

Reading Roster

Date:	10/11th September			
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8:00AM	9:30AM	
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Bernie Ellis	Richard Merchant	
Commentator/				
Prayers of the Faithful:	Anne-Maureen Scarf	Kim Crawford	Phillip Saville	
First Reading:	Colleen Baker	Sandra Sheean	Katherine Mahns	
Second Reading:	Margaret Smith	Peter O'Brien	Peta Sparkes	
Music:	Andrew Wilson		E Street Band	
				READERS:
				Please see the Acolyte
				rostered on when you
				arrive at Mass
Date:	17/18th September			
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8:00AM	9:30AM	
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Randall Noney	John Belfanti	
Commentator/				
Prayers of the Faithful:	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Katherine Mahns	
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Ingrid Merchant	
Second Reading:	Colleen Baker	Sandra Sheehan	Phillip Saville	
Music:	Elizabeth Wilson		Chris Wilson	

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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 Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email:	<i>email: springwood@parracatholic.org</i>
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
Parish Pastoral Council:	<i>email - springwoodppc@gmail.com</i>
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:	2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
Baptisms:	2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment
Reconciliation:	Please Contact the Parish Office
Weddings:	By appointment
Funerals:	Please Contact the Parish Office

THE FIRST READING

[Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14](#)

But Moses implored the Lord, his God, saying,
 "Why, O Lord, should your wrath blaze up against
 your own people?"

Wrath?
 Blazing up?
 They did not get wrath,
 even though they adored
 the molten calf.

O God,
 we worship many alluring things,
 and we are surely
 stiff-necked.

Thank you for your golden covenant,
 loving us in spite of ourselves,
 with an everlasting
 love.

Anne Osdieck

THE SECOND READING

[1 Timothy 1:12-17](#)

*In me Christ Jesus might display all his
 Patience as an example for those who would come to
 believe in him.*

Lord,
 like Paul, we
 give you many chances
 to show forth merciful
 patience.

Toughen us with abundant graces,
 as you toughened St. Paul.
 Help us always
 to listen to
 you.

Anne Osdieck



8th September, 2022

We can all make a difference in the lives
 of those who might be struggling by
 having regular, meaningful conversa-
 tions about life's ups and downs.

If you feel like something's not quite
 the same with someone you know -
 there's something going on in their life
 or you notice a change in what they're
 doing or saying - trust that gut instinct
 and take the time to ask them "Are you
 OK?"

By acting as 'eyes and ears' and reach-
 ing out to anyone who's going through
 a tough time we can show them they're
 supported and encourage them to ac-
 cess help sooner.

PRAYER FOR CATECHISTS

God our Creator,
 We thank you for our precious
 Gift of Faith.
 May our faith continue to
 grow through the power of
 the Holy Spirit within us.
 Lead us to share our faith with
 others; lead us to be open
 to the ministry of spreading
 the Good News to
 Catholic children in our State Schools.
 We ask this prayer
 Through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE: The Spring Edition 2022 is now available for collection at
 the back of the church.

Today's Readings: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32
Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.
 Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
R. I will rise and go to my father.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good
 News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!
Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow
 of your wings.



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

CHURCH REPAIRS: The repairs to the church will begin on Thursday, 22nd September. For the first half a week there will be disruptions to part of the church (30 pews need to be moved) then on Monday, 26th September for approximately one week, we will not have access to the Church as the altar, and the front half of the church will be covered in scaffolding so our weekday Masses, and Rosary, will most likely be held in the parish offices. We will notify you closer to the time to confirm.

THANK YOU: A massive thank you to the cleaning ladies who without fail, come in every week to dust, vacuum and mop our church. We are very grateful to each of you.

GOVERNMENT GRANT: We haven't received any notification yet whether we have been successful in gaining this grant. The area outside the Sacristy looks in need of a clean-up but until we have notification, we are leaving this area as is. Apologies that it looks so untidy.

BMCC: During the month of September, the Blue Mountains City Council has given each household two extra green bin collections – that means every week there is a green bin collection. Perfect timing for Spring! Don't forget to put them out.

ST PADRE PIO OF PIETRELCINA: Feast Day and Blessing of the relic of St Padre Pio. Sunday 25th September 2022, 10.00AM. St Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park, 34-38 William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park. Everyone is welcome.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Dear Parishioners, our Planned Giving envelopes have arrived and are available for collection at the back of the church. If your number is not there, please see the parish office. Thank you.



HARD COPIES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: There is a small number of hard copies of the Australian Bishop's new Social Justice Statement, accompanied by 50 Prayer and Action cards positioned on table at the back of the Church for parishioners who would like to take a copy home. The statement invites us all to engage with a complex and challenging social reality: family and domestic violence and abuse. The Australian Bishops call for all people to take part in the individual and social transformation needed so all people can live in safety.

