

*Serving Roster*

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

**Mass Time:** VIGIL 5:00PM 8.00AM 9.30AM  
**Priest:** Fr Dado Fr Paul Fr Paul  
**Acolyte:** Ian Miles Marek Grus John Belfanti  
**Commentator:** Margaret Smith Kim Crawford Brian Edwards  
**First Reading:** Felix Kobus Greg King Katherine Mahns  
**Second Reading:** Lynette Boyd Cecilia Hunt Margaret Hickey  
**Music:** Chris Wilson None Streeters

**Date:** *2nd/3rd September 2023 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Mass Time:** VIGIL 5:00PM 8.00AM 9.30AM  
**Priest:** Fr Peter Fr Dado Fr Galbert  
**Acolyte:** Ian Miles Randall Noney Bernard Ellis  
**Commentator:** Cheryl Kirby Michael Lloyd Anne Ellis  
**First Reading:** Wilhelmina de Raadt Jim Gresser Matt Aldous  
**Second Reading:** Lynette Boyd Kim Crawford Peta Sparkes  
**Music:** Andrew Wilson None Chris Wilson

**Morning Tea Roster - 3rd September after 9:30am Mass:** STA Earthcare



*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%

Questions raised from the report:

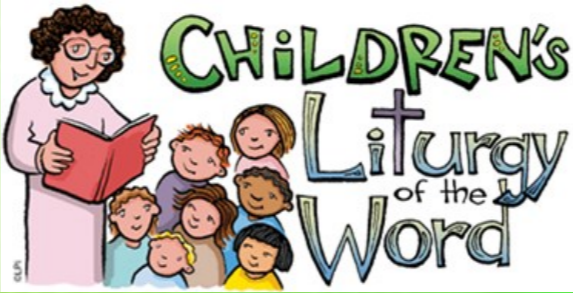
- ◆ We are not servicing a bank loan as we drew from the savings that our parish has.
- ◆ We are very conscious that we cannot continue like this over the long term so we have been focusing on minimising our operating expenses.
- ◆ **How do we address our current state of affairs?** We have been working for our PPC (Parish Pastoral Council) on fundraising initiatives. **There are a few in the pipeline so please keep an eye on the bulletin for these.**

CONGRATULATIONS to Elizabeth Bauerhuit, who received her Level one certificate. Elizabeth started as a SRE (scripture) teacher in February 2019.

We are very grateful to Bess for teaching Years 3 and 4 students in Faulconbridge and Springwood, on her one day off from her work on a Thursday.

A faithful servant! Well done.

Anyone willing to invest their time in teaching public school students our faith on Wednesday or Thursday, phone 02 4751 3319 or leave your name at the office.



*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.*

**THE GOSPEL**  
**Matthew 16:13-20**

*Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living."*

In a flash,  
 Simon Peter saw who Jesus is:  
 one as fast as lightning,  
 slow as a breeze as it caresses a field.

Spirit, show us too.  
 Our Christ. Our Jesus.

Anne Osdieck

**A Poem to Sit With**  
**Jesus Speaks**

I make everything you see  
 I make everything you hear  
 I make everything you touch and taste, and smell  
 to surprise you

But if you don't open your eyes  
 and you don't open your ears  
 or taste things or touch things or smell things  
 well then you will never know me

All that I do is to show my love for you

J. Janda

**Today's Readings: Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 137-1-3, 6, 8**  
**R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.



**Recently Deceased:** Janice Maunders

**Sick:** Deirdrie Madden, Dane San Pedro, 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.

**CLAIMING THE DATE:** STA Ladies Fellowship invite all Parishioners to join them for lunch on Friday 15th September at 12 noon at Springwood Golf Club. RSVP: Colleen Kime 0407 125 427

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY:** 27 August - Today, the Australian Church celebrates Social Justice Sunday. Since the 1940s, the Australian Catholic Bishops have published annual statements that urge the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic, and ecological issues. This year's statement, *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, was launched last week in Emerton. "One of the objectives of this statement is that we want Catholics to understand that Catholic social teaching and Catholic social action are not simply theoretical and academic exercises," Bishop Vincent said during the launch. Read and download a copy of the 2023/24 statement by visiting [bit.ly/SJS2023-24](http://bit.ly/SJS2023-24). Over the next fortnight, each Parish will be receiving a handful of copies.

