

Reading Roster

Date:	4th/5th March 2023		2nd Sunday of Lent
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Peta Sparkes
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Cecilia Hunt	Phillip Saville
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Kim Crawford	Anne Ellis
Music:	Andrew Wilson		Chris Wilson
Date:	11th/12th March 2023		3rd 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:	Colleen Baker	Kim Crawford	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Felix Kobus	Ros Comfort	Domhnall MacCormac
Second Reading:	Tanya Baldwin	Cecilia Hunt	Ingrid Merchant
Music:			Streeters

Fr Paul's favourite Sunday Meal

Pork Sausages (Cumberland Brand - tried and tested to be the best)
 Potatoes (smashed with butter and milk)
 Peas
 Grilled tomatoes
 Gravy (of course home made)!



Margaret's Pasta Lenten Treat

Hard boil 8 eggs and cut in half
 Cook 2 1/2 cups pasta, drain then add 1 1/2 cups frozen vegetables and 1 jar of commercial Lasagna or Pasta sauce
 Put pasta mix into an oven proof dish, top with egg halves and grated cheese
 Bake in oven 180 deg for 15 minutes
 Sprinkle with fresh herbs on top (e.g. basil)
 A tasty meal for 4 for about \$10.00



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
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 Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email: [email: springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto: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: 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 Week of Lent

We continue the first part of Lent, during which we learn, along with those preparing for Baptism, wonderful lessons in our faith.

We can feel the rhythm developing. Sunday is always our celebration of the Lord's resurrection, and establishes our theme for the week. Wednesdays and Fridays remind us of our commitment to a change of heart. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday re-introduce us to wonderful scriptures for our journey. Saturday is always uplifting and joyful.

The Opening Prayer of the Liturgy each day continues to guide our prayer. As we experience how simple these prayers are, and how easy they are to make our own, we find ourselves praying together in the same Spirit, with one another on this journey, around the world.

Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday 5th March

Step up and Clean up - 5th March here at STA. You simply just turn up between 9.00am-10.45am and be ready to improve the local environment for one hour! Be sure to wear a hat, enclosed shoes, bring gloves and a water bottle. Collection bags are provided. You will be given a specific area to clear up.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

O Christ,
 give us a glimpse.
 Let us find you shining

in sliver echoes from the moon,
 in geese streaking for home,
 in the evening sky,
 in the spider's intricate web.

In workers, coffee growers,
 climate crisis workers,
 crossing guards,
 and homeless folks.

Let no one and no place
 ever be hidden from
 the glow of your
 Godly, earthly
 presence.

Let us find your glory
 in all things.

Anne Osdeick

Today's Readings: Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



Recently Deceased: Mary Magaan

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

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://stchurchspringwood.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.

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.

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 at your earliest convenience so these can be washed and sanitised ready for the Vigil. Thank you.

OPEN DAYS: *St Thomas Aquinas Primary School* invites you to their open days on Tuesday 7th March (9.30-10.30am and 12.00-1.00pm) and Thursday 9th March (9.30-10.30am). *St Thomas Aquinas* provides quality education in a modern environment with a strong foundation on faith.

St Columba's Catholic College has tours of the college on Wednesday afternoon, 8th March for those interested in enrolments for Year 7 in 2024 and 2025. Tours will begin at 4pm & 5pm and will offer a look at the College facilities as well as opportunities to speak with current students and teachers. Please feel welcome to come along.

MORNING TEA: We would like to 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.**

SCHOOL MASSES: It is so wonderful to be able to welcome our Primary and High School children to our parish for Masses during the week. We have had reports from parents (a small minority) that some of our parishioners have approached these children about their behaviour whilst in church. If you have a concern, please speak to Fr Paul or Fr Shinto ONLY. Under no circumstances must you approach the students.

First Reconciliation:



Thank you to all those families who have made a wonderful effort to come together to complete this Sacrament.

We would like to remind you of the following dates:

Tuesday, 7th March 6.30pm - Reconciliation Practice and Fourth Week of Preparation
(in the Church with Mrs Breytenbach)

Wednesday, 15th March 7.00pm St Thomas Aquinas Church - FIRST RECONCILIATION

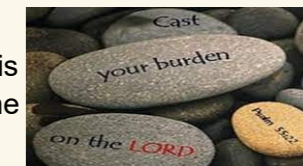
Our Altar explained

Our Altar has again been stripped back to the bare essentials. 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.

Basket of Stones

Next to the vase of sand is a basket which we would like you to place a stone for this coming week 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.

Listening to Jesus

High on the mountain, the three disciples witness a dazzling sight as Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, his face as bright as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light. In the middle of this vision, they hear God's voice telling them to listen to "my beloved Son on whom my favour rests."



The opening prayer focuses our attention on this part of the story: "God our Father, help us to hear your Son." The verse before the Gospel does the same: "From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son; hear him."

Lent is a time to listen to Jesus, "who calls us to repentance and a change of heart." It is a time to reflect on God's Word about loving our enemies and being peacemakers, about proclaiming liberty to captives and letting the oppressed go free, about being the salt of the earth and the light of the world, about being perfect just as our heavenly Father is perfect.

It is a time to be quiet and listen to the God "who has saved us and has called us to a holy life." It is a time to become a "great nation" through whom "all the communities of the earth shall find blessing."

Jesus perfected revelation by fulfilling it through his whole work of making himself present and manifesting himself: through his words and deeds, his signs and wonders, but especially through his death and glorious resurrection from the dead and final sending of the Spirit of truth.

Moreover, he confirmed with divine testimony what revelation proclaimed: that God is with us to free us from the darkness of sin and death, and to raise us up to life eternal.

Vatican II, *Constitution on Divine Revelation*, 1965: 4.

Gerald Darring

Gerald Darring is an adjunct instructor of theology at Spring Hill College, Alabama



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: Thu lives in Vietnam. When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg. Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.



Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.

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.