

Reading Roster

Date:	29th/30th July 2023	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Philip	Fr Ruben	Fr Ruben
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Richard Merchant	John Belfanti
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Phillip Saville
First Reading:	Cheryl Kirby	Kim Crawford	Peta Sparkes
Second Reading:	Felix Kobus	Cecilia Hunt	Margaret Hickey
Music:	None	None	None

Date:	5th/6th August 2023	The Transfiguration of the Lord	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	TBA	TBA	TBA
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Cheryl Kirby	Michael Lloyd	Anne Ellis
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Vicky Walker	Anne Edwards
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Cecilia Hunt	Brian Edwards
Music:	Andrew Wilson	None	Chris Wilson

Morning Tea Roster - 6th August after 9:30am Mass: East Timor Support Group



This year, 2023, marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective" will be held on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST.

As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life. Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddtcreator>



Memorial of St John Vianney 4th August

Almighty and merciful God, who made the Priest St John Vianney wonderful in his pastoral zeal, grant, we pray, that through his intercession and example we may in charity win brothers and sisters for Christ and attain with them eternal glory.

“Our sins are nothing but a grain of sand along the great mountain of the mercy of God.”

- St. John Vianney

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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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 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 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 **1 Kings 3:5, 7-12**

“Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart.”

Solomon asked you, not for a long life for himself, nor for riches, and not for the life of his enemies, but for understanding, to know what was right. O God, give us, this day, the understanding we crave to see the wrongs that surround us. Give us the will and the courage to make them right. Lord, give us the wealth of an understanding heart.

Anne Osdieck

THE GOSPEL **Matthew 13:44-52 or 44-46**

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field.”

What is the pearl of great price? A Mercedes, a portfolio, an oil well, honour and praise and awards, kingship over everything we survey? Or could it be no walls: all peoples brothers and sisters, clean air, water and food for everyone? Neighbour serving neighbour? Dinner with friends? A kind word? Finding God in all things? Lord, give us the wisdom to know real treasure.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

R. Lord, I love your commands.

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: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.



Sick: Faith Naughton-Green, Margaret Munro, 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



BE A MEMBER OF OUR FIRST SYNOD: 12 - 15 OCTOBER: All people over 18 years old within the Diocese of Parramatta are invited to apply to be a member at the Synod. Applications close on 31 July. There is only a few days left to reflect, pray and discern about the future of our local church. Invite a friend or family member and have a conversation about how we can walk together as a Church, guided by the Holy Spirit. To find out more about the Synod, go to parracatholic.org/synod2023

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL: Thank you to our kind and generous parish community who donated to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. St Vinnies support local people with food, clothing, furniture, payment of household bills, medical expenses and housing. The Springwood Conference assists people living in the Hawkesbury Heights, Yellow Rock, Winmalee, Springwood, Valley Heights, Sun Valley, Faulconbridge and Linden areas. Members are available for face to face interviews in the St Thomas Aquinas Church office between 10am - 12 noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and in the Catholic Care Social Services office, 163 Macquarie Road, Springwood from 10am - 12 noon every Thursday. Home visits can be arranged for those unable to attend either of these locations. Appointments for assistance can be made by ringing 1800 606 724 between 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday.

GIVING ENVELOPES: This is an important message for all parishioners who give generously via the Giving Envelopes. It is time to re-order and we will, as previously mentioned, be changing the envelope numbers for the new year starting in October. We have been busy cataloguing an entire year and if you haven't used an envelope in the last year you will NOT BE ISSUED with another set. If you have any queries, please see Debbie in the parish office.

ALTAR CLOTHS: It is with our deepest gratitude that we thank Magda Piotrowski for sewing our beautiful new altar cloths. Magda has been slowly working through all of the liturgical seasons and they are looking absolutely wonderful. Thank you Magda.

PARENT'S ROOM: Please help us to keep this room tidy for other families and put the toys away after use. Many thanks.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting for the PPC will be held on Tuesday, 15th August. 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.

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 so we can place you on to our roster. Thank you.

BECOME A CATECHIST! Catechist training commencing from Monday 7th 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.

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.

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.

FOLLOW OUR WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMAGE FROM HOME: 170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSE: The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

Glancing Thoughts

God's Gifts



Solomon was distinguished from all other kings in the Old Testament by God's gifts to him. First, God appeared to him and told him to ask for a gift. Not many kings in Israel were honoured by God in this way.

There is an inestimable spiritual richness in these gifts, more than Solomon knew to ask for.

Solomon responded to God so beautifully! He asked for something all right, but it was not something worldly. He did not ask God for riches or long life. Instead, he asked God for wisdom to govern God's people well.

There is an inestimable spiritual richness in these gifts, more than Solomon knew to ask for. And so he received God's first gift, which was the opportunity to ask God for something, in such a way that his asking made him worthy of what God gave him when God answered his prayer.

Because he pleased God by what he asked of God, God gave him the wisdom he asked for. And with that wisdom God gave him even more, namely, the gifts he had not asked for, things worthy of kings. In the text that continues the [First Reading](#), God promised him the very

worldly things he hadn't asked for—namely, riches and long life—in addition to the wisdom he wanted.

So Solomon was very great among the kings of the ancient Israel.

And yet what Christ gives to each one of his own people is greater than the gifts God gave Solomon. To each person who opens to Christ, Christ gives the indwelling Holy Spirit.

And with the Holy Spirit, he gives the seven gifts of the Spirit, too. The wisdom Solomon asked for is only the first of these. There are six more: understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. There is an inestimable spiritual richness in these gifts, more than Solomon knew to ask for.

Furthermore, anyone who has these has not just long life, like Solomon, but everlasting life with the Lord. And even among the sorrows of this life, the consolations of the indwelling Spirit are present too, in the love, joy, and peace that are among the fruits of the Spirit.

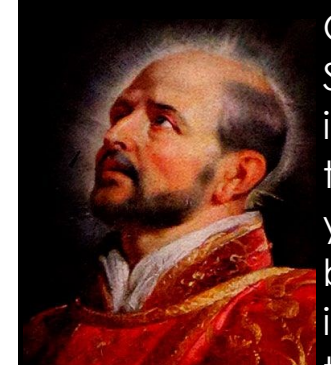
And so Christ offers now to each one who will accept it from him something greater than the greatness of Solomon, not just wisdom but all the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and with them unending life in the kingdom of heaven.

As Christ says in the [Gospel](#) reading, this is treasure indeed.

Eleonore Stump

Memorial of St Ignatius of Loyola

31st July



O God, who raised up Saint Ignatius of Loyola in our Church to further the greater glory of your name, grant that by his help we may imitate him in fighting the good fight on earth and merit to receive with him a crown in heaven.

Lord, we lift up to you Madeline Wade and Louis Carroll, young pilgrims from St Columba's Catholic College and ask that you would move in their lives. Help them pursue the desires of your heart and your will for their life with fervour and tenacity. Raise up youth all over the world who are willing to step out in faith. Help them to become close together as the body of Christ, to support and love each other, and encourage each other through every circumstance. Amen.