**SEASON OF CREATION:** 1 September – 4 October - The Season of Creation is an ecumenical celebration and this year's theme is, *'Let Justice and Peace Flow'*. It starts on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. In his message for this year's World Day of Prayer for Creation, Pope Francis reminds us that the next chapter in the Church's synodal journey will begin at the conclusion of the Season of Creation. He hopes that this synodal journey will foster deeper communion enriched by greater dialogue. To learn more, please contact our Peace, Justice and Ecology team via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

STA Earthcare will be launching Season of Creation next weekend. Thank you to the parishioners who responded to our call last week.

**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.

**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/>

**GIVING ENVELOPES:** The next series of Planned Giving Envelopes begin on the weekend of 30th September / 1st October 2023. Please collect your envelopes at the back of the Church on the table near sacristy door from next week. These will be labelled alphabetically with your envelope number for easy identification. Please note that some parishioners will have new envelope numbers. If you haven't used this system in the last year, then you will not be receiving a Planned Giving Envelope. We thank you for your continued support to the Parish!

## Glancing Thoughts

### The Rock on which the Church is built

In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Christ tells Peter that Peter is the rock on which Christ will find his church. And, Jesus promises, the gates of hell will not prevail against this rock or against the church built on it.

### The Church is not a collection of the sinless, and it was not meant to be.

This is a comforting thought, isn't it? In the darkness of the world, there is something—the apostle Peter, the Church—that evil cannot wreck!

The problem is that it so often looks as if the gates of hell *have* prevailed against Christ's Church.

Actually, the problem begins with Peter. This apostle, who was supposed to be the rock of the Church, betrayed the Lord he loved in his Lord's worst need. A betrayal like that seems to have something hellish about it, doesn't it?

As far as that goes, how does Peter differ from Judas? Judas betrayed Christ too, of course. In fact, the Gospel of John says that Satan entered into Judas before he went to the Pharisees to conspire with them to get Jesus ([John 13:27](#)). There is certainly something hellish about the treachery of Judas if Satan entered into him.

So why not think that the gates of hell prevailed against Peter too, in *his* betrayal of Christ? What is left of Jesus' promise that the gates of Hell will not prevail against Peter or against Christ's Church?

But there *is* a difference between Judas and Peter.

You might think the difference is that Peter repented and Judas didn't. But there you would be mistaken. The Gospel of Matthew makes it clear that Judas repented, too ([Matthew 27:3](#)).

So, here is the real difference between them. When Judas saw the sin of his betrayal for what it was, he killed himself. He threw himself away as hopeless, as irredeemable. But Peter came back to Christ. He cleaved to the Lord he loved even in the face of his own betrayal of him.

And that is why Peter the rock on which the Church is founded. The Church is not a collection of the sinless, and it was not meant to be. The Church was founded on Peter, who loved, and sinned, and held on to the Lord anyway. The gates of Hell cannot prevail against this kind of love.

This *is* a deeply comforting thought.

Eleonore Stump



**BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL:** **Caring for those who have cared for us.** Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' life-long gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests, and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



**NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR PAPAL, CIVIL AND DIOCESAN AWARDS:** From today until Thursday 7th September 2023, you can nominate an outstanding individual who has contributed to the Catholic Church and society for a Papal Honours Award, Civil Award or Diocesan Award. Please visit [parracatholic.org/awards](http://parracatholic.org/awards). The Awards Ceremony will be held in November. More details to come.

**MARY MACKILLOP AUSTRALIAN PILGRIMAGE:** The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For further information or to make an application, please contact the Australian Pilgrimage Co-Ordinator Email [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) / Telephone 02 8912 4818.