

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	Rev Msgr John
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
Date:	7th Oct/8th Oct 2023 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Chris	Fr Chris	Fr Chris
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Jim Gresser	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Tanya Baldwin	Loida Derbyshire	Margaret Hickey
Second Reading:	Colleen Baker	Ros Comfort	Anne Ellis
Music:	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters

Morning Tea Roster - 1st October Sunday after 9:30am Mass: PFGM #2

ECOLOGISTS

FRANCIS OF ASSISI

(1181-1226)

One of the best known and loved of all the saints, Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant in Assisi, Umbria. As a young man, he was pleasure-loving and frivolous. When he was 20, war broke out with neighbouring Perugia and Francis was taken prisoner. After his release, he returned to his old way of life but it gradually held less and less attraction for him. Increasingly, he was concerned for the sick and poor.



The order was characterised by its joyful and loving worship of God and its vows of poverty. By 1219, the Franciscan Order numbered 5,000 friars and was rapidly spreading throughout western Europe. In 1221, Francis produced a new version of his Rule which emphasised poverty and humility and this was approved by Pope Honorius III in 1223. For the last five years of his life, Francis held no official position in his order but

Francis of Assisi preaches his famous sermon to the birds



exemplified his Rule. Some of the best known incidents about him belong to these years; the inauguration of the Christmas crib in 1223; his sermon to the birds; and above all, his receiving the stigmata. These five wounds of Christ never left him. His last two years were a time of pain, weakness and finally, blindness. He died welcoming "Lady Death," and was canonised two years later.

A man of exceptional spiritual insight, Francis identified with Christ's suffering; and his words and deeds were tangible expressions of his love for God and all creation – the basis for his patronage of ecologists.

- Elizabeth Hallam (Book of Saints)

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

4th October

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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Parish Email: *email: springwood@parracatholic.org*
Parish Website: *www.stachurchspringwood.org.au*
Parish Facebook Page: *St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood*
Parish Administrator: *Rev Christopher del Rosario - 02 4754 1052*
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 - Saturday 9:30 am*
Communion Service: *Monday 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 FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:25-28

But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life.

Fondest Father,
you
have called
us each by name,
and you ask us to walk,
step by every step
alongside
you.

Instead of running the other way,
let us go with you always.
with our hand
in yours.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:28-32

He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went.

At times we refuse your asking.
We say no to what you bid,
but
we actually do as you ask, later.
And at other times we say yes,
but
alas, our lives spell out a big no.
Jesus,
please change our hearts,
change our minds to always say
yes to you.
Help feet to follow words.

Anne Osdieck

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32

Entrance Antiphon: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24:4-9

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

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.

Smile. Life is too short to be unhappy.



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

COMMUNION SERVICE & MASS SCHEDULES: Please welcome to our Parish this weekend: Saturday 30th September 5pm Mass: Fr Neil; Sunday 1st October 8am Mass: Fr Dado; and Sunday 1st October 9:30am Mass: Rev Msgr John.

Communion service is going to be held on Monday 2nd October at 9:30am. Fr Chris will celebrate the Holy Mass on Tuesday 3rd October to Saturday 7th October at 9:30am.

INFORMATION ON LITURGY: 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 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 October.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: Copies of the Australian Catholic Bishops 2023-24 **Social Justice Statement** are available at the back of our church and each family is invited to take a copy and reflect on it. Titled 'Listen, Learn, Love' it is a timely coincidence with such a significant referendum a fortnight away. The statement focuses on 'a new engagement' with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The structure is user-friendly with personal reflections by members of the ATSI Catholic Council interwoven with the evolving history of encounter between our first nations people and more recent arrivals. The insights that our first Archbishop, John Bede Polding, shared with an 1845 NSW government inquiry (p13-14) are particularly poignant as we prepare for the Referendum. As the Bishops conclude 'This is a year of great possibility...as we hope for an end to the pain, the hurt and the injustice that has burdened the First Peoples of their land for far too long'. (p18). For enquiries, please contact Kim Crawford 02 4754 1052.

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!

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

ANNUAL YEAR 12 HSC PARISH YOUTH MASS: The Annual HSC Mass is going to be held on Sunday 8th October at 9:30am. We encourage all to pray for our HSC students and their families. It can be a stressful time for everyone and so we call on families that they be a source of blessing, light and love for each other.

HELP WANTED - READERS: If you are interested in being a reader at any of our Masses please contact the Parish Office via email: springwood@parracatholic.org or phone 02 4754 1052. Thank you.

LONG TERM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Attention English Teachers, Youth Workers & Youth Ministers! The Cagliero Project, an initiative of the Australia-Pacific Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco are seeking long term (6-12) month volunteers for departure in January 2024 to work with young people in Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Australia. Applications close October 31st, 2023. Send enquiry to Ihichaaba@salesians.org.au

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 8 OF THE NINE-WEEK NOVENA FOR THE DIOCESAN SYNOD: This Sunday 1 October is the beginning of Week 8 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 13th to Sunday 15th 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/>

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.



Spirituality of the Readings

Why Be Good?

In the early Old Testament there seems to have been an ongoing belief, one that we hang on to today sometimes: that good people are rewarded and sinners are punished even unto death.

When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if he ... does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life.

(First Reading)

There is so much good sense in this reading. Sin really does mess up our lives, letting them come apart at the seams, doesn't it? And those who live lives of virtue usually are edging toward integration and

freedom. The [Psalm](#) for this Sunday is a straightforward request for being included with the favoured ones: "Remember your mercies, O Lord. ..."

But throughout the Hebrew Testament, an opposing and terrible observation gradually arose. Good people do suffer and die while scoundrels often have a fine time of it.

How can this be? How could a good God be unjust? We hear that question today from the Ukraine. Many Psalms are filled with the same lament also. The Book of Job is an ancient and puzzling repetition of the same question.

God decided to show us motivation that cannot be reduced to self-interest.

Before reading further, you might want to think about your own answer to the question. Why do bad things happen to good people?

There are clues. First, how many people do you know who are completely good or completely bad? A childlike, over-simple belief says that good friends are always good. Adults, on the other hand, know how mixed the human reality is. Each of us has a jumble of "good plants and weeds" within us. That is what the [Gospel](#) is about.

A father asks his younger son to go work in the fields and the son says "yes, of course I will do that for you, father." He must be the good one, mustn't he? But in fact he does not do what he promised. He becomes the famous prodigal son.

The older son originally says something like, "No. I will not go out in the heat and pull your damned weeds. Why should I?" Yet of course, he does go out and work all day. Today we know him as the good son, though he had been mean at the beginning.

The lesson? God the father loves everyone, whether they are sinners or not. And in order for any of us to love like God does, we must prepare to love them in spite of the drawbacks in their personality, the hurts we receive, not just the good things. This can be horrifying!

The great example of a good man suffering is Jesus' cross. The [Second Reading](#) puts it this way:

Though he was in the form of God,
 He did not regard equality with God
 something to be grasped.
 Rather, he emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 coming in human likeness;
 and found human in appearance,
 he humbled himself,
 becoming obedient to the point of death.

Though God's son was perfectly blameless, he took upon himself the mixed nature of human beings. He showed once and for all the mysterious reason why good people suffer, as he suffered.

Let God make you good.

John Foley, SJ

"A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God."

- St. Faustina

