

Reading Roster

Date:	31st December/1st January		
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Colleen Baker	Kim Crawford	Anne Ellis
First Reading:	Margaret Smith	Cecilia Hunt	Domhnall MacCormac
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Jim Gressser	Ingrid Merchant
Music:	Andrew Wilson		Chris Wilson

Date:	7th/8th January 2023		
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Richard Merchant	John Belfanti
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Cecilia Hunt	Steve Bishop
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Kim Crawford	Phillip Saville
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Ros Comfort	Katherine Mahns
Music:	Chris Wilson		E Street Band

Special Religious Educators



We, the Springwood team of scripture teachers (or SRE's as we are called now) would like to thank our parishioners for their prayers this year to support us.

We are very grateful as we have actually been able to teach most of our lessons (as opposed to 2021 which was a difficult year for everyone).

In 2023, we would like to hear from any of our parishioners who would like to learn how we are able to teach these lessons (*which are prepared for us*). You will learn even more about your faith than the children will!

When you read this notice, you probably are in our church, celebrating together.

Most of the children we teach have not been inside a church, or know what praying means. What a privilege to be able to help them. Once you have done the beginning requirements, we update these every year. We are given teacher manuals, which give us all the information we need to teach each lesson, and the children receive a lovely work book for the same lessons.

If you are interested, please email the parish office or contact your SRE coordinator, Wilhelmina de Raadt on 4751 3319.

Yesterday has gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.

Mother Theresa.

May God's love light your way and lead you into a new year that shines with His special joy.

Happy New Year

Fr Paul, Fr Shinto, Ingrid and Debbie

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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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

The parish office will be closed until 8.30am Friday, 20th January 2023

You may contact us via email or leave a message on our answer phone

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:16-21

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

Behold the glory of the Lord,
uprooted, homeless;
poor shepherds, a manger,
a star.

She pondered
all these things,
tried to make some
sense of their meaning,
mullied them over in her heart,
preserving, remembering, treasuring.

There were no final answers, though.
She searched for and found signs
of the Spirit's movements.
And that was enough for her.

Oh God, make it enough
for us.

Anne Osdieck

THE FIRST READING

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

God says to us,

"I will bless you & keep you!
I will look upon you kindly and let the
splendor of my face shine upon you.
And grant you peace and grace and wholeness!"

We invoke your name, O God.

Look on all of us kindly.

Please bless us,
everyone.

Today's Readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Entrance Antiphon: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8. R. v

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

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



Sick: Barry Morris, Brian Hickey, Baby Leonardo Diaz, 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

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE: Join us on Friday 27th January for a summer school holiday event Cinema Under the Stars! We will be showing the Song of the Sea, a beautiful tale of Ben, a young Irish boy and his sister Saoirse. Filled with a gorgeous flowing style this touching animation tells of their adventures to free the fairies and save the spirit world. This Oscar nominated film has been critically acclaimed due to its unique style and is the second film from Cartoon Salon and Tom Moore, the creators of The Secret of Kells. Doors open at 7.20pm, screening starts at 8pm. Pack a picnic dinner and bring along a chair, pillow or a rug! \$8 / \$5 InSight Members. Book your spot via Eventbrite: bmculturalcentre.eventbrite.com

SPECIAL STORYTIME THURSDAY: Thursday Jan 12th 11:00am - 12:00pm, Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub, Springwood (Meeting Room 1). Bring your 3 - 7 year old along to a special Storytime. We'll have all your favourite things about Storytime – books, songs and craft – but with some extra pizzazz. Come dressed up for a dragon theme – we'll have a set of wings and a dragon mask for you to decorate. Book a ticket for all attending (including adults). Places are limited! Bookings Essential! If you have any queries, please contact us during business hours.

IRONER AND WASHER OF CHURCH CLOTHS WANTED: We are seeking a volunteer to help our Parish Priests by taking the altar cloths (of various sizes), which are used every day, home on a weekly basis to wash and iron then return. If you can help, please speak with the parish office. Thank you.

