

Reading Roster

**READERS NEEDED
AT ALL MASSES.
PLEASE EMAIL THE
OFFICE IF YOU CAN
HELP.**

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
Date:	18th/19th March 2023		Children's Liturgy 9.30am Sunday
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

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

For one off payments, our 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:

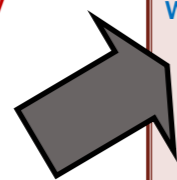
Saturday 1st April, Palm Sunday VIGIL 5.00 pm
Sunday 2nd April, Palm Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am

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:	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



**Friday 17th March 2023
The Solemnity of St Patrick**



*The Woman at the Well
The Third Sunday of Lent*

The story of the woman at the well is a rich example of love, truth, redemption, and acceptance. And best of all, not only does Jesus accept her, but He accepts us, too. He wants us all in His holy kingdom, if only we, too, believe.

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 feast.

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, Catherine Mackenzie, Mary Magann*

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).

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP: The next STA Ladies Fellowship meeting is on Friday 17th March after 9:30am Mass. It is the Annual General Meeting so there is an opportunity to enjoy lunch afterwards at the Golf Club. Ring Colleen Kime on 4754 4335 to book and for further details.

STA EARTHCARE: The STA Earthcare Team wishes to thank and congratulate the families and individuals who assisted in the successful Clean Up Australia Event last Sunday morning. Many commented on how much rubbish there was left around and that the messages of *Laudato Si* were locally relevant. One mother said "This is really making me think about what I put in my child's school lunch box!!" The STA Team will next complete the Earthcare Australia audit of how the Parish complies with the seven goals of *Laudato Si*. This audit will provide direction for the next activities. Many would be interested to know STA Primary students cleaned up their school area last week as their part in the project. Contact Dennis Farrar 0425 209 840 for further information.

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://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.

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 Third Week of Lent



With this week, we conclude the first part of Lent. We continue our lessons in the faith, as our practices of Lent become deeper and more full of grace.

We enter into this week reflecting upon the Scrutiny that makes up our intense prayer for those Elect, preparing for Baptism.

We continue to wake each morning, pausing to ask for the graces we desire for the day. Throughout each day, the background of our thoughts and feelings is more and more taken up with what this journey means for our personal change of heart, the renewal of our Baptismal commitment to be placed with Jesus, and our growing desire to act in solidarity with the poor. We go to bed each evening, after pausing to give thanks for the gifts of the day.

Dear Springwood Parishioners,

Some of you would remember me from the children's choir years ago when we would sing at Mass. I made all my Sacraments at this Parish. I am currently a parishioner at Our Lady of Nativity Parish, Lawson, but attend some weekday Masses at Springwood Parish. After much prayer and ongoing discernment, I applied and was accepted to join the Carmelites. They are cloistered, so this means I'll no longer be around the Parish. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had over the years to be with family and friends in this parish community. Be assured of my prayers for you all! God bless you, Alex (Wedd).



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2023

On Wednesday 15th March a beautiful group of children will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Please hold them in your prayers.**

For our children: **When you make your first confession you will discover the wonder of God's forgiveness.**

May He bless you on this day of your First Reconciliation.



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT: Priscilla lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe. With the support of Caritas Hwange,

Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery.

While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the skills she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.

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.

