

**Serving Roster**

**Date:** **19th/20th August 2023 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

<b>Mass Time:</b>	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
<b>Priest:</b>	Fr Peter Carroll	Fr PJ	Fr PJ
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Richard Merchant
<b>Commentator:</b>	Cheryl Kirby	Cecilia Hunt	Ingrid Merchant
<b>First Reading:</b>	Lynette Boyd	Michael Loyd	Anne Edwards
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Jim Gresser	Brian Edwards
<b>Music:</b>	None	None	Chris Wilson

**Date:** **26th/27th August 2023 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

<b>Mass Time:</b>	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
<b>Priest:</b>	Fr Dado	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	John Belfanti
<b>Commentator:</b>	Margaret Smith	Kim Crawford	Phillip Saville
<b>First Reading:</b>	Felix Kobus	Greg King	Katherine Mahns
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Lynette Boyd	Cecilia Hunt	Margaret Hickey
<b>Music:</b>	Chris Wilson		Streeters

**Morning Tea Roster - 20th August after 9:30am Mass: STA Ladies Fellowship #2**



**St Thomas Aquinas Parish Financial Report 2015-2023**  
**SPRINGWOOD**


Categories									9 Months	12 Months		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Year to Date	Projected 12 month income	% Change from 2022 to 2023	
Total Operating Income	151,701	199,233	115,367	125,880	94,625	101,336	113,079	98,014	86,769	115,692	17.678	18%
Total Operating Expenses	238,427	212,157	225,479	191,189	169,528	211,446	232,578	236,609	155,421	209,783	-26,826	-11.30%
Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	-86,726	-12,924	-110,111	-65,309	-74,903	-110,110	-119,500	-141,595	-68,652	-90,091	-47,504	-33.50%
Total income including First Collec	208,801	256,588	170,076	182,111	146,464	137,686	141,944	118,599	113,181	150,908	32,209	27%

- Notes:**
1. **Operating Expenses higher than the Operating Income.**
  2. **Cost savings initiatives has held the Operating Expenses in check.**
  3. **Our main source of income is our second collection.**

**First Collection at Mass** – This is used by the Diocese to pay for Parramatta Diocesan Clergy so that they are all supported equally.

**Second Collection at Mass and Parish Planned Giving** - (Basket collection/Envelopes/Direct Debit/Credit Card giving) - Assists in the Expenses of the Parish: staff, utilities, church and altar, repairs and maintenance of church, church and parish office site, car park site, printing/postage/stationery, insurance, pastoral and sacramental programs.

**Occasional Special Collections** - for the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal, Caritas etc and other Catholic charitable activities. Contributions to these collections are tax deductible.



**August 24th**

Named in the list of apostles and generally identified with Nathaniel of Cana, the 'Israelite without guile', who was led to Jesus by the apostle Philip. Said to have preached the gospel in India and in Armenia, where tradition indicates he was martyred.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW,  
PRAY FOR US!**

**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](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://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.*

**A Poem to Sit With**

**Jesus Speaks**

You can do nothing without me  
Why do you keep trying to do things alone?  
A child is not supposed to lift heavy things alone  
All I ask is that you talk to me  
Tell me why you are sad  
Tell me why you are afraid  
Tell me why you are tired  
Come to me—  
I will refresh you

J. Janda

**THE GOSPEL**  
**Matthew 15:21-28**  
*Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith!"*

Nothing can hold back the brave woman from Cana. Not religious boundaries, not gender rules, nothing, when she told Jesus the needs of her precious child. Dear Lord, give us faith like this unswerving woman. when we bring you our war, climate, race and immigrant problems. Make us stubborn. Bold. Fearless. Creative. Whatever it takes. Let us hear, "O, great is your faith. Let it be done for you as you wish."

Anne Osdieck

**Today's Readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32, Matthew 15:21-28**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66:2-3, 5-6, 8**  
**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.





**Recently Deceased:** Patricia Quinn, Janice Maunders

**Sick:** Marama Watson, 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

**FR PAUL SLYNEY:** Fr Paul will be undergoing shoulder surgery in September and will require at least 10 weeks recovery time. After this time, Fr Paul will be taking his annual leave for a duration of one month. While Fr Paul is away from Springwood Fr Christopher Del Rosario has been appointed Administrator. Please join us in welcoming Fr Chris to our parish. Fr Chris is due to arrive on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Prior to Fr Chris arriving, we will rely on the generosity of supply priests from our Diocese. Thank you.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** 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](mailto: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 September.

