

Reading Roster

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	Jim Gresser	Anne Ellis
Music:	Chris Wilson		E Street Band

Date: **14th/15th January 2023**

Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Ed Junis
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Kim Crawford	Phillip Saville
First Reading:	Margaret Hickey	Jim Gresser	Domnhall MacCormac
Second Reading:	Margaret Smith	Cecilia Hunt	Ingrid Merchant
Music:			Chris Wilson

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says Pope Benedict XVI will long be remembered fondly in Australia as the Pontiff who led young people from around the globe in prayer at World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

Pope Benedict, born Joseph Ratzinger, led the Church from April 2005 until February 2013, becoming the first Pope in centuries to resign. He had earlier served as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, one of the Vatican's most influential departments, for more than two decades.

Pope Benedict died in Rome, where he had lived since his papal retirement, on Saturday evening, Australian time.

"From his time as an expert adviser – or peritus – at the Second Vatican Council onwards, there was no question that Joseph Ratzinger was a major figure within the Church around the world," said Archbishop Costelloe, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

"His papacy will be remembered as one of rich teaching, including his encyclicals on love, hope and truth, as well as his book series *Jesus of Nazareth*, and for important reforms in areas like liturgy and in the handling of child sexual abuse."

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, the bishop who oversaw World Youth Day in 2008, said Pope Benedict had been a key influence and someone with whom he became close. "I had the great privilege of spending some private moments with Pope Benedict, away from the spotlight," Archbishop Fisher said.

"They were moments I will forever cherish. He had a great intellect, which he shared through his work as a professor, a Church leader and ultimately as Pope. "He did not seek nor enjoy the spotlight, but he produced some magnificent works that have shaped and will continue to shape Catholic thought and Catholic life."

Archbishop Fisher said he was very grateful to spend some time with Pope Benedict during his visits to Rome.

"Reminiscing about his time in Australia and learning from this gentle father figure was a real joy," he said.

With thanks to the ACBC.

<https://catholicoutlook.org/church-in-australia-mourns-death-of-pope-benedict-xvi/>

Each of us is a result of a thought of God.

Each of us is willed

Each of us is loved

Each of us is necessary.

Pope Benedict XVI



A 20 July 2008 file image of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI attending the Final Mass at the Southern Cross Precinct at Randwick Racecourse during World Youth Day Sydney 2008. Image: World Youth Day/Supplied

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

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Look!
Look up,
O Jerusalem!
The world is coming,
running to walk in your light.

We are the sparkling and dull,
the border agents and
the undocumented,
the kings and the drifters.

Lord, please
shine your light upon us all.
Let your star chase away our darkness
and fill us with your radiant love.
Make us into epiphanies
overflowing with wonderful
care for each other.

Anne Osdieck

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

*Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the lord shines upon you.*

Morning has come.

Its gentle light spills over all.
Caravans come, nations stretch to see.

Hearts open up their sleepy eyes
to the radiance that you
have poured
out on us.

Help us too
to awaken.

Today's Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

VIGIL Entrance Antiphon: Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 - **R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

VIGIL Communion Antiphon: The brightness of God illuminated the holy city of Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

MASS DURING THE DAY Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and domination.

MASS DURING THE DAY Communion Antiphon: We have seen his star in the East, the have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**Recently Deceased: Patricia Schirato, Pope Benedict XVI**

Sick: Barry Morris, 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.

**PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO THE GLENMORE PARK COMMUNITY:**

Please join our Parish community in **praying for Nicholas Tadros** who is in a serious and critical condition in hospital after an horrific helicopter accident in Queensland.

We pray for Vanessa Tadros. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Simon Tadros, their extended family, St Padre Pio Parish, Bethany Primary School and the Glenmore Park community.

"But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord". Jeremiah 30:17 (Holy Land Prayer)

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ~Matthew 2:10-11

All of God's creation gives Him glory and praises Him by its very existence. Psalm 143 states, "Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all shining stars. Praise him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens. Let them all praise the LORD's name; for he commanded and they were created..." Though creation gives praise to God simply by existing and thus, revealing its Creator, today's solemnity commemorates the one moment in time when God used a star to manifest His eternal glory.

