWCC or having recently applied. Applications to include a cover letter, resume and names and contact details of at least two referees. Please send your application to [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org).
- Applications close Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July.