

**Reading Roster**

Date:	<b>18th/19th March 2023</b>		<b>4th Sunday of Lent</b>
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Ed Junis
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Phillip Saville
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Matt Aldous
Second Reading:	Felix Kobus	Kim Crawford	Margaret Hickey
Music:	Andrew Wilson		Chris Wilson
Date:	<b>25th/26th March 2023</b>		
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

**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](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org) and let us know where you can help. Thank you.

**St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin**

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777  
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Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email:	<i>email: <a href="mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org">springwood@parracatholic.org</a></i>
Parish Website:	<a href="http://www.stchurchspringwood.org.au">www.stchurchspringwood.org.au</a>
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:	email - <a href="mailto:springwoodppc@gmail.com">springwoodppc@gmail.com</a>
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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**We offer you a tea light candle to take home with you this weekend.**

*Let us humbly ask Christ to open our eyes that we may see his presence in our Eucharistic community and in our world.*

**O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.**

**The Second Reading**

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

*But now you are light in the Lord.*

Christ,  
cast your  
light upon us  
and  
twinkle upon  
every sorry place,  
every wonderful face,  
everyone who might need  
your grace.  
Amen.

Anne Osdieck

**Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 8:12**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who are in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 22

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

**Recently Deceased: Frederick Debnam**

**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**

**HOLY WATER BOTTLES:** We would like to offer Holy Water in small bottles to take home at our Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and are requesting the donation of small bottles (plastic or glass) to be handed in to the parish office (or into the basket at the back of the church) at your earliest convenience so these can be washed and sanitised ready for the Vigil. Thank you.

**CHARASMATIC HEALING MASS:** Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Robin Koning SJ, Sunday 19th March, 2:00pm at St Nicholas of Myra Church, 326 High Street, Penrith (Car Park entry via Higgins St).

**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:** We would like reintroduce morning tea on the 1st and (maybe) 3rd Sunday of the month after the 9.30am Sunday Mass however, we require a coordinator for this to happen. If you are in a position to be able to lend some time to the parish, please speak with Debbie in the parish office.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Every third Sunday of the month at our 9.30am Mass before the Scripture readings begin, children aged between 4-12 are called forward, and sent with a blessing over to our parish rooms for a Gospel lesson. They will hear the same Scriptures that are proclaimed at Mass but explained on a level that younger children can understand. The children will return to their family in church as the offertory and Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. **The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday, 19th March, 9.30am Mass.**

**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.

**ONLINE RETREATS FOR LENT:**

<https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/len23.html> - Each day of Lent we offer: A reading from Scripture, Music to inspire (on the web and App), A short reflection.

<https://dspace2.creighton.edu/xmlui/handle/10504/92581> - A Lenten Retreat by Fr. Larry Gillick, S.J. (Year A).

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/LentOnlineRetreat/> - This Lenten Online Retreat is taken from the 34 week Online Retreat on the Online Ministries web site. It is abbreviated to be used during the Lenten Season. It begins the week Lent starts - the Sunday of the week that includes Ash Wednesday. It continues through Easter Week and the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy week).

**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:** There will be **no** Stations of the Cross on Friday, 24th March due to the Holy Communion Mass.

**LEMON TREE:** If there is anyone in our parish who has a lemon tree, with ripe lemons, Margaret Smith would appreciate some to make lemon butter for the East Timor stall please.

**WORKING BEE:** Please place Saturday, 15th April from 10am - 4:30pm in your diaries. We would like as many parishioners as possible to help us clean up our church property. We will be gardening, washing windows, etc. - everything to make our parish look beautiful again.

Bring along your gardening tools, hats, sunscreen and smiles!

It is going to be a great day. A sausage sizzle at lunch time will keep you going!

**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.*

**The Fourth Week of Lent**

With this week, we begin the second part of Lent. We ask more and more deeply to be with and like Jesus. We desire to celebrate the approaching mystery of our salvation with greater freedom and greater joy.

Each day's gospel will now be from the Gospel according to John. We can't avoid the feeling of being in a court room for a grand trial. There are "witnesses" and "testimony." It is a battle between the forces of Darkness and the Light. The opposition to Jesus mounts. It is inevitable that he will be killed. But, we know that the ultimate Judgment in the trial is against Sin and Death. We grow in gratitude and grace as we experience more deeply that this is all "for me."

**FIRST RECONCILIATION 2023**

Congratulations to the lovely group of children who had their First Reconciliation on Wednesday 15th March.



It is through Reconciliation we forgive ourselves and others; we learn from our mistakes; and that with God's help, we have the power to keep changing for the better.

*A few important dates to remember for the next week:*

**Tuesday 21st March - First Holy Communion Practice and Fourth Week of Preparation (with Mrs Breytenbach in the Church) 6:30pm**

**Friday 24th March - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 7:00pm**



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT:** Laxmi, 16, lives in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education.



With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation.

**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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.