

Date:	9th/10th September 2023 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Peter	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Ed Junis
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Cecilia Hunt	Steve Bishop
First Reading:	Tanya Baldwin	Ros Comfort	Domhnall MacCormac
Second Reading:	Felix Kobus	Loida Derbyshire	Phillip Saville
Music:	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters
Baptism: Deacon Alan Skofic			
Date:	16th/17th September 2023 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Neil	TBA	TBA
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Cheryl Kirby	Greg King	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Jim Gresser	Ingrid Merchant
Second Reading:	Wilhelminda de Raadt	Kim Crawford	Margaret Hickey
Music:	None	None	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea Roster - 17th September after 9:30am Mass: Vinnies #2/Disciples of Jesus #2			

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.



A Congratulatory message to our local parishioner, Joel Carson, who was recently confirmed in the evening of Tuesday, 5th September 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta by The Most Reverend Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta

Congratulations on your confirmation. May God in all His goodness bless you with true happiness, and may you always keep the memory of your Confirmation day and let it and your faith be a guide. Congratulations and best wishes!

Lost Announcement

A green crucifix as pictured here, is reported to have been left in St Thomas Aquinas Church following the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass this year (16th April 2023). If you happen to come across it, kindly return to the Parish Office or call 02 4754 1052. Thank you.



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
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

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA



Today's first reading is a very personal message to Ezekiel himself. The prophet is called to keep watch over the entire house of Israel. The enemy that endangers the security of that house is the wickedness that threatens to undermine the nation. Ezekiel acts as sentinel when as a prophet he proclaims God's words of warning. God will hold him responsible if he does not protect the people by proclaiming the word to them. If he is faithful to his charge, he can rest assured that he has fulfilled his responsibility even if the people refuse to heed his message. They will be punished, but he will not be.

The responsorial psalm combines an invitation to praise, a plea for openness, and a divine word. The invitation is given three times: Come, let us sing joyfully (v.1); let us come into his presence (v.2); come, let us bow down (v.6). Three metaphors characterise God's care: the rock of their salvation (v.1), their creator (v.6), and their shepherd (v.6). Both the psalmist and God plead that the people be open, in contrast to the spirit of rebellion that governed their ancestors in the wilderness (see Ex 17:1-7; Dt 6:16). 'Today' the descendants of those rebellious wanderers are called upon to respond with open faith and willing obedience.

Paul never really repudiates the law. He argues that keeping the law is not required for faith, though faith is required for keeping the law. He tells the Christians of Rome that on the one hand they should owe nothing, while on the other hand they should owe everything, for love requires total self-giving. Paul does not dismiss the importance of fidelity to the commandments. Instead, he maintains that they are fulfilled in the act of loving. Though he only singles out four commandments, Paul insists that love covers all other commandments as well. Love of oneself is the standard that determines the way we treat each other. Following the teaching of Jesus, the love that Paul exhorts should be extended to all without exception.

The gospel describes a three-step process for establishing reconciliation within the community. Any member who remains adamant throughout this process is repudiated. The community should separate itself from them and treat them like those who disdain the gospel. The importance of the community is seen in the fact that it is the community, not merely its leader, that exercises disciplinary power. When Jesus declared that any agreement arrived at by two members of this band will be heard, he was not merely talking about prayer in general, but about prayer for guidance in coming to a decision that will affect community well-being. Here Jesus promises to be present in his church if the members turn to him for guidance.

Today's Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9

R. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.



Recently Deceased: Manel Abhayaratna, Kassi Jilla and Felicitas Walsh

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: The St Thomas Aquinas Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is tasked to organise, coordinate, evaluate, unify, and support activities within the parish. The PPC will present all members of the parish with the opportunity to participate in the effort of bringing unity to the mission of the church through encouraging, guiding and directing parish life.

The St Thomas Aquinas Parish Pastoral Council and its sub-committees exist to serve our parish community. The PPC meets, for the most part, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the pastoral centre. If you would like to add any items to the agenda, please do so in the box at the back of the church or via the PPC email address: springwoodparishpc@gmail.com

The current members of the PPC are as follows: Chris Wilson (Chairman), Anne Edwards (Secretary), Fr Paul Slyney, Phillip Saville, Andrew Wilson, Vicky Walker, Debbie Breytenbach, Dennis Farrar, Elizabeth Wilson and Christopher Howard (Mountain's Deanery Representative).

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.

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL: This 09 & 10 September is **the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal Reminder Weekend** raising funds for our Diocese of Parramatta Clergy Support Foundation to support our retired clergy and those in ill-health. 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. 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 or scan this QR code.



A generous donation amounting to \$645 has been received so far. Thank you.

CLAIMING THE DATE: STA Ladies Fellowship monthly meeting is on the 15th September after 9:30am Mass. Following this all Parishioners are invited to join them for lunch at **12 Noon** at Springwood Golf Club RSVP: Pam Gorman 02 4707 7845.

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!

CLEANING ROSTER: Please be advised that the cleaning roster is now available for collection in a Manilla Folder at the back of the church. Thank you to all volunteers.

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A – Season of Creation 2
September 10th - Matthew 18:15-20
by Jane Mellett**

Matthew chapter 18 is concerned with how the early Christian community might live together in harmony. It reminds us that the church should be a place where the least are considered the greatest and the last first; where we look out for the most vulnerable, where we are accountable to one another and forgive each other. In today's text, Jesus sets out a vision for his followers concerning disputes within the community. The process he lays out is a respectful one and it is also realistic, because some people will not respond to this advice. The teaching reminds us that as a church, we belong to one another, sisters and brothers, one body (1 Cor 12).

As we celebrate this beautiful Season of Creation, this is an appropriate text, for it invites us to reflect on how we are called to live in harmony. The realities of the ecological crises our world faces today highlights the *great disharmony* which exists between humanity and God's creation. We are not living in right relationship with the natural world nor with our sisters and brothers who are suffering the most from the climate and biodiversity crises. We are not living in right relationship with young people who are now growing up for *"we may well be leaving to coming generations, debris, desolation and filth"* (Laudato Si', 161). Pope Francis calls the destruction of nature an "ecological sin". This is not easy to hear, for it makes demands on us. The good news is that there is a cure. Laudato Si' calls us to a profound interior conversion where our relationship with nature is concerned. Today's Gospel reminds us that there are moments when we must speak the truth in love for the greater good. The Season of Creation presents us with such a moment where we can create awareness across our communities so that together we can discern how to care more deeply for God's creation. For this is our common home, the home we all share. We are not alone, Christ is with us on this journey: *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"*.

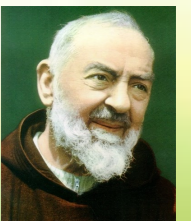
"The climate crisis is a deeply spiritual crisis...Our faith offers us a wonderful vision to rekindle these relationships, to renew a childlike sense of awe, wonder and beauty and thus set out in living the first commandment God gave to us, to be guardians and protectors of this beautiful world, not its polluters and destroyers." Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, (Pastoral Letter).

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:

- ◆ Thursday 21 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- ◆ Friday 22 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- ◆ 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