

Date:	16th/17th September 2023 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Neil	Fr Galbert	Fr Galbert
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Cheryl Kirby	Greg King	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Jim Gresser	Ingrid Merchant
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Kim Crawford	Margaret Hickey
Music:	None	None	Chris Wilson
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

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

Have you ever tasted home-made jam and preserves and wished you knew how to make your own without endangering anyone's health? Do you want to give Christmas presents that are more personal, made with love and have low food-miles? Then book in to a jam and pickles class expertly run by our own Margaret Smith.



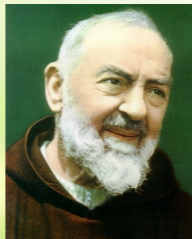
Who: All are welcome, so maybe bring a friend or neighbour
Where: Linden
When: Monday 9th October
Cost: \$40 includes morning tea and lunch

To Book: contact Anne Edwards 0435 992 670, but be quick as there are limited spaces. This is a fundraiser for the parish and a fun and interesting community activity endorsed by the Parish Pastoral Council.

BELONG BLUE MOUNTAINS BLUE MOUNTAINS DAWN PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA – The DAWN program provides care of people with dementia in their environments, occupational therapy program, working with the person with dementia and their carer to help both to manage day to day activities and support the person with dementia to live at home. This program is provided FREE of charge. For queries or registration contact: Belong Blue Mountains on 02 4739 1164; E: intake@belongbm.org.au

The Memorial of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) - 23rd September

Born into an Italian farm family, Francesco Forgione overcame bad health and poverty to realise his dream of becoming a Capuchin priest. He dedicated himself to prayer and works of mercy, even building a hospital to care for the sick. A stigmatist and mystic, he lived the mystery of the cross. Padre Pio spent long hours hearing confessions, drawing great crowds to San Giovanni Rotondo. He often said of himself, 'I am only a poor brother who prays.' Pope John Paul II canonised him in 2002.



BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS TO ALL ST COLUMBA'S YEAR 12 STUDENTS!

A hearty congratulations to our dear St Columba's Year 12 Students graduating on Wednesday 20th September. Wishing you the best for the future and all its challenges and opportunities!



Morning Tea Farewell Celebration for Fr Paul Slyney

We would greatly appreciate any baked or bought cakes/biscuits or plates of goodies to share on Sunday, 24th September after 9:30 am Mass.

All Parishioners, past and present are welcome to stay and join us for a cake and cup of tea as we say farewell to our much loved and respected Fr Paul. Thank you for your generosity and time in this very special occasion.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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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

THE SECOND READING Romans 14:7-9

None of us lives for oneself.

Do we
style ourselves
makers and masters?
God forbid such a fate.
Oh, creator of everything that exists,
truly, you made us out of love,
no holding back.
Let us spend our lives
loving you, and our
neighbour in
you.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

*Lord, if my brother sins against me,
how often must I forgive?*

To receive forgiveness can be joyful for us.
We can be glad and at peace,
like walking out of jail.
But forgiving others: not so easy.
Jesus, please help us
break the bonds of our refusal to forgive!
Please let us use your strength
to remove our shackles.
Teach us how to forgive others
in the same way you forgive us.
To forgive, and then to forget.
No strings attached.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102:1-4, 9-12

R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.



Recently Deceased: Manel Abhayaratna, Kassi Jilla
 Commemorative Deceased: Michael Mercieca, Joe Mula

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: The next PPC Meeting is on Tuesday 19th September 2023 to be held at St Thomas Parish Office starting at 7:30pm. If you would like to include any items in the agenda, please place into an envelope and put into the PPC Box situated at the back of the church.

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL: Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal raised the amount of \$735 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.



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.

GLENMORE PARK ST PADRE PIO FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS: Everyone is invited to join the parochial feast of St Padre Pio. There are numerous blessings received by his intercession and we thank God for the gift of St Padre Pio. **Three Day Triduum:** 1.) Thursday 21 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass; 2.) Friday 22 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass; 3.) Saturday 23 September – 5.30pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Vigil Mass. Feast Day: Sunday 24 September at 10am: Solemn Procession with the Relic of St. Padre Pio, Solemn Feast Day Mass, Veneration and Blessing by the Relic of St. Padre, Other festivities. Address: 34 William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park. Enquiries: (02) 4789 2232 or glenmorepark@parracatholic.org

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.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS: Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR. Sunday 17 September 2023, 2:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys. All welcome!

