

Reading Roster

Date:	15th/16th July 2023	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Philip	Fr PJ	Fr PJ
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Richard Merchant	Marek Grus
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Kim Crawford	Peta Sparkes
First Reading:	Colleen Baker	Jim Gresser	Anne Edwards
Second Reading:	Cheryl Kirby	Cecilia Hunt	Brian Edwards
Music:	None	None	Chris Wilson
Date:	22nd/23rd July 2023	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	TBA	TBA	TBA
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Michael Loyd	Matt Aldous
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Trish Matchett	Ingrid Merchant
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Loida Derbyshire	Katherine Mahns
Music:	None	None	Chris Wilson

Morning Tea Roster - 16th July after 9:30am Mass: Choir

Weekend Mass Collections

Thank you for your contributions to both the first and second collections, credit card, using the Tap and Go, Commonwealth Bank machine or by way of the Parish Bank Account.

The FIRST COLLECTION:

This is used by the Diocese to pay for all Diocesan Clergy so that they are all supported equally.

The SECOND COLLECTION:

(and both tap machines) goes directly to OUR CHURCH for the upkeep and running of our Parish.

Please see the office if you would like to consider a monthly contribution by way of direct debit or by way of credit card

For one off payments, our details are as follows:

Parish Name: Springwood

BSB: 067-950

Account: 00000560 (must include all the zero's)

A big 'THANK YOU' to all those parishioners who currently contribute each week, fortnight or month to our Parish. Fr Paul

“Great holiness consists in carrying out the ‘little duties’ of each moment.”

- Saint Josemaría Escrivá

“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.”

- Pope Francis

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
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 Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email:	<i>email: springwood@parracatholic.org</i>
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
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, Thursday 9:30 am
Communion Service:	Monday, Friday, 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 FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-11

My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

Lord of all, tend to our earth.
 Give it clean water
 and seed
 for
 bread
 for all your
 hungry children.
 Tend to
 our
 souls.
 Render them
 fertile and fruitful.
 And
 please
 send us out
 to plant your Word
 within the entire world.

Anne Osdieck

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-23

**Blest be our eyes,
 because they see your splendour:**

**in the sunlight at play in
 summer trees;
 in the faces of loved ones;
 in the beauty of images,
 of Cezanne and
 friends.
 And blessed be our ears
 which certainly hear your glory
 in the sounds of geese high overhead;
 in baby's laugh; in a Puccini opera,
 in the hello of a friend.
 And,
 let us always listen
 for the cries of
 your poor.
 And,
 please make our lives rich,
 so our eyes and ears always wait
 to receive your
 ever-tender
 love.**

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

Entrance Antiphon: As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 64:10-14

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



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

FR SHINTO: Please join us in congratulating Fr Shinto Francis as he becomes an Australian Citizen this Saturday. *Congratulations!*

CONDOLENCES: Fr Carl Ashton, Emeritus Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Druitt South, died on Thursday 13th July, 86 years old. In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Ashton and remember his loved ones in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

TEXT MESSAGE SCAM: We have been notified that a text message is circulating asking for assistance and to contact Fr Paul. This number is traceable to a USA number and is NOT from Fr Paul. Please delete immediately. Thank you.

PPC MEETING: There will be a PPC Meeting on Tuesday, 18th July. If you would like to add any items to the agenda, please place your suggestions into the box at the back of the church.

CARPARK LIGHTS: We had an electrical contractor come and inspect our carpark lights along with our switchboard. We now have to wait for a cherry picker high enough to reach the lights. We sincerely apologise that this has taken so long but the situation is out of our hands.

MULCH: We were delivered a large pile of mulch some weeks ago and if there are any eager parishioners who would like to distribute it amongst our gardens, please feel free to do so. It would be sincerely appreciated.

BBQ: St Thomas Aquinas Parish is seeking a BBQ that you may have in your garage and are no longer using. The one we have is way past its use by date and we would like to have community building events and to do this having a BBQ would be perfect. Please contact the parish office if you have one you no longer need. Thank you.

