

Reading Roster

Date:	15th/16th April 2023	Divine Mercy Sunday Mass
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM 9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolytes:	Ian Miles	Richard Merchant Ed Junis
Commentator:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Jim Gresser Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Felix Kobus	Cecilia Hunt Anne Ellis
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Need Someone Steve Bishop
Music:		Chris Wilson

Date:	22nd/23rd April 2023	3rd Sunday of Easter
Mass Time:	VIGIL	8.00AM 9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney John Belfanti
Commentator:	Colleen Baker	Cecilia Hunt Phillip Saville
First Reading:	Ingrid Merchant	Jim Gresser Domhnall MacCormac
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Loida Derbyshire Matt Aldous
Music:	Chris Wilson	E-Street Band

Morning Tea Roster

16th April after the 9:30am Mass: Parish P Council
 7th May after the 9:30am Mass: Choir



Invitation to Register for CPR Training

You are invited to register for this accredited CPR Course being offered by Surf Life Saving NSW as part of a project being offered by The University of Sydney, Westmead Applied Research Centre.

The course runs for 2.5 hours and will be presented at two locations across the Diocese.

1. St Thomas Aquinas Springwood on Saturday 13th May beginning at 10am, or
2. Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown on Monday 5th June at 4pm.

Please contact the Parish Office for information on how to register for the venue of your choice.



Second Week of Easter

The Second week of Easter allows us to continue entering into and embracing the gift we have received in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The prayers and the readings keep inviting us to celebrate the gifts we have received.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we watch Peter and the others show such courage and boldness in proclaiming the good news. They are filled with the Spirit. We see that they also care that no one is in need, ensuring that even the widows are taken care of.

The Gospel story about the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus takes us deeper into the mystery of our re-birth into Jesus. It has to do with walking in the light.

The miracles of the loaves in Chapter 6 of John's gospel begins our reflection next week on the gift of the bread that gives life.

All week, we have opportunities to ask for the graces to embrace, live and share the new life we have been given.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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 Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email: email: 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: 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 20:19-31](#)

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

Merciful Christ, please
 come right through our barricaded doors;
 breathe your Holy Spirit upon all of us.
 Pick us up when we fall.
 Give us your peace
 that comes from
 your perfect
 love
 of
 us.
 Not
 to hoard
 such treasure;
 we want to give it out
 to everyone who would believe.
 Make us instruments
 of the power
 of your
 resurrection!

THE SECOND READING
[1 Peter 1:3-9](#)



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope

Christ,
 though we haven't seen you,
 we love you.
 Though our poor minds cannot grasp you very well,
 we believe in you.
 And with indescribable joy in your resurrection
 we hope in you
 always.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Entrance Antiphon: Like new born infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

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



Project Compassion 2023

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.

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, or by calling 1800 024 413.





Recently Deceased: **Patrick Rupesinghe**

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

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION: THIS 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.

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: We hope to see as many parishioners as possible this Saturday, when you can between 10.00am and 4.00pm to help us clean up our church property.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: On the 21st of May at our 9.30am Mass. All children aged between 4-12 are welcome.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION: We are an incredibly kind and generous parish with \$1,727.60 deposited into the Holy Land Commissariat account this week for the Holy Land Collection on Good Friday. This is an incredible amount of money which was so gratefully received. I will forward correspondence to you all once it filters through from the Franciscan Provincial Office. Thank you.

GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL: Thank you for supporting our Holy Spirit Seminarians Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and our Holy Spirit seminarians thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for our future good shepherds and priests. Our Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal raised \$620.00. Absolutely wonderful!

LAUDATO SI: "Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect." (LS 42)
Pope Francis

catholic care Free Wellbeing groups hosted by Catholic Care's Springwood Drop-In Centre

About Time is an exciting new group for men to discover, connect and be inspired at every stage of life. If you're looking to make new connections, to join in on a stimulating conversation or simply be in a group where ideas and stories are shared, valued and welcome, *About Time* is the group for you! Led by an experienced educator and trained facilitator, *About Time* will meet every **1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in Springwood town centre from 10am-12pm**. Men from all ages and stages of life are welcome. Be inspired. Discover things and people you didn't know and connect with your community.

