

<b>Date:</b>	<b>2nd/3rd September 2023 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>VIGIL 5:00PM</b>	<b>8.00AM</b>	<b>9.30AM</b>
<b>Priest:</b>	Fr Peter	Fr Dado	Fr Galbert
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Bernard Ellis
<b>Commentator:</b>	Colleen Baker	Michael Lloyd	Anne Ellis
<b>First Reading:</b>	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Jim Gresser	Matt Aldous
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Lynette Boyd	Kim Crawford	Peta Sparkes
<b>Music:</b>	Andrew Wilson	None	Chris Wilson
<b>Date:</b>	<b>9th/10th September 2023 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>VIGIL 5:00PM</b>	<b>8.00AM</b>	<b>9.30AM</b>
<b>Priest:</b>	Fr Peter	Fr Galbert	Fr Galbert
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Ed Junis
<b>Commentator:</b>	Margaret Smith	Cecilia Hunt	Steve Bishop
<b>First Reading:</b>	Tanya Baldwin	Ros Comfort	Domhnall MacCormac
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Felix Kobus	Loida Derbyshire	Phillip Saville
<b>Music:</b>	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters
<b>Baptism: Deacon Alan Skofic</b>			
<b>Morning Tea Roster - 3rd September after 9:30am Mass: STA Earthcare</b>			

**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)

### Season of Creation 2023

We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation and to make a movement for justice, just like tributaries come together to form a mighty river. As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims: "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43: 19). **Biodiversity** is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The hope of keeping the **average temperature** to 1.5 degrees Celsius is fading. The world which humans have known, enjoyed, and celebrated is changing rapidly beyond repair. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a **changing climate**. **Industrialization, colonisation** and the **extraction and consumption of resources** have created great **wealth, unequally distributed**. Powerful Global North nations have grown wealthy at the expense of Global South nations and Indigenous and subsistence communities. Today's climate and ecological emergency hurts the most vulnerable, many living in the least wealthy nations, who have contributed the fewest emissions. **Indigenous peoples** make up five percent of the world's population and protect nearly 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity.

We are presently more aware than ever of the link between fossil fuels, and violence and war. We can, however, dream and work for a world where each country produces the energy they need from God-given gifts of the sun and wind, rather than going to war for fossil fuels. The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created instead of despair. Streams can rise in the desert. An economy of peace can be built instead of an economy based on conflict.

## 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

Anyone can be a father,  
 but it takes a special  
 man to be a dad.  
 Happy Father's Day!

*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 FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7-9

*But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.*

Let us go beyond ourselves:  
 become defenders of the poor and helpless,  
 build a house for the homeless;  
 care for this world-home,  
 and for refugees.  
 Let us work for  
 social justice.  
 Please,  
 set a fire burning  
 in our hearts and let  
 no one put it out.

Anne Osdieck

#### THE GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

*Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

Swift,  
 and reckless,  
 we flee the cross  
 whenever it comes close.  
 Lord, out of love you gave up everything on  
 behalf of us.  
 Be with us now. Show us a way to carry our  
 cross.  
 Show us how to lose ourselves,  
 and find ourselves  
 in you,  
 in  
 love.

Anne Osdieck

#### Today's Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

**Entrance Antiphon:** Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 62:2-6, 8-9**

**R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.



**Recently Deceased: Felicitas Walsh**

**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**

**100 YEARS YOUNG:** A very happy and blessed birthday to Phyllis May Wilson, the mother of Dianne Mackenzie who turns the beautiful age of 100 on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. May God bless you and your family on this special occasion.

**FR PAUL SLYNEY:** Fr Paul will be leaving our parish community at the end of September to go on medical leave with his last Mass scheduled for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a time later for 'farewells' but please know that we will miss you terribly Fr Paul.

**FR CHRIS DEL ROSARIO:** Fr Chis Del Rosario has been appointed the Parish Administrator of Springwood from the 2<sup>nd</sup> October and we are looking forward to welcoming Fr Chris to our parish community.

**FR GALBERT ALBINO:** Fr Galbert Albino has been appointed Parish Administrator of Lawson from the 4<sup>th</sup> September. The appointment of these two priests effectively separates these two parishes.