INFORMATION ON LITURGY: The Parish Pastoral Council would like to hear from any parishioner who would be interested in helping our liturgical ministry. Liturgy is more than only words. We would like our parish to be a vibrant, meaningful and inclusive place of worship. Help us to establish a consistent, prayerful, and inviting liturgy for each Mass. Please email the Parish Pastoral Council on springwoodparishpc@gmail.com or place your name into the suggestion box at the back of the church and the PPC will review submissions at the next meeting in July.

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.

COUNTERS: If you would like to be part of our weekly contribution counters and are available during the week at 10.00am for one day a month, please send an email to the parish office at springwood@parracatholic.org

READERS: If you are interested in being a reader at any of our Masses please contact the Parish office via email or phone we can place you on to our roster. Thank you.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL: The St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal will be held on the weekend 22nd - 23rd July. On Sunday 23rd July at the 9:30am Mass, we will celebrate 85 years of support to the people in the Springwood Parish area by the St Thomas Aquinas Conference. Please join us for this celebration and morning tea after Mass.

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEETING: The next meeting of the STA Ladies Fellowship group will be held on Friday 21st July after the communion service at the STA Parish Centre. All welcome.

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP STREET STALL: STA Ladies Fellowship will be holding a street stall on Friday 28th July in Springwood Town Square from 9:00am. Donations of cakes, slices, pickles, jams, knitted goods, gift items, etc. can be dropped on site from 8:30am.

BIBLE STUDY: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW: On all 5 Saturdays of July, Fr John Mc Sweeney will offer a Bible study. It will be held at Leura Catholic Church, Railway Parade & Hartley Esplanade, Leura NSW from 3-4:30pm. All welcome!

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS: Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant is Fr Brian Steele MGL, Sunday 16th July 2023, 2:00pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys. All welcome!

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.



Spirituality of the Readings

I must be fully myself and allow God to do the rest.

The Jesuit poet Hopkins was so filled with the world's beauty that he can speak here, in the poem called "Pied Beauty."

Glory be to God for dappled things—

For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;

For rose-moles in all stipple upon trout that swim;

Fresh fire coal chestnut falls; finches' wings;

Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;

And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;

Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:

Praise him.

Some of the language is unusual, I admit. But if you spend time with these glorious images you will come to love our ever-evolving blue planet like someone bathing in the gentle tide of ocean swirl. All of it luxuriant, all of it precious.

The Lord uses this ebb and flow of seasons in the [First Reading](#) to show how his visceral love for the earth works. Just as the rain and snow come to earth, he says, so too does God's word, which then returns to the heavens when it has done its job of watering. It does not return until it has moistened and nourished life in every single creature that will receive it. A fruitful harvest, says the [Psalm](#).

St. Paul speaks of all creation groaning in labour pains even until now ([Second Reading](#)). Human beings too groan within themselves like seeds which break open and push their way through tough ground and then evolve into full trees that stretch up for Christ's light.

Can such rich images apply to you and me? How good is our own soil? God pours his grace into it always. Do you and I groan and yearn for the goodness of God which is ready to be lavished upon us? Do we take time each day to let love in? Or do we listen on Sunday, perhaps with some interest, but then forget everything by Monday? Or not at all?

Jesus lists a number of things we might have to correct in order to accept the gifts he has ready for us. We might be shallow ground, he says. Or rocky soil. Weeds might choke us. How discouraging. Must I pretend to be rich soil, though I know my shallowness? No. I must be fully myself and allow God to do the rest.

That great poet from India, Tagore, put it this way:

"The cloud stood humbly in a corner of the sky.

The morning crowned it with splendour."

Let's us be humble! Let's join in the revolving refreshment of all earthly things! Open our leaves! Allow in the sun!

John Foley, SJ

Thank you for your service and dedication to our faith. Your guidance has blessed us all with spiritual fulfillment and love. We will miss you dearly, Fr Shinto!



HELP WANTED:

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

We are looking for more volunteers to be part of our Eucharistic Ministry. If you would like to become an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion visiting the sick in their private homes and/or retirement aged care facilities, please contact Fr Paul Slyney or the Parish Office on 02 4754 1052.