TREK FOR TIMOR: The needs in this fledgling nation are still high in the areas of health and education. We have another opportunity to continue our support in the annual **TREK for TIMOR** event in October. This event will be held **virtually** as was quite successful last year. All you need to do is to follow the link <https://trek-for-timor-blue-mountains.raisely.com/>. You can financially support other walkers or pledge to walk 10, 25 or more kilometres over the month of October. Just look on the list of walkers to add your support.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS: Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr Tony Alex MGL, Sunday 18th September 2022, 2pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys. All welcome!

SEPTEMBER DATES:

Monday, 11th September:	The Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary
Wednesday, 13th September:	The Feast of the Exultation of the Cross
Wednesday, 20th September:	The Feast of St Matthew
Friday, 22nd September:	The Memorial of St Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
Sunday, 25th September:	The Feast of St Finbar
Thursday, 28th September:	The Feast of St Michael, the Archangel

Prodigal Love

The first directed retreat I ever gave was a harrowing experience. An older Jesuit had invited me to be on a team that was to direct 30 monks at a secluded monastery. I first begged off, saying I had never given a retreat before. He replied, "With that excuse you'll successfully avoid ever giving one." Then I told him that giving a retreat to holy monks would be like teaching Pavarotti to sing. He didn't think that was very funny, though it did display a little pride masked as humility. Finally, I said I was too young. He said that was balderdash.



As it turned out, I was right, at least on the third count. One of my retreatants, so old I'm sure he's now in heaven, announced to me on the 5th day of the retreat that he could never open his soul to me, so young and hippie looking. What's more, from day one he had been disappointed that he had not been given a more mature religious as director. What distracted me from my ego's wounds were the marvels of the spiritual lives of these men (including my reluctant retreatant). And still vital, after almost 25 years, is the memory of one monk who spent a whole day wrestling with the parable of the prodigal son.

"I've prayed and prayed about this, and I've found out who's really at fault in this story." *I couldn't wait to hear.* "The father! He's the problem. Why didn't he ever tell the good son he was doing a good job? Why didn't he put on a lavish banquet for him? Why did he make such a commotion over a ne'er-do-well who squandered half the fortune and now will probably get another half of what rightly belonged to the first?" He had a point. During another retreat, a man with a wife and children once told me, "If you run a family like the father of the prodigal son did, they will walk all over you." He had a point too.

I'll certainly have a few memories to heal in heaven if I find out that some profligate or oppressor was forgiven and even given a higher place than mine.

The whole thing is disconcerting. So, it must have been to those priests and writers, the pharisees and scribes, who murmured when tax collectors and sinners—of all people—were gathering around to hear Jesus. "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Harrumph. Then he regales us with stories of a lost penitent, more celebrated than 99 of us righteous, and a recovered coin more pleasing to the angels than nine coins never lost. As a final insult, Jesus caps off his sermon with the story of that spoiled kid.

If one of my siblings returned from a wild and woolly time, I probably would have sulked and stayed away from the party too. I would have made it quite clear that I was not enjoying the music and dance. And I wonder: Would I also refuse to join the joy, even if my father pleaded with me? Would I listen to his words? "My son, you are with me always, and everything I have is yours."

Would he have to remind me of my own blindness? Of my squandering of life? Of my reluctance to celebrate the good? Of my own sinfulness? One need not be St. Paul, once a blasphemer, a persecutor, a man filled with arrogance, to thank God for being treated mercifully in this life and hereafter. One need not be as derelict or depraved as Moses' stiff-necked bunch worshipping a molten calf, to appreciate God's forgiveness. High in grace or sunk in sin, we all know the kind of favour Jesus granted in overflowing measure. "You can depend on this as worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Each of us, in little and large ways, ought to be thankful for unmerited love and leave the accounting to God. There is something good in the worst of us and something bad in the best of us, my own father used to say. He too had a point. Perhaps that is why repentance is always the start of good news. Perhaps that is why our song of God's glory so aptly follows the confession of our sins.

Glorying in God's loving forgiveness calls forth a third son or daughter in us. This would be the one who, after a life of bright fidelity, generous sacrifice, and courage in the face of great odds, comes to the heavenly banquet and sees a spectrum of other children there. Some of them have had a far easier time of it on earth. Others seem surprised at being there themselves. A few (many? all?) really didn't even deserve to be there. To each God says, "Welcome, dear and precious one; all I have is yours."

Upon being asked whether the rewards are unfair or whether she would have lived her life differently, this third child says, "No. I would do it all over."

Fr John Kavanaugh

Fr Kavanaugh was a professor of Philosophy at St. Louis University in St. Louis