

**Reading Roster**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>1st/2nd April 2023 Palm Sunday</b>			<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>VIGIL</b>	<b>8.00AM</b>	<b>9.30AM</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross 10:00AM</b>
<b>Priest:</b>	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	<b>Priest:</b> Fr Shinto
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Ed Junis	<b>Acolyte:</b> Ian Miles
<b>Commentator:</b>	Ingrid Merchant	Cecilia Hunt	Katherine Mahns	<b>Reader:</b> Anne Edwards
<b>First Reading:</b>	Felix Kobus	Michael Lloyd	Anne Edwards	<b>Music:</b> Chris Wilson
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Lynette Boyd	Jim Gresser	Peta Sparkes	
<b>Gospel Reading:</b>				<b>Passion of the Lord 3:00PM</b>
Jesus	Felix Kobus	Jim Gresser	Phil Saville	<b>Priest:</b> Fr Paul
Narrator	Colleen Baker	Kim Crawford	Anne Ellis	<b>Acolytes:</b> Richard Merchant, Randall Noney and Bernard Ellis
Other/Male/Female	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Michael Lloyd	Brian Edwards	<b>Readers:</b> Felix Kobus and Wilhelmina de Raadt
<b>Music:</b>	Chris Wilson			
<b>Date:</b>	<b>8th/9th April 2023 Easter Sunday</b>			<b>Gospel Readers:</b>
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>VIGIL</b>	<b>8.00AM</b>	<b>9.30AM</b>	<b>Jesus:</b> Kim Crawford
<b>Priest:</b>	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	<b>Narrator:</b> Anne Ellis
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Randall Noney	Ian Miles	Bernard Ellis	<b>Other Male/Female:</b> Felix Kobus
	Richard Merchant			
<b>Commentator:</b>	Katherine Mahns	Kim Crawford	Katherine Mahns	<b>The Solemn Intercessions:</b>
<b>First Reading:</b>	Felix Kobus	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Ellis	Trish Matchett
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Lynette Boyd	Trish Matchett	Steve Bishop	
<b>Third Reading:</b>	Dennis Farrar			
<b>Epistle Reader:</b>	Colleen Baker			
<b>Music:</b>	Chris Wilson/Choir		Streeters	

**Morning Tea Roster**

9th April after the 9:30am mass: STA Ladies Fellowship

**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 - Monday 3rd April, 7.00 pm**  
**St Thomas Aquinas Church**

Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do.

Holy Week is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us.

May our Lord grant us all the gift of reconciliation, and may we all receive it and celebrate it.

Everyone is welcome.

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**

**PALM SUNDAY**

This Sunday we hold palm branches in our hands, and wave them to greet our Lord's entry into the city of our salvation.

Last year's palms were burned to form the ashes that marked our foreheads to begin this Lenten journey.

We can place these palm branches - perhaps from each member of the family in a special place in our home (maybe cutting a small piece and putting it some place where I work).

Each day this week they can represent our celebration of his love for me.

That symbol can say so many words - all that I am about to celebrate and accept as love for me, and all the entry into Jerusalem experiences in my life.

**St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin**

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



<b>Parish Email:</b>	<i>email: springwood@parracatholic.org</i>
<b>Parish Website:</b>	www.stchurchspringwood.org.au
<b>Parish Facebook Page:</b>	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 0418 461 316
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 0415 077 969
<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	Suggestions to the Box at the Back of the Church
<b>Parish Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm
<b>Weekend Masses:</b>	Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am
<b>Weekday Mass:</b>	Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am
<b>Healing Mass:</b>	1st Friday of the month, 9.30am
<b>Rosary &amp; Devotions:</b>	Monday-Saturday 9.00am
<b>Adoration, Rosary:</b>	2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
<b>Baptisms:</b>	2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment
<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Please Contact the Parish Office
<b>Weddings:</b>	By appointment
<b>Funerals:</b>	Please Contact the Parish Office

**PROCESSION OF THE PSALMS****Matthew 21:1-11**

*The whole city was shaken and asked, "who is this?"*

**A very large crowd  
 before and behind  
 cried out with  
 "Hosanna to  
 the Son of David,"  
 as they spread their cloaks  
 and strewed leaves from the palm  
 trees,  
 preparing the way for the king to enter  
 Jerusalem.**

**The city's people were dazed  
 and they cried out.**

**Who can this be,  
 this great one?**

**Now we cry out too!  
 Who can this be?**

**We wave psalms in welcome, but we  
 ask,  
 Jesus of Nazareth, who are you to us?  
 Our God who walks alongside us?  
 A king, crowned with thorns?  
 A light that shows  
 our way to the truth?**

*Anne Osdieck*

**Today's Readings:**

**Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

Six days before the Passover,  
 when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,  
 the children ran to meet him;  
 in their hands they carried palm branches  
 and with a loud voice cried out:  
 Hosanna in the highest!  
 Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!  
 O gates, lift high your heads;  
 grow higher, ancient doors.  
 Let him enter, the king of glory!  
 Who is the king of glory?  
 He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest!  
 Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24, R. v. 2**  
 R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
 Christ became obedient for us even to death,  
 dying on the cross.  
 Therefore God raised him on high  
 And gave him a name above all other names.  
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Communion Antiphon:**

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.



**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

**CONFIRMATION SACRAMENT TERM 2, 2023:** We invite you and your child to be part of our 2023 Confirmation Sacramental Program. Children in Year 6 or older in 2023, who have not yet received Confirmation but have received Reconciliation and Holy Communion are invited to participate. Please come along to both Parent Meetings on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 6.30pm and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm (same week) at St Thomas Aquinas Church. Please bring with you a completed copy of the enrolment form (download via [www.stchurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stchurchspringwood.org.au), hard copies are available at the back of the church or at the parish office) and a copy of your child's baptism certificate.

