

**Reading Roster**Date: **29th/30th April 2023** **4th Sunday of Easter**

Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Richard Merchant	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Kim Crawford	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Colleen Baker	Jim Gresser	Phillip Saville
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Ellis
Music:	None	None	None

Date: **6th/7th May 2023** **5th Sunday of Easter**

Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Randall Noney	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Colleen Baker	Cecilia Hunt	Domhnall MacCormac
First Reading:	Felix Kobus	Jim Gresser	Matt Aldous
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Kim Crawford	Phillip Saville
Music:	Andrew Wilson	Chris Wilson	Chris Wilson

**Morning Tea Roster**

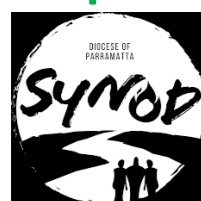
7th May after the 9:30am mass: PFGM



**MORNING TEA INVITATION, 7<sup>th</sup> MAY, AFTER 9:30 MASS:** You are welcome to be part of a small celebration to mark the 50-year anniversary of the Passionist Family Group Movement in Australia. This will be a small and sincere time for old connections to catch up and say "hello" once again. The Family Groups have been, and remain active, in many Parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta. Bishop Vincent supports the Family Group Movement as a work of the Holy Spirit in people's lives. Even if you don't usually celebrate Mass at that time, please come along to the gathering to recognise what you brought to the PFGM and what it brought to you. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Family Groups in Parish life is especially welcomed to attend, too.

**Mountains Deanery Listening Consultation -  
Saturday, 20th May: 6.30-9.30pm**

**Be part of the journey towards our Diocesan Synod!**



Share your story of life, faith and mission with others and listen to how the Holy Spirit is guiding us here in the Diocese of Parramatta. Register by emailing your name, number, parish/school to [synod2023@parracatholic.org](mailto:synod2023@parracatholic.org) or online [www.parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod2023)

**WHO TEACHES WHO ??????**

A 5-year-old, in my kindy class, asked me this question: Where was Jesus, before He came down to earth? I answered him that Jesus was still with his Father in heaven. Then he said, so Jesus chose his own mother!!!!

*I had not thought of that, have you? We keep learning. It sure is a privilege.*

If anyone would like to learn more about becoming a scripture teacher, please contact Wilhelmina de Raadt, SRE Coordinator for more information. Ph 4751 3319. Please leave a message on the answering machine if I am not

**St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin**

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



**Parish Email:** *email: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)*  
**Parish Website:** [www.stchurchspringwood.org.au](http://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:** 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

**THE GOSPEL****John 10:1-10**

*He walks ahead of them and the sheep  
follow him,  
because they recognise his voice.*

**The  
shepherd  
knows his sheep.  
And the sheep know him.  
He calls each of them by name.**

**O Christ,  
we cry out for you to shepherd us right now.  
We long to hear you call our names, to  
listen to your gentle voice,  
and follow you out of  
this violent world  
to a safe  
place.  
Please,  
walk ahead of us and we will follow.  
Let us offer to one another  
your abounding life  
and love.**

Anne Osdieck



**THE FIRST READING**  
**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

*Repent and be baptised, every one of you.*

Cut to the heart, they were baptised.  
Three thousand followed him,  
just as sheep follow  
a shepherd.  
Dear Shepherd Lord,  
open up our hearts to you.  
Let us listen as your Spirit speaks in us.  
Bring all your children, near and far, to live in your  
love.

Anne Osdieck

**Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

*We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungarra people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to elders both past and present.*

**Recently Deceased: Max Dodd**

**Sick:** Gwen Daly, 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:** A reminder that our Confirmation Sacrament program meetings are **next week**. 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. Bring with you a completed copy of the enrolment form (download via [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://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.



**CLEANING ROSTER:** New cleaning roster is available for collection at the back of the church.

**TRIVIA NIGHT INVITATION:** The Springwood East Timor Support Group invites you for an evening of fun at their Trivia Night on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May from 7.00pm at STA Primary School Hall. BYO nibbles and drinks. Tables of 8-10. Minimal prizes this year but a donation box will be available. Tickets \$20 each. Payment at the door, credit cards accepted. Call Dennis on 0425 209 840 for further information. *Note it is on the same night as the Synod launch.*

**CPR TRAINING:** You are invited to attend an accredited CPR training session hosted by the Diocese of Parramatta on behalf of FirstCPR. The training will be conducted by Surf Life Saving NSW. Details of the session are as follows: Time: 10:00am – 12:30pm; Date: Saturday, 13 May 2023; Venue: St Thomas Aquinas Parish, 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood NSW. Please arrive at least 15 minutes earlier. Places are limited, if you wish to attend. kindly register your interest here, <https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=CA84KKR7PLE83WNE>

