

Reading Roster

Date:	Holy Saturday Vigil	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM 9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolytes:	Randall Noney Richard Merchant	Ian Miles Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Katherine Mahns	Kim Crawford Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Felix Kobus	Cecilia Hunt Anne Ellis
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Trish Matchett Steve Bishop
Third Reading:	Dennis Farrar	
Epistle Reader:	Colleen Baker	
Music:	Chris Wilson/Choir	Streeters

Date:	15th/16th April 2023	Divine Mercy Sunday
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM 9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Richard Merchant Ed Junis
Commentator:	Colleen Baker	Cecilia Hunt Phil Saville
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Jim Gresser Steve Bishop
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Ingrid Merchant Matt Aldous
Music:	Andrew Wilson	Chris Wilson

Morning Tea Roster

16th April 2023 after the 9:30am mass: Disciples of Jesus/Catechists



EASTER MASS TIMES 2023:

- 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

Weekday Masses:

Monday within the Octave of Easter: 9:30am
Tuesday - Saturday: 9:30 am



A Poem to Sit With

“Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” (Gospel)

Russian Easter

Gold onion domes rise above the snow in Kiev
above the leafless trees
the gold and in dark woods the silver wolf
watches
and in the brush blanketed with snow the rabbit
chews roots
and in the church icons glow in candle light
and opening lilies scent the air
and near the icon of the Mother holding the
Child
whose shoe unloosed running from fear
the priest whispers to the penitent
that sins are seeds from which flowers may
grow
but only after they are buried
in Christ our earth whose wounds after the
Resurrection did not disappear
but shone more than rubies on a stole
or flowers in snow
gold onion domes rise above the snow
in Kiev under the leafless trees
the snow can look lemon yellow
lavender blue and rose

J. Janda

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email: email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.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: 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

At the heart of our Christian tradition is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During this week, we are led to contemplate Jesus was both a human person and also God's chosen Son. The events we commemorate during Holy Week are central to our faith and our Christian story.

As a community, we walk with Christ and with one another through the joyful entry into Jerusalem through to the rejection and agony of His suffering and death on the cross. We walk, passing through each event and moment, mindful that we will reach the promise of the resurrection at Easter and that this in turn will transform our lives.

Good Friday

Veneration of the Cross at STA:

- ✚ As you enter the church, please take a handmade cross available at the entrance and take a seat.
- ✚ For the Veneration of the Cross, Fr Paul will kneel before the cross then kiss it.
- ✚ We ask that **NO parishioners kiss the cross.**
- ✚ You are welcome to touch the cross with the homemade cross then place this cross into the basket, which will be set to the side of the wooden cross.
- ✚ Once you have done this, please take a wooden comfort cross from the table, positioned to the side and take back with you to your pew.

Easter Symbols in our Church

This Holy Thursday, you will see a single white rose on the altar while the altar still remains bare. In spite of the thorns, the white rose symbolises a life of purity, a sign of respect for the Eucharist, a sign of love and loyalty for our brothers and sisters.

On Good Friday, you will see a red rose alongside the white rose. The red rose is a symbol of Christ's blood and the sacrifice he made for us out of love.

On Easter Saturday, you will see 2 red roses and 4 white roses along with white banners and flowers back on our altar. We are celebrating new life and are sharing this day with our Lord as he rose today.



Three White Roses

Last weekend we had three white roses placed into the ashes on our altar. These roses symbolised 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.



Sick: Margaret Smith, 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 1st May 6.30pm and Thursday 4th May 6.30pm (same week) at St Thomas Aquinas Church. Please bring with you a completed copy of the enrolment form (download via www.stachurchspringwood.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.

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!

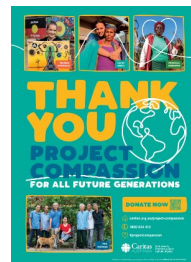
CHILDREN'S LITURGY: The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday, 16th April, 9.30am Mass.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION: Sunday, 16th 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.

LAUDATO SI: "Our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters (LS 2)." *Pope Francis*

HOLY WATER PRAYER: My Risen Lord, Your Resurrection is the foundation for my hope as a Christian and the promise of eternal life. Let this water, the symbol of my life in you, wash and purify me. May your protection surround me; may your blessings comfort and strengthen me to live in hope. Amen. (This prayer is for the Holy Water you can take with you during the Holy Saturday Vigil Mass).

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!



Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion - past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2023 Lenten 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.

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.

Glancing Thoughts

Easter Joy



The Psalm for Easter Sunday says, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Above all days, Easter is a day of joy.

But what is joy? The answer St. Francis gave to this question is famous. St. Francis said to his Brother Leo, "When we come to St. Mary of the Angels [our house], soaked by the rain and frozen by the cold, all soiled with mud and suffering from hunger, and we ring at the gate of the place and the brother porter comes and says angrily: 'Who are you?' And we say: 'We are two of your brothers.' And ... he does not open for us, but makes us stand outside in the snow and rain, cold and hungry, until night falls—then if we endure all those insults and cruel rebuffs patiently, ... oh, Brother Leo, ... perfect joy is there!"

Whatever we may think of St. Francis's explanation of perfect joy, Easter reminds us that Francis's kind of joy is not the end of the story. At Easter, we celebrate the other kind of joy, the kind each of us longs for, when every tear is wiped away, and there is no sorrow anymore—no more suffering from weather or hunger or hurtful human beings.

When we ourselves rise to meet our risen Lord, in that bright morning we will hear the Lord say, "Come away, beloved. The winter is past; the rain is gone, and the flowers return to the earth". In the loving union of that encounter, all the heartbrokenness of our lives will be redeemed. *That* will be perfect joy.

If all we had was the joy St. Francis describes, our courage might fail us in this life. Easter celebrates now the perfect joy waiting for us when we and all creation are reborn with our resurrected Lord into the everlasting love of God. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Eleanore Stump

Holy Land Collection - Good Friday 7th April 2023



The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 7th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Whilst life in the Holy Land is returning to some new sense of normality (as is the rest of the world) the Church and

people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2022 Australian Catholics were extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land \$1.4 million. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday.