

Date:	28th/29th Oct 2023 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Margaret Smith		Ingrid Merchant
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Vicky Walker	Katherine Mahns
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Peta Sparkes
Music:	No One		No One
Date:	4th/5th Nov 2023 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Marek Grus	John Belfanti
Commentator:	Cheryl Kirby	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Ellis
First Reading:	Felix Kobus	Jim Gresser	Anne Edwards
Second Reading:	Neil Kirby	Kim Crawford	Brian Edwards
Music:	Andrew Wilson		Chris Wilson

Morning Tea Roster - 5th November after 9:30am Mass: Church Cleaners and Polish Group



Synod Reflections

It was a first for almost everyone invited to participate in this Synod on 13 to 15 October at Parramatta. The greatest gift of being a part of the Synodal process was offering everyone a safe space to listen and speak. Everyone spoke from their own experience.

The six themes deliberated and voted on during the Synod were drawn from thousands of submissions and comments gathered over the previous three years. They also included themes drawn together in the Plenary in 2022. Each gathering has clarified the initial question, 'What is God asking of us at this time?' as the Church of the future is gestating in our times.

During the Synod, the intentional listening exercises subtly addressed the call from the Garden of Gethsemane, 'that all of them may be one.' Jn 17:21.

Within a rich mix of cultures, everyone took deliberate steps to understand each other as they lived out the core of our unique call into the union/relationship of love.

My question is: Can we begin to imagine how, as a parish, we can embrace the Synodal way of walking closer together?

- Vic O'Callaghan

The Synod, 2023, the first held in the Diocese of Parramatta, was a momentous occasion, and I was privileged to be present. My response is that the organisation was exceptional and the culture of inclusion of all into the energy, joy, and light of this milestone event was a reminder of the faith filled excitement that accompanied the establishment of the diocese in 1986.

The Synod was a model for engagement, discernment, and decision-making and was focused on ensuring that differences and diversity were always respected during the scheduled meeting, dining, praying and celebrating. Welcoming smiles, introductions and renewal of old relationships over the beautifully prepared meals and refreshments provided connectivity, hope and opportunities for listening.

Join us and check the website www.parra.catholic.org

Thank you, Bishop Vincent, for including us in your dream of this gathering.

- Liz O'Callaghan

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
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Administrator: Rev Christopher del Rosario (E: christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org)
Parish Pastoral Council: Email suggestions to springwoodparishpc@gmail.com
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, 9:00 am
Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
Eucharistic Adoration: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11 am and by appointment
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4-5 pm before the Vigil Mass
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.

Gospel Reflection

When trying to understand specific terms in the scriptures I usually refer to an extremely reliable source... dictionary.com. Considering our Gospel is titled 'The Commandments of Love' I searched the definition of love... here are the results:



Love: Noun

1. An intense feeling of deep affection.
2. A great interest and pleasure in something.

I'm not sure about you but this doesn't sit well with me. To love does encompass an intense feeling of deep affection, and a great interest and pleasure in something, however it does not completely capture the Christian understanding of love. To understand love we must look to our tradition. The Church since its conception has employed the Ancient Greek understand of love. There is not a single word for love, there are four; Storge, Eros, Philia & Agape. Storge is a love between parents and children. Eros is a sexual love - a love between husband and wife, and those pursuing the Sacrament of Matrimony. Philia is a love between siblings and friends; a 'brotherly love'. Agape is the highest degree of love; it is charitable, selfless, altruistic, and unconditional. It desires nothing of itself, rather always looks to the other. This final degree is the Christian understanding of love for it is patterned on Christ's love for the Church. As St. John writes in the Gospel 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life' (Jn. 3:16). Therefore, love is not confined to an intense feeling of deep affection or a great interest and pleasure in something, but as our Patron St. Thomas Aquinas puts it: 'to love is to the will the highest good of the other as other.'

I chose to outline the Christian understanding of love as it is the theme of our Gospel for this Sunday. The Pharisees, again seeking to trap Jesus, question him on the commandments. They ask 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus, knowing their thoughts, does not single out one law, but brings to the fore the very essence of the Law; 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself.' Love is who God is - He is love incarnate - it is in this vein that we understand why Love of God is the first and greatest commandment; by loving our Lord first we begin to understand what it means to love another person; ultimately it is to draw them towards our loving God. Without this first and essential step the human person can stray from the true meaning of love. Without the example of Our Lord pride begins to creep in and our love becomes selfish. In Our Lord we see what true love looks - to live for the other for their highest good.