At the time of Jesus' birth, it was commonly believed that a new star would appear whenever a new ruler was born. The Father in Heaven used this belief to honour His Son Who was born as the new King. The three Magi from the East were astrologers. When they saw this "new star," they chose to follow it to discover the new King. Creation itself, in the form of a star, pointed the way, thus giving glory to the newborn King, manifesting Him to the whole world as symbolised by the Magi.

The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation." Therefore, as we honour this moment in time when the Christ Child was made manifest to the world, we need to look into our own hearts. There, we discover Christ's ongoing manifestation to us so that we can worship Him Who has also chosen to be born within our hearts. We must diligently seek out that manifestation of God within us and respond to it in the same ways that the Magi responded.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, try to see it as a historical event in which you are invited to share. God wants to manifest Himself to you today. When this happens, you must respond with faith and worship, giving God the greatest glory by giving Him your very life and offering Him your spiritual gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/january-6-epiphany/>

2023 COMBINED First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Sacramental Program - 6 Week preparation

We invite you and your child to be part of our 2023 First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Sacramental Program. This program will be conducted as one combined preparation in 2023 instead of two separate programs as both themes are connected. These sacraments will be in group sessions in a home or parish-based environment.

Age: Children in Year 3 or older in 2023, who have not yet received Reconciliation are invited to participate.

Meetings: Please come along to both Parent Meetings on Monday, 13th February and Thursday, 16th February (same week) 7pm at St Thomas Aquinas Church. (Not necessary for candidates to attend)

What do I bring along to the first meeting? Please bring with you a completed copy of the enrolment form (available to download via www.stachurchspringwood.org.au, hard copies at the back of the church or at the parish office) and also a copy of your child's baptism certificate.

The cost: \$40.00 per family (includes both sacraments). This covers all books required to complete both sacraments, certificates, and medal (medal - Holy Communion only). Payable via eftpos on the first parent evening.

Presentation of Candidates and Families at Mass: 18th February 5.00pm or 19th February 8.00am or 9.30am.

First Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday, 15th March at 7.00pm and Holy Communion on Friday, 24th March at 7.00pm (Please note new date)

Please refer to our website for further information : www.stachurchspringwood.org.au

SAFEGUARDING FOR VOLUNTEERS: An Invitation to Face-to-Face Training

St Thomas Aquinas will be presenting the Mandatory Safeguarding Training onsite for our parish community, on **Saturday 11th February 2023**.

The schedule for the day will be:

- 10.00am - Module 1: Understanding Safeguarding & the Child Safe Standards
- 11.00am - Morning Tea
- 11.30am - Module 2: Legal Compliance: Risk of Significant Harm & Reportable Conduct
- 1:00pm - Lunch
- 1.30pm - Module 3: Working with Adults at Risk & Understanding Boundaries
- 3.00pm - Finish

Volunteers across the Diocese are asked to participate in this training to ensure our parishes are inclusive and safe for children and adults at risk.

Our participation is an expression of our personal commitment to living the values of the Gospel in this modern world. It is also an opportunity to show how we can combine our gifts and talents to ensure our parish is a faith-filled and welcoming community for all people.

Please contact the Parish Office to register for the Face-to-Face Training session:

email: springwood@parracatholic.org

I am looking forward to working with you all in ensuring that, together, we are building a safe parish for all our faith community.

Maria Kervin
Community Engagement and Education Officer
Office of Safeguarding, Diocese of Parramatta



Office for Safeguarding

WHY should I sign up for Mandatory Safeguarding Training?

- ✚ All people involved in parish life have a collective responsibility to ensure our parish life is safe and inclusive for all.
- ✚ We have a special responsibility to care for children and adults at risk.
- ✚ Religious organisations are now required by law to ensure their volunteers who are involved in ministries that may directly or indirectly come in contact with children and/or adults at risk are supported with Mandatory Safeguarding Training.
- ✚ This is a real opportunity to join with Bishop Vincent and work together at a Parish level to demonstrate that the Parish of St Thomas Aquinas has a zero tolerance of abuse in any form.

WHO should register for Mandatory Safeguarding Training?

- ≈ Are you involved in a ministry that works directly with children? (Acolytes, SRE Teachers, Children's Liturgy Helpers, Readers etc)
- ≈ Do you have a Working With Children Check?
- ≈ Are you involved in a ministry that operates through liturgies and parish events?
- ≈ Are you involved in a ministry that may directly or indirectly come into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults?
- ≈ Are you curious and would like to know more about keeping parishes safe?