**THREE WHITE ROSES:** "This weekend we have three white roses which are placed into the ashes on our altar. These roses symbolise Jesus as he is welcomed into Jerusalem. As Jesus' journey unfolds this Holy Week, the roses will wilt and die until the Sacred Paschal Triduum where our Lord was crucified, buried and risen. New white roses will appear out of the ashes, as a light of grace and blessing.

**PAINTING:** Our Parish has been gifted a beautiful, original oil painting and we would like to have help from someone that may know of how the art world operates and how we can sell the art to raise money for our Parish (at the donors request). If you think you may be able to help, please speak with Debbie in the office. Thank you.

**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!

**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. The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30am Mass.

**DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION:** Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm St Thomas Aquinas Church. 1.30pm Easter Praise, Blessing of Divine Mercy image, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Reconciliation; 2.30pm Holy Mass - Fr. Brian Steele MGL, Veneration of the Mercy Image, Individual Prayer for Healing; Refreshments.

**CYP GOOD FRIDAY NIGHT WALK:** 7<sup>th</sup> April - Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit <https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/>

**FOOD DRIVE FOR HOUSE OF WELCOME:** Four parishioners took a trailer and a car loaded with food, generously donated by the people of STA, to the Franciscan House of Welcome in South Granville. There was much excitement and joy as many hands assisted with the unloading. As you can see, the table that runs down the centre of the food storage room was overflowing. The centre supports 100's of families with food and financial support.

Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute to this food drive. Ruth, the manager of the HOW facility, shared that with the current financial challenges these contributions will make a huge difference to many people. The refugees present expressed their gratitude. (Apologies from the parish office that there was a delay in this post making the bulletin).

**LAUDATO SI:** "The future of humanity does not lie solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of people and in their ability to organise. It is their hands which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you." *Pope Francis*



### SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Palm Sunday) 1st & 2nd April:

Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water.



With your generosity, Caritas Australia has been able to help millions of vulnerable people around the world, through the Project Compassion appeal.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.**

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

## Spirituality of the Readings – Contrasts

Palm Sunday contains a contrast that tells us in advance what Holy Week is all about. This is why Sunday is called both "Palm Sunday" and "Passion Sunday."

The two Gospels set up the contrast. That is right, two Gospels. The first is read at the very beginning of the ceremony, during the procession of palms. Jesus is making a triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. The people are cheering wildly: "The whole city stirred to its depths," Matthew tells us. Some people are asking, "Who is this?" and others in large numbers replying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!"

They soften his pathway, laying out palm branches before him and even spreading their own coats on the road. He is their man. They treat him as a king!

The Church procession reaches the front of the church, with parishioners holding actual palm fronds to illustrate the story. Mass continues, and the readings come. And now the tables are turned. In the second Gospel, we hear a reading of the passion according to Matthew. Here, Jesus the king is handed over to authorities, betrayed by one of his own disciples, and he completes his kingly entry to Jerusalem by receiving a royal robe of mockery and a crown of pain.

He did not turn away from this mockery. In fact he "set his face like flint" toward his humiliation (as it says in the First Reading of Sunday's Mass; see also Luke 9:51-55).

This reading states the contrast beautifully. It is a passage from Isaiah and is called the "Third Song of the Suffering Servant." The first part of this reading says, "The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them." This he did, and was applauded for it, treated like a king.

The second part says, "I have not rebelled, have not turned away. *I gave my back to those who beat me ....*" Jesus knew well this passage from Isaiah.

So Palm/Passion Sunday presents a huge contrast between the world's view of kingship and the holy and humble meaning of it. The Church has set up Sunday's liturgy specifically for this purpose. Jesus begins as a hero and ends as an object of ridicule.

In this contrast, Jesus shows himself as a man of great humility. Each of us, including Jesus, is designed to love and be loved, to empty ourselves of any bad habit or out-of-control urge that pushes us toward pride. We become ourselves by remaining true to the God of Love who lives within us. Neither shame nor renown can pull us away from this, if we follow Jesus in his humility.

And *then* God will highly exalt him. God will say to the crowd, you were right about throwing palms, but not if you were trying to create a worldly hero. Real glory and greatness reside in quiet, unrelenting love, no matter how other people react.

We are in the presence of great truth here.

*Fr John Foley*

*Fr John Foley, SJ, is a composer and scholar at Saint Louis University, Missouri*

## Holy Communion 2023

Please join our parish community by welcoming our 2023 First Holy Communicants.

It was a beautiful, joyous evening. Congratulations to the children on receiving the holiest and most important Sacrament in your spiritual life. May God bless and keep you as you grow and walk with Him.



### Holy Thursday VIGIL, 6th April, 7:00PM

**Priest:** Fr Paul

**Acolytes:** Richard Merchant, Ed Junis, John Belfanti

**Commentator/Universal Prayers:** Anne Edwards

**Readers:** Colleen Baker, Phillip Saville

**Washing of the Feet:**

Josephine Mackenzie  
Tamsyn Baldwin  
Timothy Baldwin  
Ed Junis  
Tanya Baldwin  
Terry Baldwin

**Presentation of the Oils:**

**The Oil of Catechumens:** Wilhelmina de Raadt  
**The Holy Chrism:** Debbie Breytenbach  
**The Oil of the Sick:** Phil Saville

**Music:** Chris Wilson, STA Choir