

Date:	7th/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	Ed Junis
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	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
Date:	14th/15th Oct 2023 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Priest:	Fr Noel Custodio	Fr Felix Navarro	Fr Felix Navarro
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	John Belfanti
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Greg King	Peta Sparkes
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Cecilia Hunt	Anne Edwards
Second Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Loida Derbyshire	Brian Edwards
Music:	None	None	Chris Wilson

BBQ Fundraising Event - After the Vigil Mass 5pm Saturday 7th October and after 9:30am Mass Sunday 8th October (PPC)



Adopt a Tree

It has been noticed that newly planted trees at the area of the church facing Hawkesbury Road need watering. These trees are identified by a supportive yellow topped starpost. Could you adopt one of the trees and water it regularly in the coming hot dry weather? There is a tap situated near the storage room beneath the Church. Thank you.

Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass: 29 October




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 or phone (02) 8838 3460 by 20th October. Family and friends are welcome.



Our young children need you! Share the hope and joy Jesus brings and become a catechist or helper. For those interested please contact: Wilhelmina de Raadt on 02 4751 3319.

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.

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.
- St Thomas Aquinas

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777
Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email:	<i>email: springwood@parracatholic.org</i>
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

Isaiah 5:1-7
My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

Master of the vineyard, you have given us a fertile garden to care for. But we have failed. The garden is polluted; full of floods and fires. Lord, help us find ways to repair our vineyard, our common home, and our relationship with all our brothers and sisters who share it.

Anne Osdieck

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-43
Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way.

Often you send us as workers to your vineyard. Make us not lose weights, but cornerstones, unmoved by rejection, suspicion, contempt, or even death. Send us to sow and nurture whatever is just, whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious whatever is honourable, on our magnificent planet and wherever the human family lives here.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philipians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43

Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 79:9, 12-16, 19-20
R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.



Recently Deceased: 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

COMMUNION SERVICE & MASS SCHEDULES: Communion service is going to be held on Monday 9th October and Friday 13th October at 9:30am. Fr Chris will celebrate the Holy Mass on Tuesday to Thursday, 10th - 12th October and then he will be away attending the Diocesan Synod. Our daily morning Holy Mass schedule resumes after this, that is every Tuesday - Saturday 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 on Tuesday the 17th October.

CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF OUR FIRST-EVER DIOCESAN SYNOD: All members of the faithful young and young at heart are invited to celebrate the beginning of the first-ever Diocesan Synod at LIFTED Live in the Forecourt: Bridge to the Synod on **Thursday 12 October** at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta from 6.30pm. We're inviting our entire Diocesan community to experience and celebrate our young Church with live music, prayer, stalls, games and more!

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!

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 14th & 15th and 21st & 22nd October. These truly unique cards fit perfectly with the Vinnies message to 'Put Christ into Christmas.'

ANNUAL YEAR 12 HSC PARISH YOUTH MASS: 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.

WORLD ROSARY DAY: All Catholics around the world are invited to pray the Holy Rosary together on Friday, October 13 at 3:00pm (Sydney time). The date marks the 106th Anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to three children. Please visit this website: worldrosaryhour.com

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 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 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).

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 lhichaaba@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.

Glancing Thoughts

Fruitfulness



Both the [First Reading](#) and the [Gospel](#) tell a story about a vineyard. In each story, the Lord of the vineyard gives good soil, choice vines, and ample protection for the vineyard. But then he does not receive the good fruit that the vineyard should have given him, either because it doesn't produce good fruit or because the tenants won't give the good fruit to him.

If the vines bear fruit, it is because it is God who worked so hard at the vineyard.

There are penalties for this failure to give fruit to the Lord.

The unfruitful vineyard is left to go to ruin. The tenants who won't give the fruit to the Lord lose their lives and their vineyard, which is given to others.

These penalties are fearful. Failure to be fruitful is punished by the loss of the gifts that might have yielded fruit and by the death of the unfruitful recipients of those gifts.

But what is the fruitfulness which it is so fearful not to have?

Do we have to do the most possible good for the poor?

Do we have to be highly effective at ministry?

Are we supposed to work around the clock so that we can use our gifts to the fullest?

What about our jobs? Are we unfruitful if we are unemployed?

How hard do we have to work in order not to count as unfruitful? How successful do we have to be at that work?

The thing to notice here is that all these questions rest on a false presupposition. The fruitfulness at issue doesn't come from our work. In both the stories, the owner of the vineyard, who is God, plants the vines, spades the soil, removes the stones, and protects the vineyard. If the vines bear fruit, it is because it is God who worked so hard at the vineyard.

So our fruitfulness comes not from our own work, but from the work of God's Spirit in us. Our part of the process is to not resist the Spirit.

And what about the fruit God is looking for in us? It will not be success, brought about by our own efforts. It will be the fruits that God's Spirit works in us. And these are love, joy, peace, patience and long-suffering.

God has planted himself deep within us in the indwelling Holy Spirit. No lack of success in work, no lack of work itself, can keep us from responding to him with love and joy and the rest. And these are what make us fruitful for the Lord.

Eleonore Stump



The Parish Pastoral Council under the enthusiastic initiative of Phill Saville is running a barbecue this weekend as a social event and fundraiser. After the vigil Mass on 7th October for just \$3 you can get a sausage sandwich and tea/coffee or cordial. After 9.30am Mass on 8th October it's bacon and egg and a drink for \$5. Why not bring a hat and a picnic rug?