Community Women's Circle - A place to come together with other local women, to share conversation, enjoy creative arts and writing activities and indulge in a guided meditation. Our group has been coming together for 2 years now and holds women of all ages and stages of life. We meet on the **2nd and 4th Friday of each month in the St Thomas parish centre from 10am-12pm**, new members are always welcome, hope to see you there.

Shared Reading - A Read for Wellbeing group brings people of varying backgrounds together who are looking for social connection, in a friendly, small group environment. With the guidance of a facilitator, the group comes together once a week on a **Monday afternoon from 3pm-430pm**, to share reading aloud a short story, followed by discussion around the themes in the story.

For more information on our centre or to join one of these groups, please call 8843 2545 or email

springwood@catholiccarewsbm.org.au



Incredible, Unbelievable?

The word "incredible!" has been so badly over-used in our day that it now means little more than "surprising." But the word's true meaning—unbelievable—is on this day appropriate: an event that is so unexpected that the mind actually cannot believe it is true. Jesus is risen.

In spite of his cynicism, Thomas had always belonged to Jesus.

I remember when I was an early teenager and my grandfather died. My young eyes actually looked directly at his body out in the garden of their home. He had been gardening. That whole day and the day after I kept thinking secretly he would come back. A car would pull up to the house and a voice in me would say "It must be him; he is here after all!"

Anyone who has grieved knows how this is. Your mind keeps denying the loss. You have to correct yourself when you say "she is such a wonderful cook ... oh dear, I mean she ... was such a wonderful cook." Tears come. The deep but of course false hope lingers, reluctant to give up its wishing and longing.

Doubting Thomas was no different. He had what he thought were false hopes—"Jesus just cannot be dead, not Jesus." So, to correct his error, he erected a staunch wall against the resurrection story. It would hurt too much if he allowed hope to come back again and then watch it shatter like Humpty Dumpty. Have you ever noticed how people run away from what they most desire to be true?

"Jesus was actually here *with* us!" the Apostles tell Thomas. "The doors were all locked and he suddenly was standing right there! He talked to us!"

Thomas's reaction? NO. NO. No way. Incredible. I cannot accept it. Better to deny what could not be possible. He was like me imagining my grandfather walking through the door as he always did. So Thomas had to dam up this child's way of imagining. His leader was dead, and nothing in this world could change it.

So Christ appeared and showed him. It was not only seeing Christ in person but actually touching the wounds in his hands and his side. Too much to believe, but suddenly impossible to disbelieve. Thomas gave in. His embarrassment revealed how much he had wanted this. How long would it take you or me to admit how wrong our doubts were?

We need to pray about the status of our own belief. Can we find within ourselves that we do need the Resurrection to be true? Can we locate the places where our doubts are lurking? How they are sabotaging us? Can we pray for the ability to believe, to trust, even if we have not seen and touched?

Blessed, joyful trust is what this Sunday is all about.

Forget the discomfort that the pews gave you and the kneelers, and the extreme length of the passion story, and the fact that you really could not hear the second reader because of the microphones, and so on. If nothing else, simply know that you and I are like Thomas. We so much want the Jesus story to be true that we turn our faces away from it, choosing distraction instead.

Yet the story is not "incredible!" at all. Jesus' suffering and diminishment and death give way to the deeper reality of love. Yes, Death wins. But the quiet of love undercuts that win.

John Foley, SJ



St Thomas Aquinas Parish

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Are you able to share your gifts one Sunday every month?

If you are and would like to know more information, please fill in the below form and place into the Parish Pastoral Council Box at the back of the Church.

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MOBILE NUMBER: _____