

Date: *23rd/24th September 2023 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Galbert	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Ed Junis
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Peta Sparkes
First Reading:	Felix Kobus	Michael Lloyd	Anne Ellis
Second Reading:	Colleen Baker	Ros Comfort	Matt Aldous
Music:	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters

Baptism Celebrant on Sunday 24th September at 10:30am: Deacon Alan Skofic


Date: *30th Sept/1st Oct 2023 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Neil	Fr Dado	TBA
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	John Belfanti
Commentator:	Cheryl Kirby	Kim Crawford	Ingrid Merchant
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Cecilia Hunt	Steve Bishop
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Greg King	Phillip Saville
Music:	Andrew Wilson	None	Chris Wilson

Fr Paul's Farewell Morning Tea - 24th September after 9:30am Mass

Following the recent natural disasters in Morocco and Libya, let us all pray for one another


A Prayer in Times of Disaster



God with us in light and darkest days – We pray for all impacted by earthquake, flood or other disaster: survivors, displaced people, loved ones, lost ones. Where there's life, let there be rescue. Where there's need, let there be care. Where there's loss, let there be consolation. We pray for all on the ground, responding with urgency: emergency workers, medics, people donating food and blood. Where there's fear, let there be hope. Where there's confusion, let there be clarity. Where there's weariness, let there be rest. As we pray for people directly affected, we pray also for ourselves: aware, far-off, watching on. Where there's compassion, let there be action. Where there's love, let there be solidarity. Where there's concern, let there be generosity. God with us in light and darkest days – hear our prayer. Amen.

by Dr Rebekah Pryor/Caritas Australia
September 2023


TIPS FOR GETTING ACTIVE:



Several studies have found that exercise is a good way to help prevent, or manage, mild to moderate anxiety and depression.

Research shows that keeping active can help lift mood, improve sleep, increase energy levels, help block negative thoughts and/or distract people from daily worries, increase opportunities to socialise, and generally increase wellbeing. Try to do some exercise every day, even if it is just going for a walk. Keep it simple and enjoyable. For further support, please call a trained mental health professional on 1300 224 636 or email/chat online at www.beyongblue.org.au/getsupport

A Parish HSC Prayer



Heavenly Father, we bring before you our HSC students. Give them the gifts of wisdom, right judgement, knowledge and courage. Bless them with calm hearts and clarity of mind as they sit for their exams. May they be affirmed in their efforts and may they know that you are there with them. We pray that they will stay calm under pressure and work to the best of their ability. May they feel your loving presence in their lives, now and always, and may they be strengthened by the prayerful support of us, their parish community. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
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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 20:1-16a

When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage.

Christ,
you know everyone:
each one's, wants, and needs.
What
will be
your call
to the vineyard,
to the place of grace,
where you heap the fortune
of everlasting life and love on us?
Thank you for your wonderfully constant
call to each of us to work and
live among your vines.

Anne Osdieck

A Poem to Sit With

*You too go into my vineyard.
(Gospel)*

In our deepest selves if we can enter there
we may discover a peace
and a goodness
a forgiveness
a gentleness
and a hope
Christ
in our deepest selves we may discover
a desire
a most inner desire
that what we want is to do God's will
and that this desire is all we can really know
or be sure of about our selves
Yet it is enough
it is a grace

J. Janda

Today's Readings: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20-24, 27; Matthew 20:1-16

Entrance Antiphon: *I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.*

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.*



Sick: Andrew Krawczyk, Tommy MacKay, 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

FAREWELL MORNING TEA FOR FR PAUL: Let us thank our beloved Parish Priest Fr Paul for he has worked a lifetime serving God and for the 12 blessed years in our community and wish him all the best as we join together in his farewell morning tea after the 9:30am Mass this Sunday 24th September. All is welcome!

COMMUNION SERVICE & MASS SCHEDULES: Communion service is going to be held on Monday 25th Sept, Tuesday 26th Sept, Friday 29th Sept and Saturday 30th Sept at 9:30am. Holy Mass on Wednesday 27th Sept and Thursday 28th Sept will be celebrated by Fr Galbert Albino. Fr Chris del Rosario starts with us on Tuesday 2nd October 2023.

