

Reading Roster

Date:	22nd/23rd July 2023	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Neil	Fr Dado	Fr Paul
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:	Chris Wilson	None	E Streeters

Baptism Celebrant on Sunday 23rd July 2023 at 10:30am: Deacon Alan Skofic

Date:	29th/30th July 2023	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	TBA	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Richard Merchant	John Belfanti
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Phillip Saville
First Reading:	Cheryl Kirby	Kim Crawford	Peta Sparkes
Second Reading:	Colleen Baker	Cecilia Hunt	Margaret Hickey
Music:	No one	No one	No one

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

Commissioning Ceremony for St Vincent de Paul Springwood

Celebrating 85 Years of the St Thomas Aquinas Conference : 9.30am Sunday, 23rd July



The Rule of the St. Vincent de Paul Society states that 'The vocation of the Society's members, who are called Vincentians, is to follow Christ, through service to those in need and to bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Serving Christ in the poor with Love, Respect, Justice, Hope and Joy.'

Members show their commitment through person-to-person contact. They serve by firstly listening 'without judgment' to those who come to them for support, respecting these people and encouraging them, wherever possible, to change their own destinies, while discerning how they can best be supported.

This Sunday, we the community of St Thomas Aquinas Springwood, give thanks to our loving God for the commitment of members past, present and future, of our local Conference, for the way they live the Gospel message to Love one another.

26th July The Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Joachim and Anne are named as Mary's parents in a late second century tradition. Churches dedicated to Saint Anne are found in Jerusalem and Constantinople from the middle of the sixth century. The feast of Saint Anne was kept in Rome by the eighth century, that of Saint Joachim from the fifteenth century. The feast honours the parents of the Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord.

**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
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 GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43

The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...

A
massive tree
grows from a tiny seed. ...
Like the
mustard tree
with the birds from the sky
that are dwelling in its branches,
you have given us
all we need to
grow into
your
loving
family.
Let us care deeply for one another, and
for our environment, for its
air, plants, water, and
peaceful beasts.
Nourish us with your grace.
Help us grow in care.
One tiny grace
is enough
for us.

Anne Osdieck

A Poem to Sit With

*The righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.
Whoever has ears ought to hear.*

(Gospel)

core samplings

If you reverence and
respect all life
if you can forgive
and forget
if you wish peace
to all—and to none
harm
if you do not judge
criticise or condemn
you have God's heart
beating
in your body

J. Janda

Today's Readings: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

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: The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.



Sick: 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

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL FAMILY ASSISTANCE: Anyone seeking assistance from the St Vincent de Paul Society please ring 1 800 606 724. Alternatively, attend the Catholic Care Office in the arcade next to Blooms The Chemist in Macquarie Road, Springwood any Thursday between 10am and 12 noon or the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Office, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month between 10am and 12 noon.

FR CARL ASHTON FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS: Fr Carl Ashton, Pastor Emeritus of Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Druitt South, died on Thursday 13 July 2023, aged 86. A Vigil Mass will be held on Monday 24 July at Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Druitt South, from 7pm, followed by a prayer vigil. The Requiem Mass for Fr Carl will be held on Tuesday 25 July at 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, followed by a committal at Pinegrove Memorial Park, Minchinbury. In your charity, please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Fr Carl and remember his family in your prayers.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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

The Wheat and the Weeds

In the Lord's field, there are the wheat and the weeds. Some people are good wheat and are gathered to the Lord. And then there are people who are weeds. It isn't good to be the weeds. The weeds get gathered into bundles for burning.

So how do we know which people are those bad and destined-for-burning weeds?

We don't, the Lord says. At least, *we* don't, not now. For all we know, the rudest, proudest, worldliest person sitting so smug in the next pew might be among the wheat when the angels come at the end to gather the wheat to heaven. The most despicable sinner might be wheat too. You can't know the weeds until the end when the angels come, the Lord says.

By the same token, of course, the humblest, most hard-working person, sitting there so meekly in the next pew, might be among the weeds. The most admirable and saintly person might turn out to be weeds too. We don't know the wheat any more than we know the weeds.

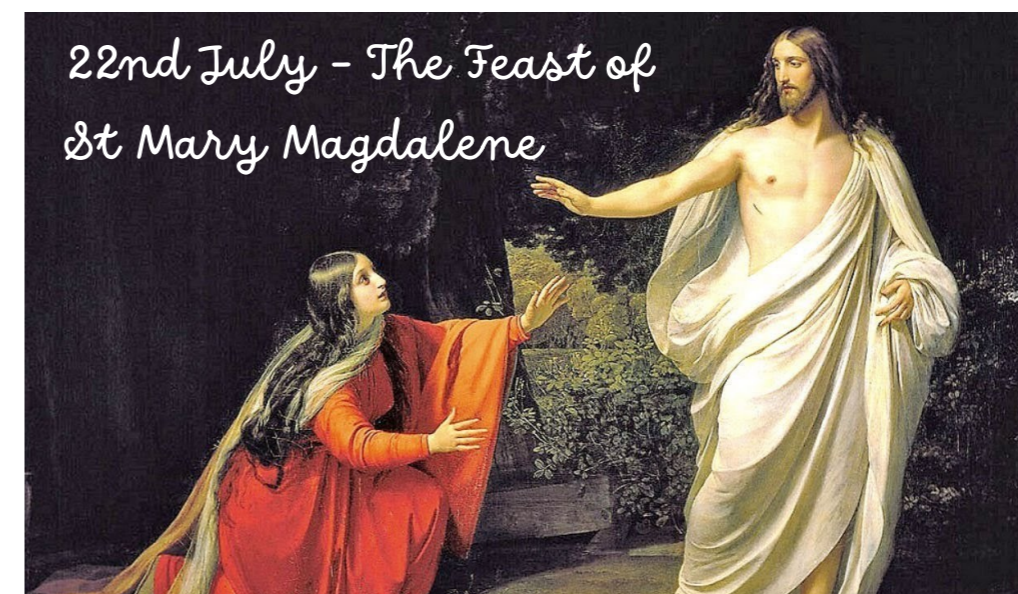
The Lord knows his own. But we don't. We can judge thoughts, choices, acts, and habits; but we don't know enough to judge a person's final resting place when the angels come at Judgment Day.

And so the Lord's parable about the wheat and the weeds can raise a terrible question: what am I? Am I weeds, too? If I can't tell the wheat from the weeds, how can I tell whether I am wheat or weeds?

The problem with finding an answer to *that* question is that the question is confused. You are not the judge, not for the other guy and not for yourself either. Nietzsche said derisively of Christians, "they don't even look like the redeemed!" But how would we know what the redeemed look like? (For that matter, how would Nietzsche know?) Our job is not the job of judge, because we are not up for that job.

Our job is to come to Christ and cleave to him. His job is first to save us, weeds that we are, and then to judge us the wheat his salvation has made us be.

Eleonore Stump



22nd July - The Feast of
St Mary Magdalene

O God, whose Only Begotten Son Entrusted Mary Magdalene before all others with announcing the great joy of Resurrection, grant, we pray, that through her intercession and example we may proclaim the living Christ and come to see him reigning in our glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.