

Reading Roster

Date:	20th/21st May 2023	The Ascension of the Lord	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Gregory Jacobs	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	John Belfanti	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Colleen Baker	Kim Crawford	Phil Saville
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Jim Gresser	Matt Aldous
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Ingrid Merchant
Music:	None	None	None
Date:	27th/28th May 2023	Pentecost Sunday	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	TBA	Fr PJ	Fr PJ
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Cheryl Kirby	Vicky Walker	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Jim Gresser	Peta Sparkes
Second Reading:	Colleen Baker	Kim Crawford	Anne Ellis
Music:	Chris Wilson	None	None

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

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

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

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Parish Email: email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.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
Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
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

We respect the Darug people and their elders both past and present, as the traditional custodians of this land on which we celebrate the Eucharist.

THE SECOND READING

7th Sunday: [1 Peter 4:13-16](#)

Ascension: [Ephesians 1:17-23](#)

(May) the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him.

Suffering, we ward you off.

Yet you steal into our lives.

OK, come in.

Live with us.

But only

if it means that

Christ is within us and that we can know him better.

Lord,

let the eyes of our hearts be enlightened and filled with your kindhearted

love,

that cures all.

Anne Osdieck

**A Poem to Sit With Ascension of the Lord**

*"Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."
(Gospel)*

The Dismissal

Son
leave the prison—
the prison of your
negative, unconscious
mind
the gate is open
I will take you
by the hand
and lead you
into my infinite
empty space and
silence
the stillness of
joy and peace
inside yet outside
your heart

J. Janda

Today's Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

Entrance Antiphon: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of age. Alleluia!



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, 20th June. 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.

FR SHINTO: From Monday 22nd May until Friday 2nd June Fr Shinto is attending a Canon Law course and will not be available for weekend or midweek Masses therefore, we will have communion services on Thursday and Friday for the next two weeks. We have arranged a supply priest for the weekend of the 27th and 28th May.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This weekend at our 9.30am Mass we invite children aged between 4-12 to attend our Children's Liturgy. The children are called forward, and sent with a blessing over to our parish rooms for a Gospel lesson. They will hear the same Scriptures that are proclaimed at Mass, but explained on a level that children can understand. The children will return to their family in church after the Creed, as the Offertory and Liturgy of the Eucharist begins.

CPR COURSE: Thank you to Victoria from NSW Surf Life Saving, Diana and Rose from the University of Sydney and along with Maria Kervin from our Safeguarding team at Parramatta, we were able to hold a successful CPR training course at STA Primary School last weekend. Every participant had a great morning, no knees were harmed in the process and everyone passed the course! If you missed out, please email your name to the parish office and we will pass this information onto the Diocese in the hope we can secure another training day in Springwood.

FR PAUL: Fr Paul is recovering at home from Covid. He is very grateful to every one of you who has passed on your thoughts and prayers and would like to say thank you.

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.



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA: All parishioners are invited to attend Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Friday 26th 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 22nd May to Colleen Kime 0407 125 427 or Diedre Madden on 0400 495 028.

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.

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.

LAUDATO SI' WEEK: 16th – 24th May is a global celebration where we remember Pope Francis urging us in his encyclical Laudato Si' to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and to humbly place ourselves in communion with our common home. As a Catholic Earthcare Parish we celebrate our part in the great process the whole Church is making on its journey towards the seven Laudato Si' Goals set before us by Pope Francis to achieve ecological conversion.

"The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all" (LS 23) - Pope Francis

WALKING TOGETHER - YOUTH POWR MEETS THE ULURU STATEMENT: In view of the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament, Youth PoWR and the Challenging Racism Project at WSU are hosting a free interactive workshop led by Youth Off the Streets to foster purpose and understanding among non-Indigenous youth so they can confidently walk the path of reconciliation with First Nations people. For young adults aged 18-35 Please join us: Sunday 28 May @ 12-4pm, Vegetarian food served at midday. Come! Eat! Meet! Participate! Peter Shergold Building, WSU Level 9, 169 Macquarie St, Parramatta 2150. Register your attendance FREE at Humanitix: events.humanitix.com/youthpowr-meets-uluru

Glancing Thoughts



Traveling Mercies

In the Gospel Reading, before his ascension Christ gives his disciples a last command. Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel. And he adds a list of things that will characterise those of his followers who obey this command: they will drive out demons, speak new languages, handle snakes safely, drink deadly things without harm, and heal the sick by the laying on of hands.

Why *this* list? Isn't it supposed to be just *love* that characterises Christ's followers?

Well, think of it this way.

Maybe it is only fair of Jesus to tell those who obey him that they don't need to worry.

Once when one of my children was travelling to Bangladesh, I made a list of dos and don'ts for him. It was a list intended to help keep him safe.

Finding housing with English speakers was on the list, so that there wouldn't be language problems. "Don't drink the water!" was definitely on the list, and so was "Stay away from people who are obviously sick!" The list finished with this prohibition: "Whatever you do, don't come into contact with the ground!" I know it sounds ridiculous; but hookworm is endemic in that part of the world, and you can get full of worms if you let a body part with an open wound come into contact with infected ground.

You can see that what was on my list of things to worry about are on Christ's list of things not to worry about: language problems, deadly drinks, sicknesses, even snakes—well, hookworms, anyway. (Demons weren't on my list, but maybe they would have been if I could have thought of anything to say about them.)

So the things on Christ's list are the things that you (or your mother) might worry about if you were travelling in dangerous places. Since Christ is commanding his followers to head out to all the world, maybe it is only fair of him to tell those who obey him that they don't need to worry about any of these things. Like a good mother, Christ has already thought about all these things for his travelling people, and in his mercy he has made provision for them all.

So here is one way to understand Christ's list of the things that characterise those who believe in Christ and obey him. Whatever roads the journey of their lives takes them on, the care of the Lord encompasses those who travel in his name.

Eleonore Stump

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Aboriginal Catholic Care at Emerton



Will you be the face of Christ for our First Nations people in need? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will support a welcoming place where Aboriginal people can express their identity, share their culture and knowledge within our community, access practical support and development opportunities, and make social connections. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you for being a Good Samaritan to our First Nations people.

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.