

Reading RosterDate: **29th/30th October**

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Mass Time: | VIGIL | 8:00AM | 9:30AM |
| Priest: | Fr Gregory Jacobs | Fr Benedict | Fr Benedict |
| Acolyte: | Ed Junis | Randall Noney | John Belfanti |
| Commentator: | Margaret Smith | Jim Gresser | Ingrid Merchant |
| First Reading: | Wilhelmina de Raadt | Cecilia Hunt | Katherine Mahns |
| Second Reading: | Lynette Boyd | Kim Crawford | Steve Bishop |

Date: **5th/6th November**

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Mass Time: | VIGIL | 8:00AM | 9:30AM |
| Priest: | Fr Shinto | Fr Shinto | Fr Shinto |
| Acolyte: | Roshan Rupesinghe | Randall Noney | Richard Merchant |
| Commentator: | Felix Kobus | Kim Crawford | Matt Aldous |
| First Reading: | Lynette Boyd | Cecilia Hunt | Phillip Saville |
| Second Reading: | Colleen Baker | Jim Gresser | Steve Bishop |
| Music: | Andrew Wilson | | Chris Wilson |

READERS:
Please see the Acolyte
rostered on when you
arrive at Mass

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
 PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777
 Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email: 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
Parish Pastoral Council: email - springwoodppc@gmail.com
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
Healing Mass: 1st Friday of the month 9.30am
Rosary & Devotions: Tuesday-Saturday 9.00am
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

ALL SOUL'S DAY

November 2 – Commemoration
 Liturgical Colour: White, Violet or Black

The earthly Church prays for the Church in Purgatory in hope of a reunion in Heaven

Every country has a civic feast day dedicated to soldiers who died for the nation. Every country has a tomb of the unknown soldier where an honour guard stands solemnly erect near an unnamed hero whose grave represents all the unknowns who never walked off the ship to hug their wife, who never met their parents at the airport and drove home. All Souls Day is like such Memorial Days and Tombs of the Unknown. Because of the Church's ancient pedigree, timeless customs, and unmatched role in shaping cultures, it is more apt to say, though, that civic customs and ceremonies imitate the Church's practice rather than the opposite.

The Feast of All Souls is the Catholic Memorial Day. Today the Church commemorates the souls of all the baptised who have died and yet who do not yet enjoy life with God in heaven. It is Catholic teaching that souls needing post-death purification can benefit from the prayers, alms, sacrifices, and Mass offerings of souls on earth. The Old Testament recounts the Jewish belief that the deceased benefit from temple sacrifice made on their behalf (2 Maccabees 12:42-46). Continuing this practice, prayers for the dead were offered by Christians from the very earliest years of the Church. The walls of the Christian catacombs of Rome were crowded with innumerable marble plaques in succinct Latin praying for the dead. There has never been a time when the Church has not commemorated, remembered, and prayed for the dead.

Few die with their souls so perfectly purified from sin and imperfection that they proceed directly to the Beatific Vision. No one is prepared for a ten thousand amp light to shine into their eyeballs the moment they awake. Nor at the moment of death would most be prepared for the intense light of God Himself to gaze into our imperfect souls. We would simply not be ready for such a holy searchlight examining our every dark corner. The soul first needs to be purified. Its sins must first be burned away in the fire of God's merciful love. This is purgatory. It is the ante-chamber of heaven, the place of waiting and preparation where the soul is readied to enter and absorb the whitest of God's light. But souls in purgatory have no free will or ability to atone by themselves for themselves. They depend on us. They advance in purification due to our prayers and offerings for them. This is why we pray for the dead and offer Masses for their advancement into heaven.

The Feast of All Souls, then, is much more than a spiritual family reunion where we visit the graves of our ancestors and recall with a tear all the good times. All Souls Day longs for a deeper bond, for an ultimate reunion with God at the head of the family in heaven with all His saints and angels.

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and console us. As we renew our faith in your Son, whom You raised from the dead; strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in His resurrection; who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

All Holy Souls, our prayers and Mass offerings are directed to you this day, in the hope that what we do on earth may benefit your advancement toward a fully divine life in heaven where you may, in turn, pray that we may one day join you there.

