

<b>Date:</b>	<b>14th/15th Oct 2023 28th 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 Noel Custodio	Fr Felix Navarro	Fr Felix Navarro
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	John Belfanti
<b>Commentator:</b>	Felix Kobus	Greg King	Peta Sparkes
<b>First Reading:</b>	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Edwards
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Brian Edwards
<b>Music:</b>	None	None	Chris Wilson
<b>Date:</b>	<b>21st/22nd Oct 2023 29th 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 Chris	Fr Chris	Fr Chris
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Bernard Ellis
<b>Commentator:</b>	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Steve Bishop
<b>First Reading:</b>	Colleen Baker	Ros Comfort	Phillip Saville
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Felix Kobus	Kim Crawford	Margaret Hickey
<b>Music:</b>	Chris Wilson	None	Streeters

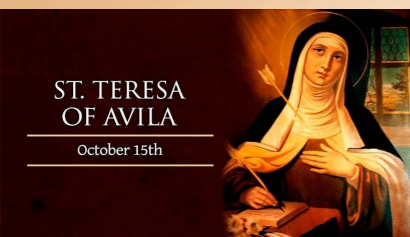
**Morning Tea Roster - 15th October after 9:30am Mass: Mothers Prayers #2**



The Parish Pastoral Council wishes to thank parishioners for their support of the fun(d)-raising events of the weekend and Monday. The barbecues on Saturday and Sunday were very well patronised, with some people coming back for seconds, and one parishioner even turning up after earlier attending the 8 a.m. Mass! It was terrific to get to meet Father Chris and have a chat with others while enjoying the delicious sausage sandwiches and bacon and egg rolls.

On Monday six people, parishioners and their friends, took up the offer of learning how to make blackberry jam and tomato relish under Margaret's guiding hand. In amongst all the slicing, stirring and listening to bubbling pots there was time to share stories and swap tips, and enjoy scones (with jam of course) and a tasty lunch.

Thank you also to parishioners who made donations of cash at the barbecues, and especially to Anne and Brian Edwards, Phill Saville and Margaret Smith for their time and effort and generous donations in kind. Because of this, more than \$500 was raised for our parish.



**ST. TERESA OF AVILA**  
October 15th

Teresa Cepeda de Ahumada was born at Avila in Old Castile and at the age of eighteen entered the Carmelite convent in her native town where a fairly lax atmosphere prevailed as regards poverty and enclosure. In 1562, she founded her first reformed convent of St Joseph at Avila, and from that year till her death she was always on the move, opening new houses (fifteen directly and seventeen through others), smoothing away difficulties for her nuns, placating those in authority (both clerical and lay), who often fiercely opposed her and called her the "roving nun". All this time, she was being favoured with remarkable mystical experiences, which she descried, under obedience, in treatises which may be regarded as veritable textbooks of mystical prayer and rank as classics of Spanish literature. She is the saint of sound common sense, of sane good humour, of generous ideals, and her influence on the spiritual lives of Christians of all denominations is immeasurable. She was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1970 by Pope Paul VI. In art she is shown as wearing the habit of a Discalced Carmelite nun, her heart being pierced by an arrow held by an angel; or holding a pierced heart, book and crucifix. She died at Alba de Tormes. Canonised 1622.

- The Book of Saints (compiled by the Benedictine monks of St Augustine's Abbey, Ramsgate)

## 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.stchurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stchurchspringwood.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook Page:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood  
**Parish Administrator:** Rev Christopher del Rosario (E: [christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org](mailto:christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org))  
**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, 9:00 am  
**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 - 10:30 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.*

Hi Everyone!

To those who don't know me my name is Fr. Christopher del Rosario; Fr. Chris for short. Bishop Vincent has appointed me as Parish Administrator to your lovely parish of St. Thomas Aquinas, Springwood. As most of you don't know me I thought it best to write a short introduction of myself as I begin this role.



I hail from the Philippines and come from a small family of nine children; myself being the third child. My family and I migrated here from the Philippines in 1995. The family jumped around from house to house eventually settling in Rouse Hill in 1998. I attended Redfield College in Dural graduating in 2010. Following high school I was accepted in Macquarie University to study Chiropractic Science, a course spanning five years. My time at Macquarie University was short lived as I felt God calling me to the Priestly Vocation during World Youth Day in 2011. After careful prayer and discernment I decided to apply for Holy Spirit Seminary in the Diocese of Parramatta and was accepted as a seminarian for 2012. Following seven years of formation I was ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ on the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle in 2018. Following ordination Bishop Vincent appointed me the Assistant Priest at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Over the years Bishop Vincent has appointed me to other roles in the Diocese such as Vocations Director (2022-2023) and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies (2019-Present).

I must admit my appointment to Springwood came as a surprise to me and the community in Parramatta. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Parramatta and thank God for sending me there. In saying that I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve Him in Springwood. I will do my utmost, with the grace of God, to serve you the people of God here in Springwood, to the best of my abilities. I only ask that you please keep me in your prayers that I be a faithful Priest to the Lord and the flock entrusted to me.

I wish you all every blessing and look forward to knowing each of you.

God Bless,

Fr. Chris

**Today's Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14**

**Entrance Antiphon:** If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22. R. v. 6**

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

**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:** The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.



**Recently Deceased: Ivan Bauerhuit, Sanele Vaasili**

**Sick:** Andrew Krawczyk, 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 next meeting for the PPC will be held on Tuesday the 17th October. 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.