**NINE-WEEK NOVENA FOR THE DIOCESAN SYNOD:** All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena began in the week of Sunday 13 August (Week 1) and will conclude the week of Sunday 8th October (Week 9) in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. Booklets for the 9-week Novena are available at the back of the church. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

**JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE FOODBANK:** During this unprecedented times, refugees and people seeking asylum in the community need your help more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated. We are seeking donations of Basmati Rice, Cooking Oil, Long Life Milk, Tinned Tuna, Red Kidney Beans, Biscuits and Muesli Bars, Dry Chickpeas, Red and Green Lentils, Nappies, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shampoo & Conditioner, Sanitary products, Razors and Shavers, Deodorant (male and female), Soap. We thank you for walking with us at this critical time. We will have boxes available for this foodbank collection at the back of the church with the actual drive being on the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of September.

**CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS:** Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR. Sunday 20th August, 2023, 2pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys NSW. All welcome!

**FaithLIFE:** 3 Night Short Course on Synodal Spirituality: Beginning 22 August. *Pope Francis has invited the Church to be more 'synodal'. But what does that mean as an expression of Christian spirituality? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on Synodal Spirituality with Sr Patty Andrew, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesdays: 22 Aug + 29 Aug + 5 Sep. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. Invite others from your parish community and sign up now: <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>*

**STA EARTHCARE:** Would any parishioner have a Globe of the World with stand for loan to the Earthcare Group for a presentation at church in September? Please contact Pam on 0400 701 339.

**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.

**THANK YOU:** On Thursday 17 August the team from iLectrical (Dayne, Tyler and Kevin) came and changed over our car park lights to LED. This was some operation and was our 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt. Third time is totally a charm! These lights have a lifespan of 50,000 hours so on our calculations, that is over 20 years of service to our community. We know that this has been inconvenient for you all and please know that we have worked with iLectrical for some weeks to get a successful outcome so thanks team!

**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.

**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.

## Glancing Thoughts

### What matters

In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Jesus and his disciples have walked out of Jewish lands and all the way into Gentile territory. There is a lot of excitement about Jesus among the Gentiles, too, not least because they know that he can heal people. One Gentile woman in particular cries out to him to heal her daughter. He won't answer her, and she keeps crying out to him.

**To have faith is to be one of the sheep of Israel and one of the children of Abraham.**

The disciples of Jesus can't stand her and her noise, and they urge Jesus to send her away. From their point of view, she's just a woman, she isn't Jewish, and she doesn't look like an important person even among the Gentiles. So, from the point of view of the disciples, she is a person who does not matter. They want Jesus to get rid of her.

In response, Jesus tells his disciples, "I am sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

But Jesus is in Gentile territory as he says this; and he left Israelite territory to go there. If he isn't sent to the Gentiles, why go to their territory? If he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, why not just send this Gentile woman away, as the disciples want him to do?

Because he doesn't send her away, she comes closer to him and pleads with him for help. In reply, he says to her one of the most insulting things he says to anyone: "it is not right to take the bread of the children and give it to the dogs."

How could she matter less than this?

The solution to the perplexity of this story comes in the final exchange between the two of them. Jesus' treatment of her elicits from her one of the most pert responses to Jesus anywhere: "even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters," she says. And Jesus loves her for that pertness and the persistence behind it. "Great is your faith!" he says to her in praise.

But to have faith is to be one of the sheep of Israel and one of the children of Abraham. Gentile, female, or whatever else might make the disciples think that she is a person who doesn't matter, she has the one thing that really does matter: her cleaving to Jesus.

And so it is true that Jesus is sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. She, a Gentile woman who persists in calling to him, is one of those sheep. When Jesus crosses into Gentile territory, it is for her.

It is right to give the bread of life to her.



Eleonore Stump



*August 22 is the Queenship of Mary*

*Queen of All Hearts,*

*Advocate of the most hopeless cases,*

*Mother of Divine Love,*

*Pray for us.*