It is an honoured custom, as well, to visit the graves of our deceased on this day, both to pray at the place where their bodies, hallowed in life by the sacraments, await the General Resurrection, and to leave some mark of esteem, such as flowers, to adorn their graves.

ROMANS 5

*“Brothers and Sisters,
 Hope does not disappoint, because
 the love of God has been poured
 out into our hearts through
 the Holy Spirit that has been
 given to us.”*

A POEM TO SIT WITH**Solemnity of All Saints**

*Christ
 the Truth or the lie
 that first step of faith
 toward truth of the lie
 for life or death
 Is a choice
 we seek in the light
 of Christ.*

J. Janda

Today's Readings: Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 2:2, Luke 19:1-10
Entrance Antiphon: Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God loved the world so much he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungarra people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to elders both past and present.


Recently Deceased: Phillip Gregory Reid

Sick: Brian Hickey, Baby Leonardo Diaz, Ross Baker, 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 Diocesan News

VINNIES CLOTHING BINS: We regret to inform you that our St Vincent de Paul charity clothing bins have been removed. Due to the misuse of this community initiative, and the clean-up bills, which were increasing weekly, the charity bins were no longer viable to have on our property.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: If you are interested in being part of this wonderful ministry, please complete one of the yellow forms around the Church and place into the Pastoral Council box at the back of the Church. Thank you.

ALL SOULS DAY MASS: at St Thomas Aquinas Church. Fr Shinto welcomes you to join him: November is the month that we remember family and friends that have gone before us in faith. We would like to honour those loved ones by saying Mass on Wednesday evening 2nd November, 6.00pm.

DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS ANNUAL MASS: All parishioners are invited to attend a Mass which will be celebrated to the Repose of the Souls of family members commencing at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 16th November. A candle ceremony will be part of the celebration of the Mass so if you would like your loved one remembered by lighting a candle, which your family member will place on the sanctuary, please contact the Parish office by the week ending Friday, 11th November 2022. A framed photo of your loved one may be placed on the sanctuary before the commencement of Mass (prior to 7.00pm).

CAKE STALL: On **Saturday morning November 12th**, the Springtime **CAKE STALL** of the Springwood East Timor Support Group will be held in the Town Square in Springwood's Macquarie Road. Anyone who would like to contribute some cakes, slices, jams or other goodies for sale could contact Dennis Farrar 0425209840 for further details. Thanks to those who have already promised to contribute.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The forms for the PPC are situated in the back of the church for collection if wishing to participate in service to our parish community.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE: A Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated at 9.30am on **Saturday, 12th November, 2022**, in Our Lady of the Nativity Church, Lawson to remember the life and achievements of Fr Theo Arrivoli, Lawson Parish Priest from 1998 to 2010, who went home to God on 4th August, 2022, aged 100. As the Mass will be followed by a morning tea, attendance numbers for catering purposes are required by Sunday, 6th November. If you are able to attend, please contact Paula Currie on 0416 185 651.

FUND RAISER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP: Special Concert – Phillips Hall, Blackheath Community Centre, Sunday 6th November – 2pm to 4:30pm. Starving popular, award winning, hilarious songsters and vaudeville entertainers Mic Conway and Robbie Long Special Guest – Kenya Wilkins – original composer and singer – including interview with Meg Benson about Kenya's recent collaboration with imprisoned refugees Accompanied by The Heathens – Blackheath's own talented choir. Tickets available through Humanitix - <https://events.humanitix.com/mic-conway-fundraiser>

READERS WANTED: If any parishioners would like to contribute during the Mass by way of participating in reading the commentary or one of the readings could you please give your names and available Mass times to the parish office. Thankyou.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

2 Thessalonians 1:11 – 2:2; Luke 19:1-10

In November, we move closer to the end of this Liturgical Cycle and the readings direct our attention towards the future that we believe awaits us when Jesus returns at the end of time. In the early church, that was a very real expectation that believers would see this glorious day of Christ's return. As history has passed, the urgency of this longing has also decreased. Our scientific knowledge of the age of our cosmos and its continuing expansion also can make it difficult for us to sense what faith teaches – that ultimately all creation will be caught up in Christ's great surrender to God.