CLEANING ROSTER: The new cleaning roster, taking us up to April 2023 is available for collection at the back of the church. Thank you to these lovely ladies who keep our Church looking beautiful.

CARPET CLEAN: On Thursday 12th January, the pews will be moved from their original position, late morning while the carpets are fumigated. This process may take longer than the afternoon and if this is the case, we will have Mass over in the Parish office on Friday, 13th January. We will advise you if this is the case.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE MEAL: The parishes of the Blue Mountains Deanery will host the Epiphany Pilgrimage from 2-8th January 2023. You can be part of the celebrations and help welcome the pilgrims to our beautiful mountains by assisting with the festive meal when they visit us at STA parish on Tuesday, 3rd January. Please contact Colleen Kime on 4754 4335 or leave your details at the parish office.

DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS: A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday, 11th February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVP's are required by Monday, 6th February 2023 to met@parracatholic.org

SAFEGUARDING FOR VOLUNTEERS:

All volunteers who are part of our church (Acolytes, SRE Teachers, Children's Liturgy Helpers, Readers etc) are required to complete the Safeguarding Training to be compliant with the Child Safe Scheme. In parish life we will all come into contact with children and adults at risk either directly or indirectly. In the Diocese of Parramatta, we have a 'zero tolerance of abuse'. We all want our parishes to be safe spaces for all who worship with us. (Ref: <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-scheme>).

There will be a one off training day for everyone, here at the church, on **Saturday, 11th February starting at 10.15am, directly after morning Mass.**

Please register please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org OR via the parish office

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org



Office for Safeguarding

The Word Engaged

First the Saviour, Then the Sending

“Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” (Gospel)

My father, a year before he died, said to me (I thought), “It’s amazing how fast the year goes by.”

It was late spring, and my term of teaching was closing out, so it was easy to agree. “Yes, I can’t believe it’s April already. I hardly know my students’ names.”

“No,” he said, “not this year. The years. I can’t believe how fast the last thirty years went.”

My mother, a few years later, offered her own observation about the passing of time. A young mother of three seemed to ask her, “Isn’t it wonderful, now that you have time to do all the things you want without all the demands and rush of a growing family?”

“No,” my mother said. “I would be perfectly happy to have those kids running around, especially if I could see then what I see now. But now is also good, and I’m going to appreciate it all while it’s still here.”

Sometimes the years seem to hurtle by. There are those days when I, my parents’ child, wonder: How do I let it all get away so fast? How can I hold on to it better? How can I see it better?

Well, at least numbering the years helps. Like birthdays and the change of seasons, the marking of a New Year invites us to remembrance and recollection. We all could learn a thing or two from that old religious practice of singing the *Te Deum* (God, We Praise You) on December 31: a day to thank God for all the days, a moment to bless all the moments of mind and heart, breath and sight. A time to “see” and savour.

It is our celebration of Mary, the Mother of God, who “treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart,” that starts our new year. And the Gospel tells us of shepherds who took time to approach the mystery and wondrously saw Mary and Joseph and the child. “Once they saw, they understood.”

Even the ancient feast of the Epiphany celebrates our seeing, our witnessing of the mystery that God could take our very flesh and bones. In the light of the Incarnation, with the “showing” of God in Jesus, all is changed, all human ordinariness transformed, all of the commonplace transfigured and blessed.

A sense of how God “shows” in each day, how grace is manifest in every numbered year, allows us to take possession of our moments gently as time flashes by. We develop a richer taste for life itself, and our thanksgiving reaches deeper into our being.

If we fully enter into the revelation of Christmas, if we truly savour it and thereby savour the lives we’ve been gifted with, we may find ourselves joining the long march of witnesses, sent to all times and nations, to bestow the blessing of God that the Book of Numbers gave to us: “The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look kindly upon you and give you peace.”

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

New Year’s is a day of new beginnings, goals, celebrations, reflections and it’s also one of the most special days in the Church – the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. One week after we celebrate the birth of Christ, we give thanks to His Mother. This solemnity is also the final day in the Octave of Christmas and the World Day of Peace.