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL: Thank you for caring for our retired priests who have always cared for us. Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal raised \$740 to care for our retired priests and clergy in ill-health. Your generosity enables our Clergy Support Foundation to nurture our retired priests' physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing, and provide for daily living essentials and medical expenses for our ageing priests. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



JAM AND PICKLES SESSION: A jam and pickles class, a fun fundraising event will be expertly run by Margaret Smith on the 9th October, Monday at Linden. Cost is \$40 which includes morning tea and lunch. For enquiries please contact Anne Edwards on 0435 992 670. All welcome!

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ELDERLY: Do you have an hour to spare each fortnight? Are you interested in brightening the day of our lonely and isolated elderly? If so, we would love to hear from you! We are looking for volunteers to provide social support to residents in aged care homes. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please email Jenny Bohman jen.bohman@chcs.com.au or call Jenny on 0466 518 516.

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

STA EARTHCARE: STA Earthcare invite anyone, young or old to take up an opportunity in the month of September to play the "EARTHCARE GAME". Simply notify the office via email and the Earthcare team will organise someone to play against – it is a great LEARNING EXPERIENCE. Contact Dennis Farrar 0425 209 840 for details.

DAILY MASS BOOKS: We will be placing an order shortly for 2024 Daily Mass and Ordo Books. The Daily Mass Books contains all the texts for Sunday and weekday Mass and runs from Advent to Advent (\$28.60 each). The Ordo book is an indispensable reference for liturgy planning and includes references, taglines, responsorial psalms and gospel acclamation (\$18.15 each). If you would like to order any of these publications, please see the parish office. Thank you.

WEEK 7 OF THE NINE-WEEK NOVENA FOR THE DIOCESAN SYNOD: This Sunday 24th September is the beginning of Week 7 of the Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. Join the whole Diocesan community in continuing to pray for our first Diocesan Synod 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. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

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. These are labelled alphabetically with your envelope number for easy identification. We thank you for your continued support to the Parish!

DAYLIGHT SAVING REMINDER: Daylight saving begins at 2am, Eastern Standard Time on Sunday 1st October 2023. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on 1 October 2023 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening.

FAREWELL GIFT TO FR PAUL: PPC are organising a farewell gift for Fr Paul. Anyone who wishes to pitch in may make a contribution using either one of our Tap and Go donation machines located at the back of the church or by making a deposit directly to the following bank account:
 Bank Account Name: Springwood
 BSB: 067 950
 Account Number: 00000560

Glancing Thoughts

What Is Owed to the Labourers

In the parable in the [Gospel](#) Reading, the labourers who work all day receive the same wage as those who work just one hour, and so they complain.

What God gives to people who work for God in this way is gift.

You can see their point. Justice is giving a person what is owed to him. A person who works many hours deserves a bigger wage than a person who does the same work but for only one hour.

Or so it seems.

But think about how Jesus might have unpacked this parable if he had explained it to his disciples in the way he showed some of his other parables to them.

Here's one possibility. The vineyard owner is God. The labourers are human beings who are doing God's work in this life. The wage given is eternal life in union of love with God in heaven.

If we think about the parable this way, the labourers' complaint looks a lot less reasonable. When it comes to eternal life, what is justice? What does any human person deserve? What does God owe him?

Well, here is the first thing to see: no one—that is, absolutely no one—is owed eternal life in union with God.

To think otherwise is to suppose that you can work your own way to heaven. And you can't. Salvation is God's free gift. He gives it generously to anyone who will receive it, but it is still God's free gift.

The problem with the labourers who complain, then, is that they think the vineyard owner owes them something. In their eyes, their work deserves a reward, a really big reward, more than the vineyard owner gives them. And so here is what we can see about them: they were working for themselves, to get that big reward for themselves.

And that is why they are last, not first, in the final distribution of God's rewards. God's people are meant to work for God, and not for what they can get from God for themselves.

What God gives to people who work for God in this way is gift. It isn't deserved payment. What's more, the gift is God himself. There is no greater reward than this, and joy is the only right response to the gift.

Those who understand their work and God's wage in this way may have come late to their labour, but they are the ones who are first in God's eyes.

Eleonore Stump

With heartfelt appreciation

Thank you Fr Paul for being our shepherd for so many wonderful years. You are very caring and community-oriented. You are such a Godly and loving man. We will always remember your concern for the church, our community and our wellbeing. You will continue to be in our prayers and may God our Father in heaven lead and guide you on the next journey of your life!