The letter to the Thessalonians is the earliest writing in the New Testament written by Paul in the early 50's, around twenty years after the death of Jesus. By this time Paul has been involved for some years in a mission beyond Judaism to the Gentiles. Thessalonica, in northern Greece is one of the places he visited on his second missionary journey. Paul encourages this community to continue in their faith while awaiting the coming of Jesus. You might notice that Paul indicates that he expects to be alive at this time of the second coming, for he writes that 'we shall all be gathered around him'. Since the letters to the Thessalonians are the earliest writings of Paul, this is one of the earliest times we find the name Jesus linked with two titles – Lord (Greek: *kyrios*) and Christ (Hebrew: *messiah*). Paul brings together titles from within Judaism (*messiah*) and (*kyrios*) from the Greco-Roman culture. The title 'Lord' (*kyrios/domine*) was beginning to be applied to the Roman Emperor signifying his divine honours, often with the sense of his far reaching authority. At the end of time, Jesus' Lordship over all will be revealed. When Paul speaks of 'the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,' he uses another word borrowed from his culture – *Parousia*. This was a political word to describe the city's preparation for the arrival of the Emperor on his formal visitation of that city. Paul's words are very provocative; for Christians, Jesus is now our Lord, not the Emperor.

In Luke 19, Jesus is nearing the end of his long journey from Galilee, which began in Luke 9 to Jerusalem. Jericho is the last major place before the final stage of the walk up to Jerusalem. The story of Zacchaeus acts out the teaching of last Sunday's parable of God's mercy to the sinner, and repeats its message. Jesus comes to Jericho, and of all the people in that village, he singles out the one most in need, the senior tax collector. Jesus gives himself to Zacchaeus, just as he now is. He imposes no conditions and simply says, 'Come down, it is necessary that I stay at your house today.' The necessity is caused by Zacchaeus' neediness. Jesus responds to him and offers to eat with him, the village outcast. You can imagine how others might be feeling. Jesus' words to Zacchaeus are like the free ticket to Heaven I wrote about last week. In response to Jesus' offer Zacchaeus changes. He recognises the utter generosity of God and makes the only appropriate response, humble gratitude and generosity in return. In the gift, its reception and the generous response Jesus recognises Salvation has happened for Zacchaeus. He has that free ticket to heaven.

When Jesus says, 'I must stay' – or more literally, 'it is necessary that I stay at your house', this type of passive expression is referred to as 'the divine necessity'. As part of Jesus' mission to seek out the poor and the lost, he must necessarily find a home with the social and religious outcasts. Their state of need calls out to God to come to their aid. In our neediness and poverty may we continue to place our hope in the gracious generosity of God. In the words of the psalms, 'May God support the fallen, and raise up those bowed down.'

Throughout this year, Luke has presented us again and again, with a portrait of Jesus bringing the mercy of God to all people, particularly those who might see themselves as living outside such mercy. Jesus' consistent message has been, 'You are welcome; the kingdom is for all, and none of us are worthy.'

Dr Mary Coloe PBVM is a Presentation sister and teaches in the field of New Testament studies at the Yarra Theological Union.

REFLECTION BY MICHAEL TATE OVER THE TOP

Zacchaeus was an over-the-top character, not only figuratively but, in this incident, quite literally up in a sycamore tree. He thought he was keeping an eye out for Jesus, but Jesus was keeping an eye out for his sort of character!

'Zacchaeus' means 'clean'. But his fellow Jews regarded him as a filthy collaborator with the Romans. However, Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus in a double perspective, not only as he was but as he could become if only he responded to the grace on offer. He did, and the response was truly 'over the top'!

We come to Mass to catch a glimpse of Jesus in the scriptures and sacrament. But, we find that our Risen Lord is constantly gazing at us. He is the Divine Seer who sees us as we are, but also as we are capable of becoming.

We could pause for a moment to pray to become more conscious of the gaze of the Divine Seer. There could be 'over-the-top' consequences!

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971.