

Reading Roster

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
Date:	13th/14th May 2023	6th Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Peter O'Brien	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Ros Comfort	Peta Sparkes
Second Reading:	Tanya Baldwin	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Ellis
Music:	Chris Wilson		E-Street Band

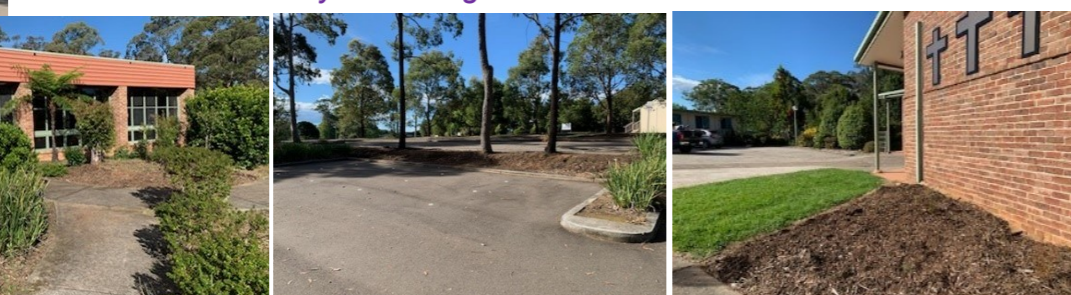
Morning Tea Roster - 7th May after 9:30am mass: PFGM



Working Bee – Saturday 1 5th April

The working bee was a wonderful success, and we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to **every one** of the wonderful volunteers who came out and worked so hard on the day.

You will see when you walk around the parish that retaining walls were dismantled, trees were trimmed, mulch was moved, weeds were dug up, paths were swept and most of the church windows were washed inside AND out. *Absolutely smashing!*



Confirmation Prayer

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.
 Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice.
 Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfillment the good work that You have begun in them.
 As we prepare these children for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love.
 Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand.
 Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example.
 We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us.
 Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Pray for our

Confirmation Candidates



Please keep our Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they prepare for this beautiful Sacrament.

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
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:	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 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

Jesus,
 as
 your disciples,
 our hearts are troubled.
 Is there some escape, we ask, from
 war, gun violence, racism, climate change?
 Be with us now, please.
 To know you is to know and love
 the Father and the Spirit.
 And that is everything.
 No fear there.
 You are
 our
 way,
 our truth,
 and our life.
 Wherever you abide is the place that
 we always want to be—circling
 in eternal, self-giving love,
 with you, the Father,
 and your Holy
 Spirit.

Anne Osdieck

A Poem to Sit With
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*"No one comes to the Father except through me.
 If you know me, then you will also know my
 Father.
 From now on you do know him and have seen
 him."*

(Gospel)

**But if you
 don't open
 your eyes
 and you don't
 open your ears
 or taste things
 or touch things
 or smell things
 well then
 you will never
 know me
 all that I
 do
 is to show
 my
 love for you.**

J. Janda

Today's Readings: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, 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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting for the PPC will be held on Tuesday, 16th May. If you would like to include any items to the agenda, please place into an envelope and put into the PPC Box situated at the back of the church.

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, 20th 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: The spaces for the training in Springwood is at FULL capacity. We thank you for your interest and look forward to the coming CPR course.

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP: Next meeting will be held after morning Mass on Friday 19th May at the Parish Centre. Guest Speaker will be Kim Crawford. All welcome!

PALMS AUSTRALIA 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. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know by calling (02) 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 or visit www.palms.org.au

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PROCESSION: Join The Servants of Mary Help of Christians for their annual procession ahead of the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia on Saturday 20 May. Mass will commence at 10am at St Peter's Surry Hills, followed by a street procession through to St Mary's Cathedral and Mass at 12pm. All are welcome to attend.

MET NATURAL FERTILITY SEMINAR: Hear about Restorative Reproductive Medicine and natural methods of achieving pregnancy. This topic is of particular interest to couples that are trying to conceive a child where they may have infertility issues and are seeking medical intervention to help them. Hear from trained professionals about a women's health science, the Creighton Model which is used in conjunction with NaProTechnology (www.fccau.org). This free event will be held on Saturday 20 May from 1pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. For more information and to register, contact catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or 0400 427 605.

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 available.

AUSTRALIAN PILGRIMAGE: The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For further information please contact national pilgrimage@mmp.org.au or on 89124818.

AN INVITATION: All Parishioners are invited to the Morning Tea after the 9:30am Mass this Sunday. There will be a celebration to mark the 50 year anniversary of commencing the Passionist Family Group Movement in Australia. This won't be a grand occasion but a 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 Family Groups in Parish life are especially welcomed to attend.

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.

Fifth Week of Easter

The wonderful story of the early church continues this week in Acts of the Apostles. We read of Paul and Barnabas preaching the good news to Gentiles. A major shift occurs after much discussion among the apostles and they pray for guidance: should Gentiles become Jews before becoming Christians? Peter declared that Jews and Gentiles are both "saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus."

The weekday gospels continue with John's nuanced words reminding us again not to be troubled or afraid, but to remain in the love of Jesus. It is that message that we pray with this week as we continue our Easter celebration, filled with the joy of hearing Jesus tell us, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you."

Waiting On Tables and On the Lord

The problem reported in the First Reading has to do with food for widows. The Greek Christians thought that widows of the Hebrew Christians were getting the best of things, and they complained. The Apostles said, sensibly enough, that they couldn't be expected to handle food distribution. And so, they picked some people to wait on tables, as it were, for them. Stephen was one of those picked.

The people in Stephen's group were chosen to do a job that was not nearly as important as the work the Apostles were doing. That's why the Apostles wanted somebody else to do it. By comparison with important things, like spreading the Gospel, or anything else great and admirable, watching over food distribution is a very small job.

But Stephen didn't complain that the task was beneath his talents and abilities. He didn't insist on being given a role in the great work of the Apostles. He took the small job he had been offered, and he served the Lord whole-heartedly in that job.

And look what happened (Acts 6: 9-16, 7: 54-60). His whole-hearted service of the Lord in that job attracted the attention, and the hatred, of those outside the growing Church; and they went after him. In the worst of circumstances, with his life at stake, he gave a powerful witness to the Lord he loved. In his witness and his martyrdom, he was not small. He was glorious. His life and work for the Lord became part of Scripture itself, and for over two thousand years all Christians have honoured and admired him.

And so, his whole-hearted service of the Lord in a small job, the one that was not worthy of being compared with the work of the Apostles, made Stephen a participant in the great job the Apostles had. In the witness of his death, he became a partner in the Gospel-spreading work of the Apostles and more than worthy of being in their company.

Eleonore Stump

&

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: _____