

Reading Roster

Date:	22nd/23rd April 2023	3rd Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolytes:	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

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	Catherine Mahns
First Reading:	Colleen Baker	Jim Gresser	Phillip Saville
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Ellis
Music:	None		None

Morning Tea Roster

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



**HOLY LAND
Commissariat**

18 April 2023

Dear Fr Slyney,

On behalf of the Holy Land Custody of the Franciscan Friars and the Christians of the Holy Land, I would like to sincerely thank you and your parishioners, for your contribution of \$1,727.60 to the Good Friday Holy Land Collection for 2023.

The Holy Places rely heavily on the Good Friday donations and pilgrims to continue to maintain the historical sites that mean so much to our Christian/Catholic faith. With the latest protests and disruptions to the lives of many people in the Holy Land due to political conflicts, it is still a difficult time for the Church and people of the Holy Land and the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody.

Thankfully, in the last year, pilgrims have begun returning to the Holy Land, albeit in much reduced numbers. We can only hope and pray that this trend continues.

Please continue to remember the Holy Land in your thoughts and prayers and please know that whatever signs of solidarity you can make with the Holy Land Church and its peoples will be used well.

With my deep thanks,

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Sincerely,

Fr Bernie Thomas OFM

Commissary of the Holy Land, Australia

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

ANZAC DAY
Tuesday 25th April 2023
9:30am Mass
Everyone Welcome!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

Jesus himself drew near and walked with them.

Oh Jesus,
please find us
wherever we hide.
Take away our refuges:
wars, gun violence, climate change
and all.

Come walk with us and be with us now.
Show us the new life that you are.
Open our eyes and
make our minds
and hearts
blaze.

Anne Osdieck

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-21

He was known before the foundation of the world.

From the beginning of time
through this minute
God has loved us,

ransomed and transformed us
and all creation.

Within
this very truth
we find our meaning.

In this very love we find our hope.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

Entrance Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 15:1-2, 5, 7-11. R. v. 11

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us; make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

**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: 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.

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

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 2nd May 2023 at 7:30pm in the 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, 2nd May for 9 weeks at Bank Bar 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

MISSION - TRANSFORM LIVES, THEIRS AND YOURS: Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Building enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. See news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: Phone: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567. Website: www.palms.org.au

LAUDATO SI: "A world of exacerbated consumption is at the same time a world which mistreats life in all of its forms (LS 230) - Pope Francis

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](http://www.surflifesaving.org.au). 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

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.

Easter Joy for Everyday Life



More than just a day, the Church gives us a seven-week Easter season to celebrate. Yet sometimes our everyday lives feel so heavy that celebration is not a part of them. Critical illness in the family, loss of a job, disappointment in a relationship and the burdens of everyday life can make it a challenge to feel particularly joyful - even in the Easter season.

But the joy we are being invited into this season is beyond what we see in our everyday lives. It's true that Jesus says "Come to me and bring me your burdens" but we usually can't believe it. Maybe we don't want to believe it. If I really allow Jesus to come into my heart the way he wants to, will he ask me to change my life in ways that are too hard? How do I share the chaos of my life with Jesus? If I keep him at arm's length, my life might be difficult, but at least my problems are familiar. What would it cost me to let go and change my life?

We know our own faults and failings so well. Too well. We begin to believe that Jesus loves the way we love – with all of our human limits. How could Jesus love us and accept us the way we are right now? Maybe when we fix a few things about our lives, love our spouse a little better, stop being so critical of family members, stop drinking, stop nagging, love a little more... when we are perfect, then Jesus will love us.

If we can overcome our fears, the real power of letting Jesus into our hearts is how free our hearts will become. Suddenly, we are not afraid, not burdened and simply ready to serve with Jesus.

Jesus loves us - right now. At this moment, Jesus holds each one of us in his warm and loving gaze and loves us so freely at a depth that our human minds can't take in. Whether we comprehend this or not, Jesus loves us endlessly and waits for us with his arms open, ready to hold and support us.

As we receive his embrace and feel the peace and joy of Easter wash over us, we can look over his shoulder, and see beyond to those in need who now wait for us. That's when we realize that the real joy in our lives is putting aside our own faults, challenges and difficulties for a while and entering into the lives of others.

Pope Francis said at Easter, we leave ourselves behind and encounter others by "being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast."

We are being missioned as Easter People. We find peace in Jesus' love for us and now we share it with others. We find ourselves standing side by side with Jesus, looking together at those we are being sent to love.

That is where the real joy of Easter waits for us.

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/Easter-Joy-Everyday.html>

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.

Recent church documents, Pope Francis' *Laudate Si* encyclical, The Bishops' statement 'Cry of the earth, Cry of the Poor' and the Decrees of our *Plenary Council*, underpinned initiatives. Bishop Vincent's proclamation of a Parramatta Diocesan Synod in October this year gave a sense of urgency and relevance to the networking experienced on the day. As we contribute to this Synod agenda what are the needs of the church and the marginalised in western Sydney that need to be included in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan?

Some specific content from the workshops:

1. **Catholic Care Refugee Sponsorship Program.** Rita (who is a Syrian refugee) told her story. She now works at Catholic Care helping parishes that are sponsoring/supporting refugee families in the diocese. Each family has unique needs but the general commitment is for 12 months accompaniment. This involves accommodation, dealing with utilities through to driving lessons or accessing public transport and compliments the work of JRS and House of Welcome. The practicalities of using surplus parish properties was discussed.
2. **Supporting First Nations Communities.** Many parishes are projective in this area with education and practical support. Acknowledgement of Country, prominent display of the Uluru Statement, celebration of NAIDOC week.. I was struck by the message stick being incorporated into the Gospel procession. Support for both the permanent and transient Aboriginal people of western Sydney is a priority of Vinnies. The 2023 Bishops' Social Justice Statement will herald the October Voice referendum and some parishes are engaged with local MPs on this and other issues. To be continued.