

Date:	21st/22nd Oct 2023 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Marek Grus	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Jim Gresser	Steve Bishop
First Reading:	Colleen Baker	Ros Comfort	Phillip Saville
Second Reading:	Felix Kobus	Kim Crawford	Margaret Hickey
Music:	Chris Wilson		Streeters
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:	Felix Kobus	Greg King	Ingrid Merchant
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Vicky Walker	Katherine Mahns
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Peta Sparkes
Music:	No One		No One

Morning Tea Roster - 5th November after 9:30am Mass: Church Cleaners #2

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.stchurchspringwood.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: 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
Eucharistic Adoration: 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.



Synod Reflection

Basically, we operated in groups of 7 with tight time structures and we listened intently and reflected on the wisdom and experience of others before the opportunity for sharing with the wider group of 220. We all then voted on the resolutions that will form the foundations of our Diocesan Strategic Plan. Over meals and cups there was a palpable growth in the connection and community across the Diocese so while the Synod was exhausting it was also energising and hope-giving. The agenda was organised into 6 themes (not unlike the Plenary Council) and the working document is available for your perusal at www.parracatholic.org. Obviously, the results of the Synod will be published in due cause but I also invite you to read about it on the Catholic Outlook website.

Both senses of the word catholic come to mind as I refine this brief report. Basically, **catholic** means universal and the synod was an experience of the Catholic nature of our Diocese - the richness of cultures, personalities, ministries, faith expressions ... but all with a love of Jesus and our Church. I conclude with the story submitted by a 92-year-old woman: after decades of generous service in her parish she was lonely and overlooked so how aware are each of us of the needy or marginalised in our community? That is the invitation of Jesus, our Synod and our Pastoral Plan.

- Kim Crawford

UPCOMING MASSES in our CHURCH

“May Perpetual light shine upon them.”

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.
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 10th 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.



Divinely Inspired Citizenship



I must admit I am always impressed at the manner Our Lord carries himself throughout his mission in the Gospels. Being people of faith we know and understand that God took on our humanity for our sake; as St. Paul writes to the Philippians ‘though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.’ Our Lord, moved with love and compassion, came to save humanity from sin and death, a loving act beyond comprehension. Despite this the religious leaders at the time seek his immediate destruction. We read in our Gospel of both the Pharisees and Herodians banded together to ensnare Jesus. They have overlooked their differing theologies and ideologies to pursue the destruction of Jesus as they see him as a threat to the status quo. They ask ‘Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?’ I can’t help but consider Christ’s predicament - He’s here to save humanity but humanity seems to draw further away from him. What can he do? He could certainly reveal himself then and there as God, bypassing to some extent the glory of the Resurrection - this however wouldn’t redeem suffering humanity from their sins, nor would it allow the human person to freely chose God as his/her saviour. Christ, being the source of wisdom, invites the Pharisees and Herodians, and by extension all of human history, to consider what each being is owed in accordance to our love for God; ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s. His response does not denounce civil law and those who govern, but invites all to uphold the righteous laws of the land and to live as lawful citizens whilst maintaining one’s faith.

Dear friends, there are several aspects to bear in mind when reflecting on this Gospel. 1) Christ is so patient with us: often we stray away from Our Lord like the lost sheep; Christ does not berate us nor does he judge us unworthy of the kingdom. On the contrary he invites us back to experience his love. 2) Our love and devotion of God foster’s our obedience to civil law: good citizen are those who discern good from evil - as we draw closer to Our Lord our observance of divine law is strengthened which in turn forms a good conscience. This allows us to enact upon the laws of the land in good conscience.

In celebrating the day of the Lord may we ask for the grace of discernment in our lives; to discern good from evil in order to live as lawful citizens of our land. May the Blessed Mother be the model of our supplications; for she was both perfect disciple and perfect citizen.

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Fr. Chris



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

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

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation [Philippians 2:15. 16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 22:15-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 32:18-19](#)

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.



Entrance Antiphon

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading [Isaiah 45:1.4-6](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7](#)

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

- O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
- The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)
- Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
- Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)



Recently Deceased: Ivan Bauerhuit

Sick: 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

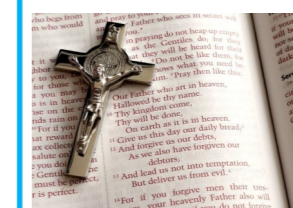
Bank Account Number: 00000560

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.

FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE CAMPION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Campion College invites the local community to attend its inaugural Campion College Festival, which will be held on Sunday 28 October from 10am to 4pm at the college grounds in Toongabbie. Entry is free with a range of activities including food trucks, children's rides, campus tours, showbags and a second-hand book sale. All proceeds will go towards the Campion College Scholarship Fund. For more information, please visit campion.edu.au/festival

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Positions Vacant: Communications Manager – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm on Wednesday 1 November 2023**. More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This Sunday 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 Gospel lesson. The children will return to their family in the church as the offertory and Liturgy of the Eucharist begin.



Saturday 4th November 2023 6:45 for 7:00 pm

St. Finbar's Church Hall, Levy St, Glenbrook

An evening with music, song, and entertainment featuring talented local artists. A range of gourmet dishes for mains and desserts

Cost: \$50 per person, \$90 per couple. Great Raffle and Lucky Door Prizes. Optional dancing! (Or just watch, listen, and enjoy!)

Please Book early as seats are limited; phone Doug on 0403 303 943 or Email: bushschoolcambodia@gmail.com

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