As we reflect on our Gospel may we seek to follow the teachings of Our Lord - to love Our Lord with every facet of our being in order to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Wishing you every blessing in the coming week.

Fr. Chris



Second Reading [1.Thessalonians 1:5-10](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation [John 14:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 22:34-40](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 19:6](#)

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.



Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

First Reading [Exodus 22:20-26](#)

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2](#)

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**



Sick: Fr Bob Bossini, Maria Arroyo, Andrew Krawczyk, Deirdrie Madden, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson, Faith Naughton-Green, Margaret Munro, 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 next meeting for the PPC will be held on Tuesday the 21st November. If you would like to include any items to the agenda, please place into an envelope and put into the PPC Box situated at the back of the church.

HOW TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH FAMILY FINANCIALLY: We want to express our gratitude to those who continue to drop in envelopes each week, make use of online contribution and Tap & Go machines located at the back of the church. As we continue to incur expenses each week, it is valuable that, if it is at all possible, parishioners continue to offer their financial support to our parish family. This can be done electronically via internet banking, making a direct deposit into our account. Details follow:

Bank Account Name: Springwood

BSB: 067-950

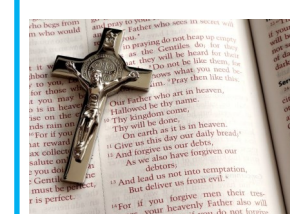
Bank Account Number: 00000560

Reference: YOUR NAME IN FULL

All contributions are greatly appreciated and will help meet the upkeep needs of our Parish.



ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH CHOIR: is currently looking for more singers with ALL VOICE TYPES. Do you enjoy singing? "To sing at Mass is to sing twice" (St Augustine"). So if you do enjoy singing and would like to join this happy group, we practice most **Monday nights weekly in the church at 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood at 7.30pm to 9pm**, and you will be made very welcome. We sing **monthly on the first Sunday**. All music supplied free. We are desperate for more "male voices". **For enquiries please call Chris Wilson 0425 290 952 or Margaret Hickey 02 4751 2343 (answering machine if unattended).**



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 call 02 4754 1052.

UPCOMING MASSES IN OUR CHURCH: Mass Schedules: All Saints' Day, 1st November Wednesday 9:30am; All Souls' Day, 2nd November Thursday 9:30am & 7pm

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE DECEASED MEMBERS ANNUAL MASS: The STA Ladies Fellowship (previously Catholic's Women's League) will be holding a Mass for the Catholic Women's League Deceased Members on Friday 17th November 9.30am. Everyone is welcome.

DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS ANNUAL MASS: All parishioners are invited to attend a Mass which will be celebrated to the Repose of Souls of family members commencing at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15th November.

NOVEMBER - REMEMBERING THE DEAD: November is the month of the year that we remember the dead. During this time, we continue to pray for those who have gone before us in faith and that they will be embraced by God. If you would like to place the name of your loved one into the BOOK OF SAINTS please print their name clearly on to an envelope and place into the collection box at the back of the church.

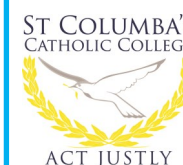


MASS AND PRAYERS FOR DECEASED CLERGY:

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ. We encourage each parish to offer a Mass for the deceased priests and deacons who have served in your own parish on the same day, to unite in prayer for this special intention.

CABARET DINNER DANCE:

You are warmly invited to enjoy a Cabaret Dinner Dance at St Finbar's Church Hall on Saturday 4th November to raise much-needed funds for Bush School Cambodia. You will enjoy gourmet food, a complimentary drink, delightful music and a lively dance session. Doors open at 6.45 pm. For enquiries, please call Doug Frewer on 0403 303 943 to book. \$50 pp or \$90 for two. Check out the valuable work done at www.bushschoolcambodia.com



ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE – ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024: St Columba's Catholic College, Springwood, is accepting enrolments for students commencing Year 7 in 2024. If you are interested in enrolling your child, or if you would like to find out more about the opportunities available at the College, please visit the website www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.au or contact the Enrolments Secretary on telephone 02 4754 8900.