

Reading Roster

Date:	25th/26th March 2023		5th Sunday of Lent
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	John Belfanti	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Kim Crawford	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Cecilia Hunt	Steve Bishop
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Peta Sparkes
Music:			Streeters
Date:	1st/2nd April 2023		Palm Sunday
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Ed Junis
Commentator:	Ingrid Merchant	Cecilia Hunt	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Steve Bishop	Michael Lloyd	Anne Edwards
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Jim Gresser	Peta Sparkes
Music:	Chris Wilson		

Weekend Mass Collections

Thank you for your contributions to both the first and second collections, credit card, using the Tap and Go, Commonwealth Bank machine or by way of the Parish Bank Account.

The FIRST COLLECTION:

This is used by the Diocese to pay for all Diocesan Clergy so that they are all supported equally.

The SECOND COLLECTION:

(and both tap machines) goes directly to OUR CHURCH for the upkeep and running of our Parish.

Please see the office if you would like to consider a monthly contribution by way of direct debit or by way of credit card

Our bank details are as follows:

Parish Name: Springwood

BSB: 067-950

Account: 00000560 (must include all the zero's)

A big 'THANK YOU' to all those parishioners who currently contribute each week, fortnight or month to our Parish. Fr Paul

EASTER MASS TIMES 2023:

Saturday 1st April, Palm Sunday VIGIL 5.00 pm

Sunday 2nd April, Palm Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am

Reconciliation for Easter - Monday 3rd April, 7.00 pm

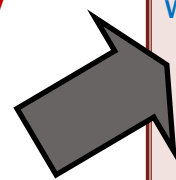
Thursday 6th April, Thursday of the Lords Supper 7.00 pm

Friday 7th April, Stations of the Cross 10.00 am and Passion of the Lord 3.00 pm

Saturday 8th April, Holy Saturday VIGIL 5.00 pm

Sunday 9th April, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 8.00 am and 9.30 am

There are no 9.30am Masses on Thursday of the Lords Supper, Good Friday and Holy Saturday



We are seeking volunteers for the following

Easter Masses:

Readers for Palm Sunday VIGIL 5.00pm

Readers for Palm Sunday 8.00am Mass

Readers for Palm Sunday 9.30am Mass

Readers for Holy Thursday (Lords Supper) 7.00pm

Volunteers for the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday

Readers for Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10.00am

Readers for Good Friday Passion of the Lord 3.00pm

Readers for Holy Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Readers for Easter Sunday 8.00am Mass

Readers for Easter Sunday 9.30am Mass

We would appreciate as many volunteers as possible to make our Easter celebration special.

Please email the parish office on springwood@parracatholic.org and let us know where you can help. Thank you.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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



Parish Email:	<i>email: springwood@parracatholic.org</i>
Parish Website:	www.stchurchspringwood.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:	Suggestions to the Box at the Back of the Church
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:	Monday-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 Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

You are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Spirit of God,

what would it have been without you?
Days without sunlight,
kites with no wind.

Shine on our flesh and breathe in our souls.

Be the beginning and ending of all that we are and do.

Humbly we ask that you give your life to our weary, mortal souls.

A Poem to Sit With

JESUS SPEAKS

Whether you live or whether you die

you are in my hands

Oh, I have a plan for you

if only you could trust me.

J. Janda

Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:25, 26

Entrance Antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.



Sick: Ray Lyons, Lally Sabater, 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

ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH SPRINGWOOD CHOIR: is currently looking for more singers with ALL VOICE TYPES. So if YOU enjoy singing and would like to join this happy group, we practice most Monday nights weekly 7.30pm-9.00pm in the Church. We sing at the 9.30am Mass on the first Sunday of each month. You will be made very welcome, and all music is supplied. St Augustine once said *"To sing at Mass is to sing twice"*. For more information please contact either Chris Wilson 0425 290 952, or Margaret Hickey 4751 2343 (with answering machine if unattended).

MORNING TEA: Morning Tea will recommence in the Parish in **April**. Parishioners who wish to **assist with the preparations** for Morning Tea should contact Colleen Kime on 0407 125 427.

LAUDATO SI: "The external deserts in the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast. For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion" (LS 217).

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a Parish Pastoral Council Meeting on Tuesday, 18th April. The Parish Pastoral Council would like to inform our parishioners that there will be a meeting on the 18th April. If you would like to add an item on to the agenda please add your suggestions to the **BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH**.

OUR ALTAR EXPLAINED: The simplicity of our faith has pared it back as we are reminded to come together at this time of Lent, to pray, to give alms, to receive the sacraments, and to fast - all bringing us back to God, the Father. The *ashes* in the glass vase, the dried flowers (representing wheat) and the sand (the desert) are our reminder of the food to nourish us on our journey, our coming together and our faith in humanity.

BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL: This weekend, our parish is supporting the Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishops Good Shepherd Appeal. Your generosity will enable our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park to provide for the education and formation of the faithful men who have answered God's call to become priests. As our Diocese continues to grow, we need to train more visionary young men to join our 11 seminarians in becoming good shepherds of Christ's flock. Your prayerful support and accompaniment will enable our seminarians, to pursue their vocation of a life of humble service as priests in our Diocese. Please give generously via the giving envelopes on the pews and place into any of the collection baskets.

ONLINE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - STA WEBSITE: We offer these Stations for the modern world (*in terms of what is happening in our world today*) as a resource for use during the season of Lent. We hope that the content of these resources will help you reflect on some of the many issues that challenge and concern us at this time. <https://stachurchspringwood.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/The-Way-of-the-Cross-2023.pdf>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Please join us for the Stations of the Cross, which will be held each Friday night during Lent at 7:30pm in the Church. All are welcome.

RECONCILIATION: A reminder to all our parishioners that we have 2nd Rite of Reconciliation on Monday, 3rd April 7pm. Everyone is welcome.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: Teresa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children.

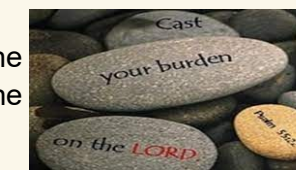
Once Teresa became pregnant with her first child at the age of 16, she left school. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Teresa's only concern was finding stability for her children. Seeking a better future for her family, Teresa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Teresa access housing and psychological support. Today, Teresa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the back of our church, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Basket of Stones

Next to the vase of sand is a basket which we would like you to place a stone for the coming weeks of Lent. **What is the symbolism of this stone?** It is a symbol of the burdens we carry. **Bring this burden forward to God and let it go.**



Sometimes you don't feel the weight of something you've been carrying until you feel the weight of its release.

GLANCING THOUGHTS - The Desires of the Heart

When Lazarus died, Mary of Bethany must have been heartbroken. You can see why she would have been. She loved her brother Lazarus, and she trusted and loved Jesus. Like everybody else in her community, she knew that Jesus could heal sick people. So when her brother got sick and she knew that Jesus was nearby, she turned to him for help. Then she waited three desperate and increasingly miserable days. During those days Jesus didn't come, and Lazarus died. And so she was devastated. Her beloved brother was dead, and her beloved Jesus seemed to have disregarded her entirely in her time of need. She must have felt sure that she had lost the desires of her heart and lost them irretrievably. But what the story of the raising of Lazarus shows is that a person can feel sure about such things and still be altogether mistaken. Mary wasn't entirely wrong. She had this much accurate insight into herself: she was right in thinking that it was her heart's desire to have her brother and to be loved by Jesus. But she was mistaken about what the fulfillment of those desires would be. She thought that she could have the desires of her heart only in case Jesus came to her to heal her brother before he died. Consequently, when Lazarus did die, Mary thought that she had lost what she wanted most. What the story makes clear, though, is that the Lord can know better than a human person does what she most wants. We are not surprised if the Lord knows better than we do what is good for us, and we generally expect that good to be something we don't want. But in this story the Lord knows better than Mary what she herself actually wants. When Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, Mary has her brother, and is loved by Jesus in a way more deeply fulfilling to her and more glorious than the mere healing of her brother in his sickness would have been. And here is the thing to notice: Jesus was in the process of giving her what she wanted most even as she was firmly persuaded that she had lost it forever. And so the story helps us see that the Lord can be trusted even with the deepest distress of the hearts of those who are his own. As the Psalmist promises (Ps 37:4), the Lord will give the desires of their hearts to those who put their trust in him.

Eleonore Stump is Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University

We would like to Welcome our 2023 First Holy Communicants

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Charlotte Babbage</i> | <i>William Lo Cascio</i> | <i>Henry Baddock</i> | <i>Fletcher Mc Donagh</i> |
| <i>Lleyton Bonnici</i> | <i>Catherine Moore</i> | <i>Aidan Burke</i> | <i>Olivia Morgan</i> |
| <i>Edward Carroll</i> | <i>Harriet Murphy</i> | <i>Jonas Christofi</i> | <i>Willow Nassif</i> |
| <i>Anthony Daw</i> | <i>Annabelle Shields</i> | <i>Matthew Daw</i> | <i>Manuel-Marques Sidarous</i> |
| <i>Cody Dickens</i> | <i>Matthew Sidarous</i> | <i>Vincent Dickens</i> | <i>Noah Smith</i> |
| <i>Thomas Falzon</i> | <i>Harry Smith</i> | <i>James Hackett</i> | <i>Khalan Thomas</i> |
| <i>Talen Hagelburg</i> | <i>Zoe Wilcox</i> | <i>Ethan Leece</i> | <i>Minami Wycisk</i> |
| <i>Claudia Lloyd</i> | | | |

May God's love and protection be with you on your First Holy Communion and remain with you always.