

Reading Roster

Date:	8th/9th July 2023	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Neil	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Tanya Baldwin	Trish Matchett	Phillip Saville
First Reading:	Felix Kobus	Michael Lloyd	Ingrid Merchant
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Loida Derbyshire	Katherine Mahns
Music:	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters
Date:	15th/16th July 2023	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Philip	TBA	TBA
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Richard Merchant	John Belfanti
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

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

"You do not need to wallow in guilt.

Wallow in the mercy of God."

St. John Vianney

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless, God is merciful and will hear your prayer."

St. Pio of Pietrelcina

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777
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
Zechariah 9:9-10

See, your King shall come to you; a just Saviour is He, meek, and riding on a donkey.

The King proclaims justice,
and banishes war,
and puzzles
the
proud.
Jesus,
Messiah,
though
is meek,
riding on a donkey.
Oh lowly King of the Universe,
please be our strength.
Assert your peace
now, from sea
to sea.

Anne Osdieck

THE SECOND READING
Romans 8:9, 11-13

The one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Our lowly flesh,
tinged
with joy,
weighed down
with woe,
Christ takes as his own.
His Holy Spirit
comes to
us, to
dwell
in
our
hearts
as they are.
Lord, let us
revere these soul-bodies
and those of our
neighbours,
because
of
you.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Zechariah 9:9-10, Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30

Entrance Antiphon: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.



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

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.

MASS TIMES: Please see the notice in the bulletin regarding Masses here at St Thomas Aquinas Parish Springwood.

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.

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!

BECOME A CATECHIST! Catechist training commencing in August at St Finbars, Glenbrook. Sharing the gospel with students in our public schools is an important ministry at our parish. It may sound daunting but it is very rewarding spending time with young people sharing our faith. You'll be joining a supportive team and curriculum materials and ongoing training are provided. We'd love to see you there. To enquire/enrol email: ccd.training@parracatholic.org with your details.

NAIDOC WEEK 2 - 9 JULY: NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee). It celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander People. NAIDOC became a week-long event in 1975 and had its roots in the 1938 Day of Mourning. In the 1967 referendum 90% of Australians voted to give the Federal Government the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Straight and to be included in the census.

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

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!

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

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 Readings

A Righteous Reward?

How can Jesus say such a thing to us? "Whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward." ([Gospel](#)). We have only recently experienced Jesus' Passion and Cross, which do not seem rewarding at all.

And how about September 11, and Iraq, and African Aids, and the warming trend? Citizens do not find these peaceful. Yes we turn to the Lord and maybe find some comfort but it is in the midst of terror and shock. It seems a cold comfort.

Maybe the only real goods in life are those rooted in the love that is God

And of course there are those, our own, who abuse children and young people even having taken up the Lord's life explicitly and made themselves public witnesses of it. Have these men ever slept an undisturbed sleep since their crimes? Even if they have, clearly the survivors have not.

"I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves," the Gospel says. Can it be true? How can we welcome a saviour who is meek and humble instead of one fiercely opposing the disastrous wrongs?

Jesus' words do bring some fledgling kind of calm. Somehow they compel, console. Actually you might say that they reveal one of life's secrets that we might never have guessed. What can it be? Let us look.

Long ago, I began quoting with gusto the words of Dylan Thomas, that ragged poet, who if rumor is true drank himself to the death he dreaded. But he wrote this to his father who was upon his death bed.

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old Age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Yes, rage. And in his great poem, "Fern Hill," the same poet says,

Oh as I was young and easy
in the mercy of his means,
Time held me green and dying
Though I sang in my chains like the sea.

Time steals away the life and liveliness of human beings, whatever of it the world has not already plundered, and death ends it all. How does Jesus give us reward from these kinds of weariness and burden? In what way does he make death easy?

Years and years ago, I began to search for some way in which death was continuous with life instead of its cancellation. Could it be simply a transition from what was to what will be? Can there be a view of life and death in common with the fullness of life? What is the source and goal of them both?

Seek it in me, Jesus says. I am "meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass" ([First Reading](#)). Watch me on the sad height of Calvary and see. I have let it all go—belongings, beloveds, repute, all. But one thing remains. Make it your life, in the midst of sorrow, in every act of living and of dying. It is the centre of my life.

Love.

If you can let go into the arms of the Great Love, give your life away instead of raging, you will know rest in your burdens; you will see how death is the ultimate act of giving yourself away, as Jesus did, burdens or not.

John Foley, SJ

The **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council** (NATSICC) recently launched their website *One Journey, Together*. It offers information and resources for Catholics to help them to better understand the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament.

At the heart of the upcoming Voice to Parliament Referendum is the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, the world's oldest continuing culture, in the Australian Constitution. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to listen to the voices of First Australians and to work towards a more just and equitable society.

Our mission is to educate and inform our fellow Catholics on this pivotal moment in Australia's history. We have collated and created statements and resources – grounded in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching – to help you on your process of discernment.

The Voice to Parliament Referendum provides all Catholics with a unique opportunity to come together as a community and draw upon our faith and moral grounding to make an informed decision.

One Journey, Together.

Carol and Maureen Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council (Lawson Reps)
From the NATSICC website *One Journey Together* indigenousvoice.church

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.

