

Reading Roster

Date:	24th/25th June 2023	12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Ellis
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Ros Comfort	Ingrid Merchant
Second Reading:	Colleen Baker	Vicky Walker	Peta Sparkes
Music:	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters
Date:	1st/2nd July 2023	13th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Randall Noney	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Domhnall MacCormac
First Reading:	Cheryl Kirby	Vicky Walker	Matt Aldous
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Kim Crawford	Steve Bishop
Music:	Andrew Wilson	None	Chris Wilson

Morning Tea Roster - 2nd July after 9:30am Mass: Disciples of Jesus / Catechists

Springwood St Vincent de Paul Celebrates 85 Years

In July the Springwood St Vincent de Paul Conference celebrates 85 years of care and support to people in need. This has been carried out predominately in the Springwood Parish area but in times of disasters we have been able to support people all over Australia and in countries overseas as well.



In 1938 a group of 8 men from the St Thomas Aquinas Parish Springwood gathered for the first official meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish presbytery. Being led by the Society's moto that 'No act of charity is foreign to the Society' their first work was to assist the Sisters of St Joseph by escorting the children from the convent school to Buttenshaw Park for the school's sports carnival.

The need for food is often the initial reason people come to us, however this may only be the tip of the iceberg of the level of support they need. Vinnies members are always encouraged to listen to people's stories, discern their needs and offer whatever support we can. There are many reasons why people find themselves seeking help. Illness in the family, under employment is a major one, family breakup, high rental costs. Any one of us could be in a similar position. It is not our job to judge. It is simply to journey with these people through their difficulties and offer what support we can.

Today we still adhere to that moto, '**No act of charity is foreign to the Society**'. The support we offer is available to anyone in need, mirroring the acts of Jesus who was open to all irrespective of race, creed or position in society. To make an appointment for support call 1800 606 724 or simple call into the Catholic Care office, next to Blooms the Chemist in Springwood, every Thursday between 10am and 12 noon or our parish office on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 10am to 12 noon.

Father God in heaven, we come to you in prayer for Fr Shinto Francis, our Assistant Priest. He is departing from our parish very soon and we wish he could stay beyond but we understand he needs to go to where you are calling him to go. We all thank you Lord, for how you've used him here and what he means to us. We ask that you fill his heart and mind with good memories from his ministry here. May we all together, give you praise and thanks for the many blessings you have given to him, and us, during his caring ministry amongst us. We pray these in the loving name of Jesus Christ, Amen.



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.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 - Wednesday until further notice 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 GOSPEL
Matthew 10:26-33

Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid.

A Poem to Sit With

*Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?
 Yet not one of them falls to the ground without
 your Father's knowledge.
 Even all the hairs of your head are counted.*

(Gospel)

God knows us better than we know ourselves.
 Loves every fibre and freckle of us.

God counts us worthy
 to spread the
 Word.

But
 we can't breathe, Jesus.
 We have no control of
 our climate, wars,
 violence and
 racism.
 Jesus,
 "No fear,"
 you tell us.

You be our nerve and our backbone.
 Help us stand straight and proclaim your Word
 in a loud voice to all the people,
 in all the places, times
 and events of
 our lives.

Anne Osdieck

And why did
 I make you?
 and why do
 I keep you
 in life?

because
 I love you
 because
 I want you
 to be happy
 because
 I want to
 surprise
 you
 because
 I want you
 to surprise
 me

J. Janda

Today's Readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 68:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.



Sick: Mary Whyte, Gwen Daly, Ray Lyons, Lally Sabater, Baby Leonardo Diaz, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, 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

9.30AM SATURDAY PARISH MASS: While we work on gaining supply priests for our Parish, we would like to inform our parishioners that our Saturday morning Mass at 9.30am **from the 2nd July** will **not be** going ahead until further notice. We will only have Masses at 5.00pm on Saturday and on Sunday morning at 8.00am and 9.30am. We sincerely apologise for this inconvenience.

ASSISTANT PRIEST: The Diocese, at this stage, is not sending an Assistant Priest to our parish so while we negotiate the following few months, we will be relying on Supply and Communion Services. We will do our very best to keep you up to date as much as possible.

MORNING TEA CELEBRATION AFTER 9:30AM MASS FOR FR SHINTO: We would greatly appreciate any baked goodies or bought cakes/biscuits to share on Sunday, 25th June after 9:30 am Mass. Please join us as we say farewell to our dearest Assistant Priest Fr Shinto. Thank you all for your generosity and precious time in this very special occasion.