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.

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/>

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!

CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY MASS: Join us in the celebration of the Holy Mass by Fr Galbert Albino at St Thomas Aquinas Parish on Friday 22nd September at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome to attend!

NO MORNING TEA AFTER 9:30AM MASS THIS WEEKEND: Apologies, there will be no morning tea after the 9:30am Mass this weekend as advertised in our previous bulletin. Instead, there will be a special morning tea after 9:30am Mass on the 24th September to farewell Fr Paul. All welcome!

Spirituality of the Readings

Breaking the Chain

Forgiveness. It is the inner meaning of Sunday's Mass.

Our culture has some pretty diverse understandings of what forgiveness means. For some it is a condescending act performed only by one person who is higher than the other—a King or Queen, who leans down to grant pardon.

For others it means "I forgive the one who hurt me but I can never forget." Under such an attitude, one will remain angry forever but will never act upon it.

Which leads to another possible meaning, that a person might choke back their hurt and anger by a sheer act of the will. They may have been savaged by someone but will choke down their reaction.

So what is the real basis of forgiveness? On Easter Sunday of 1960, that great seer and lover of God, Dag Hammarskjöld, wrote an interpretation that moved me:

Forgiveness breaks the chain of causality because he who 'forgives' you—out of love—takes upon himself the consequences of what you have done. Forgiveness, therefore, always entails a sacrifice.

The price you must pay for your own liberation through another's sacrifice is that you in turn must be willing to liberate in the same way, irrespective of the consequences to yourself.

So much to think about in these brief words.

The [First Reading](#), from the Book of Sirach, tells how hateful wrath and anger are, how the sinner "hugs them tight," a wonderful image. To let them go and forgive is such a good idea, but we wonder why it is the right one. Maybe one needs to be angry.

Forgiveness is a major ingredient of living for God and for others.

The [Psalm](#) speaks beautifully about God's forgiving love: God is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion. And the [Second Reading](#) says we ought to live not for ourselves but for others. We should imitate God. But again, how?

The Gospel illustrates what forgiveness means. Please read the story by pressing on the word [Gospel](#) there is not space here to repeat the tale of the ungrateful servant.

Underneath this question is the answer we are looking for. The real motivation for forgiveness is gratitude, loving gratitude. If someone has had pity on me out of love, then my authentic reaction will be deep appreciation. I will want to give to someone else the liberation I have received, especially if that person has hurt me. I will want to pass the gift on.

God has loved us so kindly; can we feel grateful? Can we halt the cycle of retribution and pass along love instead of hate?

As you and I receive Christ's presence this Sunday, let us sense his forgiving love signified so deeply in the sacraments. Let us allow our gratitude to flow out and become the same forgiving love toward others.

John Foley, SJ

17th September - St Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin, Doctor of the Church

A hermit nun called Blessed Jutta von Spanheim lived in a cottage attached to a monastery church. As so often happens with hermits, people gathered around her to learn from her, until there was *de facto* a convent of nuns following the rule of St Benedict. At the age of fifteen a girl named Hildegard joined Blessed Jutta's community. Hildegard's life was quite uneventful until, aged 34, she began to experience visions and revelations. When Blessed Jutta died, the community chose her to be their abbess, and Hildegard exploded onto the world stage, becoming one of the towering giants of her age. Encouraged by her bishop, by St Bernard and by the pope Eugenius III, Hildegard described her visions in detail in three volumes, illustrating them with sketches. They are still available. It quickly became apparent that Hildegard was a poet as well as a mystic, a playwright and composer of hymns, and well-versed in the natural sciences. Her convent grew so large that she had to move with her community to a much bigger convent near a place called Bingen. On account of this she is known as Hildegard of Bingen. She was given permission by the pope to preach everywhere. She engaged in correspondence with the pope, the emperor and other rulers, quite fearlessly rebuking them when a rebuke was needed.

She died at the age of 80 in 1179. She has never been formally canonised. But because of uninterrupted devotion to her in Germany's Rhineland ever since, her name was added to the list of the saints in 1940. In 2012 Pope Benedict XVI named her a Doctor of the Church.