**DIOCESAN SYNOD - PLENARY INDULGENCE:** A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who, during the time of the Diocesan Synod (13 to 15 October) – devoutly visit the church in which the Synod is being held, St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta, and there recite one Our Father and the Creed (Nicene or Apostles’). In order to receive the indulgence, the three usual conditions of going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father must also be met. For more information about plenary indulgences, please visit <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/indulgw.php>

**STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP:** STA Ladies Fellowship will be meeting in the Parish Centre after 9:30am Mass on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. All welcome.

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY:** Every third Sunday of the month at our 9:30am Mass before the Scripture readings begin, children aged between 4-12 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 younger children can understand. The children will return to their family in church as the offertory and Liturgy of the Eucharist begins.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** A parishioner has donated 100 beautiful original, hand crafted Christmas Cards for the St. Vincent de Paul conference to sell to assist with our Christmas Appeal. They will be available outside the Church after all Masses on the weekends of 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October. These truly unique cards fit perfectly with the Vinnies message to 'Put Christ into Christmas.'

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNION TO SICK & DYING WORKSHOP:** On Saturday the 21st of October an ongoing formation session for Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying will be offered. It will be held from 9:30am until 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre (1-5 Marion Street Blacktown.) Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Limited spaces available so please RSVP to Mary by the 16th of October at [Mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:Mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

**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](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org) or phone 02 4754 1052. Thank you.

**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”. **First practice for Christmas will be on Monday 9th October**. For enquiries please call **Chris Wilson 0425 290 952 or Margaret Hickey 02 4751 2343** (answering machine if unattended).

**NAMES IN THE SICKLIST:** Names in our Parish Bulletin Sick List have been published for quite some time. These will be deleted next week except for the most recent ones. Should you have names in the list you would like us to keep, kindly email the parish office on [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org) or call 02 4754 1052.

**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.

**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 per couple. Check out the valuable work done at [www.bushschoolcambodia.com](http://www.bushschoolcambodia.com)

**DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS:** The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 29 October at 11am at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent. Please register your name, years of marriage and numbers attending at [marriage@parracatholic.org](mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org) or phone (02) 8838 3460 by 20 October. Family and friends are welcome.

**Spirituality of the Readings**



**All Good Gifts**

Probably you have seen [Babette’s Feast](#), or at least have heard about it. In it, an impoverished fine chef from Paris makes her way into a tiny Danish town where the religion of the area made people hard and cold to each other, at least according to this movie, afraid to enjoy or even to relate to one another. Babette, the cook, had only a small stash of possessions, but she was a top chef.

So she prepared, over many days, a huge, delectable, exquisite feast, serving after serving, all for the uptight townspeople. As they began to taste and enjoy, they began also to communicate in kindness to each other. They even danced!

**Food is meant to be enjoyed, not refused.**

I have heard critics say that this movie promoted self-indulgence, and I do not endorse such a thing. But I do notice similarities to the huge feast we hear about in the [First Reading](#).

There we find the famous invitation from the Lord of Hosts, full of unstinting promise. “A feast of rich food and choice wines,” Isaiah says. A great feast, a “groaning board” in the language of medieval England, just like the banquet in Babette’s Feast.

Sunday’s [Gospel](#) reading also has a sumptuous feed. The king gets his very best livestock fattened up, seasoned, readied for cooking, with invitations sent out. If you thought the people in Babette’s town were reluctant, look what happened here. Some people refused outright to come. Others simply ignored the invitation as if it had not been given, and others “laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.” The king punished these and then invited in street people.

Food is meant to be enjoyed, not refused.

But with so many people starving in today’s world, how dare we fatten ourselves up with rich food and every other kind of riches? Shouldn’t we much more becomingly abstain and deny ourselves? Isn’t the “First World” currently fattening itself on food far more lavish than the ancient world could ever have even imagined?

How are we to respond, we who try to be faithful to God and God’s promises?

Remember that Jesus feasted as well as fasted. He abstained from food for forty days at the beginning of his public ministry; but later on his words were, “the Son of Man came eating and drinking—and they said, ‘Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners’” ([Mt. 11:19](#)). How would he have gotten such a reputation except by enjoying his times at meals with others?

Which is it for us, then, fasting or feasting?

I think the answer is simple yet difficult to grow into. I think we are meant to receive humbly and to give to others as well. The mistake is to adopt a stance of, on the one hand, only receiving (getting, grabbing) or on the other hand, only giving (denying oneself for the sake of the other). Sunday’s readings invite us to come into the kingdom, to open up, to eat, to enjoy what is there.

To receive as Jesus did.

He went deep, accepting all things as coming from God’s hand. When it was time to let go of it all—life, friends, peace, and possessions—he did that with love.

Receive and give. Jesus wants us to receive his life and then give it out to the world.

John Foley, SJ

**UPCOMING MASSES in our CHURCH**

*“May Perpetual light shine upon them.”*

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> November.*

*A candle ceremony will be part of the celebration Mass so if you would like your loved ones remembered by lighting a candle, which your family member will place on the sanctuary, please contact the parish centre by the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> November.*

*A framed photo of your loved one can be placed on the sanctuary before the commencement of Mass (prior to 7pm).*

**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 in to the collection box at the back of the church.*