WATCH BISHOP VINCENT ON ABC'S COMPASS: Bishop Vincent features on ABC Compass this Sunday 25 June. Accompanied by Geraldine Doogue, he will show you important places in his life, and you'll hear about his remarkable story and ministry. Watch it on ABC TV at 6.30pm. We do not have editorial control over the program however we feel confident that this will be a story that will help spread the good news about our Church and its mission. If you do miss viewing it live, the program should be available on ABC iView shortly after.

REFUGEE WEEK DIOCESAN FOOD DRIVE: Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. This Refugee Week, the Diocese of Parramatta is encouraging schools and parishes to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at parracatholic.org/fooddrive or emailing james.atanasious@parracatholic.org

2023 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY 2 JULY: Every year, on the first Sunday in July, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church. In Australia we are blessed to be home to the world's oldest continuing Culture. For more information and resources, please visit <https://www.natsicc.org.au/2023-atsi-sunday.html>

NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK SUNDAY 2 - 8 JULY: National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture, achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and celebrates the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country.

FREE COMMUNITY WOMEN'S CIRCLE: A place to come together with other local women, to share conversation, enjoy craft and writing activities and indulge in a guided meditation! Every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 10am-12pm in the Springwood Parish Centre. For details please contact 02 8843 2545; email: sally.butler@catholiccarewsbm.org.au



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: One of the major works of *Aid to the Church in Need* is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/transport or scan the QR code to make an offering and learn more.

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.



DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CONFERENCE: The Diocesan Liturgy Conference is on again in 2023! Save the date for Saturday 15 July at St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong. Fr Peter Williams AM VG will be the Keynote speaker as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy. The conference will include a variety of workshops such as nourishing faith in children and discovering sacred art. To register, please visit www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1041495, scan the QR code or contact mary.gale@parracatholic.org.

STA PARISH IS GETTING 660L WHEELIE RECYCLING BIN: A 660L wheelie recycling bin will now be serviced fortnightly starting Tuesday 11th July 2023.

Glancing Thoughts

Death

The Gospel reading this week is focused on death. In the gospel reading, Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid of those who can kill them. Those people are not to be feared, because death itself is not to be feared.

No doubt, there is always something sorrowful about dying, because death separates the dying person from his family and his friends; and they still have to slog through their lives in this world without their companion. But Jesus is not telling people to accept death without sorrow. He is telling them not to fear death.

How can Jesus tell us not to be afraid of death?

If you were walking alone down a dark street late at night, and you saw a small knot of strangers gathered menacingly at a corner, wouldn't you be afraid? *Shouldn't* you be afraid? If the cancer doctor tells you that you have only months to live, wouldn't you—shouldn't you—be afraid?

How can Jesus tell us, actually commands us not to be afraid of death?

Well, think about it this way. If you are surprised when you discover that you are dying, you just haven't been paying attention. None of us is getting out of this alive. Every one of us will die. It is just a question of when. Or maybe better: it is just a question of how.

Here is how it will be if you love the Lord. In dying, you will move through the veil that separates you, in this world of sorrow and suffering, from the Lord's own presence. There, on the other side, you will find all tears wiped away—the tears you have already wept and the ones that are stuck in your heart right now. All those tears will be wiped away by your Creator with a tenderness so great that you will think you must be dreaming. The beauty and the goodness of that new world will surpass your every desire. And you yourself will be something lovelier than you ever imagined you could be. Surrounded by beauty and goodness, bathed in the love of the Lord, transformed, yourself, in the beauty of holiness, you will join the angels in singing for joy at what the Lord has done.

Are you afraid now? Is this scary to you?

What is worth fearing is losing all of this beauty and goodness on the other side of death because you will not now surrender to the love of the Lord who calls you to himself. But this is a kind of death that comes only from sin, as the Second Reading says. No one else can force it on you; only you can cause this death in yourself.

And that is why the Lord tells his disciples not to fear those who can kill the body.

Eleonore Stump

EarthCare



Did you know?

Wet wipes are the cause of nearly 70% of all wastewater pipe blockages. 'Saponification' is a chemical process through which the wipes react with greases, oils, and fats; and transform into rock-solid masses. These are known as 'fatbergs'. They can be large and costly to remove. Some 'fatbergs' found in major cities have been as big as 6m long!

One of the best ways to prevent sewerage overflow in our natural waterways is to never flush wipes, tissues or paper towels down the toilet - even those marketed as 'flushable'. Another step is to place any kind of fat (including milk, salad dressing, and jelly) into a sealed container and disposing of it in the household waste bin.

For further information, visit: <https://www.sydneywater.com.au/water-the-environment/what-you-can-do/protect-your-plumbing.html>



Group Mentorship Program

Anyone interested in learning about how to welcome and support refugee newcomers into our community may register their interest with Celia at CatholicCare 02 8843 2545 or email us on springwood@parracatholic.org