**If you wish to receive an official accreditation certificate, you also need to register your attendance with Surf Life Saving NSW.** The training session is run in two parts, the first is a presentation by the Surf Life Saving NSW trainer. The second part will be practicing CPR on a manikin (both adult and baby). If you wish to obtain the accreditation certificate, there is also a 15-question multiple choice test at the end of the session. ***If you want a certificate for this course, you will need a USI number and register online via the Surf Life Saving website. Please click the unique link below to enrol into your training, with your USI number in hand:*** [https://alacourseportal.com.au/course-enrol/?instance\\_id=1806007&course\\_type=w&course\\_id=91509](https://alacourseportal.com.au/course-enrol/?instance_id=1806007&course_type=w&course_id=91509)

**INFORMATION EVENING:** As you may already know, drug addiction can have devastating effects on personal life. While the Blue Mountains Area enjoys many "protective factors" mitigating the consumption of illicit drugs, young people in our local communities are still exposed to the risks and dangers of substance use. Jim McLoughlin, parishioner and member of the Police Force Parramatta, will present a talk on ***"Life is precious gift, don't waste it on drugs!"*** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 7:30pm in the Glenbrook Parish Hall.

**REACH – WELLBEING PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS:** Reach Recovery Program designed by the Black Dog Institute. Tuesday from 10am to 12pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> May for 9 weeks at Bank Bazaar and Bank Bar and Café, 290/294 Windsor Street, Richmond NSW 2753. Morning Tea provided. Presenter Virginia Field. RSVP: 02 8843 2500 or email [enquiries@ccss.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ccss.org.au)

**REACH RECOVERY WELLBEING PROGRAM KATOOMBA:** Designed by the Black Dog Institute. Starting on Thursday 4 May from 10am to 12pm for 9 weeks at The Carrington Hotel, 15-47 Katoomba St, Katoomba. Morning Tea will be provided. Presented by Virginia Field. To RSVP, please contact (02) 8843 2500 or email [enquiries@ccss.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ccss.org.au).

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** A final total will be relayed to you once all the envelopes have been received. This usually takes a few weeks. Thank you for your patience.

You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.

*Winnie the Pooh*

## The Good Shepherd

The most comforting of the Psalms begins "The Lord is my shepherd." It ends with this line: "Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

Goodness and mercy are present in the person of the Good Shepherd. Thus, they have to follow the lost sheep, because the shepherd is heading out after them, to look for them.

In the Gospel, on the other hand, the order of leading and following is reversed. Jesus says that his sheep know his voice, and so they follow him.

Now, a sheep doesn't recognise the voice of the shepherd unless it already knows the shepherd. The difference, then, between being a lost sheep who is followed by the Shepherd and being a faithful sheep who follows the Shepherd is a matter of knowing the Shepherd.

To know a person is not like knowing the rules of the game. *To know the rules* is to know that this move is prohibited or that another move is the only one which can be made.

*Knowing a person* can't be passed as knowing that anything-at-all. It's a matter of personal relationship. Personal relationship requires openness to love, with all its risks.

That openness is the reason why Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd, he is also the Gate into the fold, open to the sheep that are his own. To be a sheep that is Christ's own, a person has to open to love of the Lord. He has to go within Jesus, through Jesus, who is the Gate and the Way, as well as being the leader along the way.

Here is the good news, then. Whether a person is faithful or astray, he will be surrounded by the love of the good Shepherd. St Patrick's prayer says it well: Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ with me.

*Eleonore Stump  
Eleonore Stump is Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University*

## Diocesan Social Justice Networking Day – 1 April 2023

Facilitated by our Diocesan Peace, Justice and Ecology team, 32 Reps from parishes across the diocese gathered and shared experiences that are diocese-wide or based in local parishes.

***Some specific content from the workshops (continued from last week's Bulletin):***

3. Catholic EarthCare. In response to Laudate Si, some parishes are already registered with Catholic EarthCare - this process and many other initiatives were explained. Community gardens are already a focus for some but the dream of a Catholic Ecology Centre in the diocese may be some way off. Solar panels and batteries, rainwater tanks, native plants, electronic rather than paper bulletins and Laudate Si posters are not uncommon but how about an annual seasons of creation camping trip or pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains. Two resources recommended were 'Greening your Church' by Norman Levesque and an Irish book, 'The Parish as Oasis'.
4. Supporting the marginalised. Vinnies continue to be at the fore of the church's response to the needy and each parish reaches out to the elderly and housebound but other less-known initiatives include: coordinating the work of 5 foodbanks that operate across the diocese, furnishing units for released prisoners, legal advice centres. Blacktown parish runs a pantry which assists 120 families a month and the Cathedral parish is exploring ways to assist the estimated 300 homeless in nearby parks.
5. A fair trade Parish. Greystanes is active in this space and we heard about the link between ethical and environmentally responsible sourcing of products such as tea, coffee, cleaning products and chocolate. [fairtradeatthehil.com.au](http://fairtradeatthehil.com.au) is the link to their Summer Hill outlet which stocks many products and they will come to your parish for a market. Fair trade also raises awareness about harsh working conditions, low wages and people trafficking.

These are the reflections of one participant and shouldn't be considered as comprehensive but it was a stimulating and hope-filled day with the recommendation that it be an annual experience. Follow up available with the Peace, Justice and Ecology team.

Kim Crawford