**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' lifelong 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.



**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: Pam Gorman 02 4707 7845.

**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.

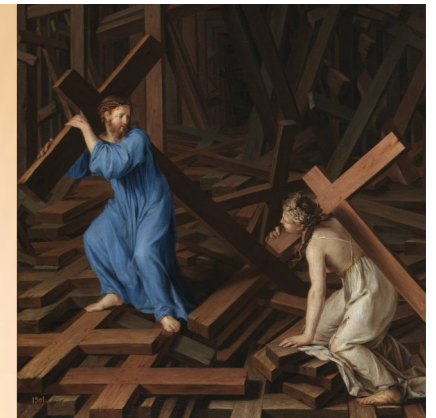
**NINE-WEEK NOVENA FOR THE DIOCESAN SYNOD:** All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena began in the week of Sunday 13 August (Week 1) and will conclude the week of Sunday 8th October (Week 9) in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You 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:** The collection of the much needed perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are at each of this weekend's Masses. These amazing donations will be collected after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday. Thank you so very much to our generous parish community.

**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. 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!

*Happy Father's Day to all those celebrating a special person in their lives. And to those struggling today, just know we're thinking of you. We don't say it enough, so say it extra today: Thanks for everything you do, dads. Happy Father's Day to our dad (and father figure)!*

**Spirituality of the Readings**



**What's in a Name?**

This week, Peter is in for a big surprise.

In last week's [Gospel](#) Jesus retired the name "Simon" and replaced it with the name Peter.

And so I say to you, you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it ([Mt 16:18](#)).

We heard that, at root, the name Peter meant "rock." Simon is to be the "Rock," the foundation of the church.

**Notice that Peter is telling Jesus to avoid pain by selfish use of his divine powers.**

Surprise, surprise, Jesus gives Peter a different name this week, and it has a very different flavour: he calls him "Satan" ([Gospel](#)). "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

If this name were to stick, Peter would be the leader of the very "netherworld," the one that Jesus promised could never prevail against the church.

Peter's entreaty is just what Satan had recommended in the desert temptations of Christ ([Matthew 4:1-11](#))! When Jesus was hungry, Satan had said, stealthily, you are Messiah—why don't you simply turn these stones into bread? After that, have your angels save you from all danger. And then, be a real Messiah, be in charge of all the lands there are. Why not?

Because all of this would require bowing down and worshipping Satan. What is going on?

First, it is quite clear that Jesus' emotional state has changed.

He is obviously dreading the suffering and death he will soon have to face. His rebuke to Peter is so sharp, so instant, so contradictory, that its emotional roots are showing. He knows what a terrible toll human misery and affliction will take on him. He snaps at Peter and even resorts to name-calling.

Second, Jesus had been gradually schooling the disciples about who he really is. Not just a great teacher, or good friend, or magnetic preacher, but the complete revelation of divine love. They had achieved their first high mark last week when Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ([Gospel, 21 Ord A 20](#))

This week Jesus shows the real meaning of Christly love: for the good of the world he must suffer greatly and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Do the Apostles get it? No they do not. The [Gospel](#) reports that now Peter "rebukes" Jesus. Something like this:

No, no, no, no, Lord, we will protect you—this will not happen to you, please don't worry so much. Everything will be ok, you'll see. We need you to be alive. You are the Christ! We need you to use your powers!

It is an impulsive response. Very human. But notice that Peter is telling Jesus to avoid pain by selfish use of his divine powers.

To put it another way, Jesus would have to act according to the self-seeking, self-interested part of human nature. Go for the wealth, the power and the reputation. Forget Godly love.

Since he was human, Jesus must have felt within himself the rewards that would come with such desert temptations. And he must feel it now as Peter gives him the very same enticement. So he reacts strongly.

Does he really mean that Peter is Satan? No. But surely he remembers with pain the devil's temptations.

No wonder that name slips out.

John Foley, SJ



**Kairos Outside for Women (KOW)** is a Prison Ministry especially designed for women who have experienced or are experiencing family members serving a prison sentence.

Live in weekends are held twice a year at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. These provide an opportunity to meet and share with others the challenges faced by those who have been affected by loved ones in prison.

A safe space, characterised by compassion and confidentiality is created by the Kairos Team.

The next weekend will be held at Mt Schoenstatt from November 10th - 12th, 2023

For further information please speak to someone in the Parish Team

The ministry of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine is an active way for evangelizing the next generation in each parish by teaching children about the love of God. Our Special Religious Education Catechists, who are volunteers, are a dedicated and inspired group of people who each week take the Gospel to Catholic children in public schools.



If anyone would like to learn more about becoming a scripture teacher, please contact Wilhelmina de Raadt, SRE Coordinator for more information on 02 4751 3319.