

**Reading Roster**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>13th/14th May 2023</b>	<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
<b>Priest:</b>	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Bernard Ellis
<b>Commentator:</b>	Cheryl Kirby	Peter O'Brien	Katherine Mahns
<b>First Reading:</b>	Lynette Boyd	Ros Comfort	Peta Sparkes
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Tanya Baldwin	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Ellis
<b>Music:</b>	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters
<b>Date:</b>	<b>20th/21st May 2023</b>	<b>The Ascension of the Lord</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
<b>Priest:</b>	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ed Junis	John Belfanti	Richard Merchant
<b>Commentator:</b>	Colleen Baker	Kim Crawford	Vicky Walker
<b>First Reading:</b>	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Jim Gresser	Matt Aldous
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Ingrid Merchant
<b>Music:</b>	None	None	Chris Wilson

Morning Tea Roster - 21st May after 9:30am mass: Mothers Prayers Group

**St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin**

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



<b>Parish Email:</b>	email: <a href="mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org">springwood@parracatholic.org</a>
<b>Parish Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stchurchspringwood.org.au">www.stchurchspringwood.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Facebook Page:</b>	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 0418 461 316
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 0415 077 969
<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	Suggestions to the Box at the Back of the Church
<b>Parish Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm
<b>Weekend Masses:</b>	Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am
<b>Weekday Mass:</b>	Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am
<b>Healing Mass:</b>	1st Friday of the month, 9.30am
<b>Rosary &amp; Devotions:</b>	Monday-Saturday 9.00am
<b>Adoration, Rosary:</b>	2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
<b>Baptisms:</b>	2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment
<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Please Contact the Parish Office
<b>Weddings:</b>	By appointment
<b>Funerals:</b>	Please Contact the Parish Office

**THE GOSPEL****John 14:15-21**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to be with you always.*

Jesus,  
you comfort and transform us  
through your Spirit.

Please breathe that Spirit again.  
Our whole planet needs it now.  
Instruct our scientists how  
to find cures for a  
sick climate  
as well as  
for viruses.

Inspire us to learn new ways to  
end violence and feed  
starving children.

Help us listen  
for the cry of the poor,  
the earth, and the cries of  
all who suffer.

When we love you in our neighbour,  
let us find you in  
ourselves.

Anne Osdieck

**A Poem to Sit With  
Sixth Sunday of Easter A**

*"Whoever has my commandments and  
observes them is the one who loves me.  
And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I will love him and reveal myself to him."  
(Gospel)*

Choose a point  
a place  
in time  
in the universe  
which He had made  
and be obedient to it  
while following his  
Father  
in the Spirit  
denying nothing  
that is—  
embracing all  
teaching us that to believe  
is to deny nothing  
that is—  
to embrace all

J. Janda



Happy Mother's Day

*Lord Jesus Christ, You chose to put yourself—tiny, needy and helpless—into the nurturing and watchful hands of a human mother. Since then, every act of mothering, both physical and spiritual, in every time and every corner of the world recalls Mary's. Inspired by this example, we, too, honour our mothers and mother figures today. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers and nurturers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.*

*We ask this in your holy name. Amen.*

**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.

**Today's Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. cf. v. 2

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

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



**Sick:** Gwen Daly, 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.

**BLUE MOUNTAINS DEANERY CONSULTATION:** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 6:30-9:30pm. Be part of the journey towards our Diocesan Synod! Share your story of life, faith and mission to 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)

**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.



**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.*

**STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP:** Next meeting will be held after morning Mass on Friday 19th May at the Parish Centre. Guest Speaker is Kim Crawford who will lead the discussion "What did Jesus teach about the environment?" All welcome!

**AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA:** All parishioners are invited to attend Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at the Parish Centre from 10:30am. \$5 entry. This is a fund raising event for the Cancer Council. All welcome. RSVP by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to Colleen Kime 0407 125 427 or Diedre Madden on 0400 495 028.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or on 89124818.

**THE PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT:** The population of the Parish had changed over time. A Family Group is one way to get to know fellow parishioners. If you want to find out more about the Family Groups pick up a brochure from the table at the rear of the church. Anyone can join: singles/couples/old/young/regulars/casuals – all are welcome: it's a family for all! More details to come.

**NOTE OF THANKS:** A note of thanks and appreciation to Liz and Dennis Farrar for the untiring work of organising the Family Groups and also for their amazing work in our community garden. Your work does not go unnoticed.

## Spirituality of the Readings

### Remembering the Truth

We live in an age when nostalgia sells. We have radio stations devoted to "oldies," that is, the music of some former era. Television has endless recall of shows from Jack Benny to Leave it to Beaver to I Love Lucy to ... you name it.

Such a human thing it is to remember the spirit of the past and to understand better what we have done and have been. Call it media hype, designed to "sell product"? We are tempted to say, yes, hype, hype and nothing but hype. Yet much of what our nostalgia dredges up what was actually good in its day, and remains so.

### Do you remember to say yes to Christ's presence within you?

Throughout Easter the Church is recalling the adventures of the Church in the weeks after Jesus died and then rose again. We sit around the campfire of our memories, telling stories about how it was then. Philip. Remember Philip who told Jesus, "just show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Of course he was seeing Jesus and therefore was looking at the Father, but he did not know it.

And do you remember what Jesus said just before his passion and death? That he would send the Spirit of Truth into our hearts. And that we would not be left orphans. It was hard to understand then and it is still pretty difficult.

Let us go over it one more time. Jesus seemed to say, first, that God the Abba was so much within Jesus that every time you see him it is the same thing as seeing God. Second, Jesus said, I am going to be so much within you—yes, you normal people—that whenever people see you it will be the same thing as seeing me! And of course, the Father is in me, so they see the Father too!

"I almost have it," Philip gulped.

So Jesus said it again. You will not see me anymore. But that doesn't make me absent from you. I and Abba will be within you so that your very spirit will hold the Spirit of me and of the Father. All you need to do is to say "yes."

Then Philip saw it. In the upper room he *touch*ed the truth. Very soon he was running from place to place doing miracles and preaching about the Messiah!

With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city ([First Reading](#)).

We ourselves touch the truth and receive it also. Maybe it is not so dramatic as Philip's experience, but we have it every Sunday and any other day we choose to participate in Mass. We touch and receive Jesus on the tongue.

Simple? No.

Well, maybe it is simple. This Sunday let us remember again not hype but these deepest, dearest mysteries of our lives.

John Foley, SJ

*If you have a garden and a library,  
You have everything you need".*

*Marcus Tullius Cicero*



### PROJECT COMPASSION



Thank you for  
your kind



donation to our Project Compassion 2023 appeal which provides so much value to the communities we serve. Times are tough everywhere right now but your generous donation totalling \$3,732.10 provides so much security for families in need. Thank you.