

Date: **4th/5th Nov 2023 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Time: **VIGIL 5:00PM**
 Acolyte: Ed Junis
 Commentator: Cheryl Kirby
 First Reading: Felix Kobus
 Second Reading: Neil Kirby
 Music: Andrew Wilson

8.00AM
 Marek Grus
 Cecilia Hunt
 Jim Gresser
 Kim Crawford

9.30AM
 John Belfanti
 Anne Ellis
 Anne Edwards
 Brian Edwards
 Chris Wilson

Date: **11th/12th Nov 2023 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Time: **VIGIL 5:00PM**
 Acolyte: Ian Miles
 Commentator: Margaret Smith
 First Reading: Tanya Baldwin
 Second Reading: Wilhelmina de Raadt
 Music: Chris Wilson

8.00AM
 Randall Noney
 Vicky Walker
 Ros Comfort
 Tanya Graham

9.30AM
 Richard Merchant
 Katherine Mahns
 Margaret Hickey
 Phil Saville
 Streeters

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



Synod Reflection

Like many I don't really understand what the purpose of the synod really is. The mission of the Church is bring all people to God and to do that our Lord has given us the Truth to do it. I have always viewed the Church, that is the body of believers, as diverse and inclusive. Thus, the call to be a diverse and inclusive Church confounds me. Having worked for the Church as an employee for over twenty years I experienced, on a number of occasions, being asked to give my opinion in forums which appeared to have been designed with a predetermined conclusion in mind. I know that there are many within the diocese who suspect that Bishop Vincent has a political agenda that he wishes to implement within the diocese. Sharing that concern I was interested in hearing what my fellow brothers and sisters had to say. The synod was truly diverse and inclusive and it was truly enjoyable to spend a weekend with so many lovely people from so many diverse background. What struck me most about listening to people at the synod was the orthodoxy of thought. There was not one disagreement at the table I attended and a clear majority of those who spoke to all assembled spoke with loving, if diplomatic, Catholic orthodoxy. If those gather truly reflect the people of our diocese, then the people of the diocese are orthodox in their understanding of the faith.

Christopher Howard

P.S. The tucker at the synod was particularly good.



"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; Emergency ONLY: 0474 631 168

Parish Email: email: 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: Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4-5 pm before the Vigil Mass
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
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.

Alter Christus

'I do. I do. I do. I do. I do with the help of God.' These are the responses the candidate to the priesthood exclaims to the Bishop during the Ordination Rite. I recall making these responses during my ordination five years ago...well kind of. There were a lot of emotions running through my mind during the ordination. I was excited and terrified, overjoyed and anxious, solemn and on the verge of tears; much happens in the mind of the soon-to-be-priest during his ordination. This array of emotions somewhat puts the ordinand in autopilot - do the rehearsed actions and think about it later. As such it is no surprise that the Bishop's scrutiny somewhat went over my head as I resolved to hand my life to the Lord and to carry myself in a certain way. The final promise, prior to the act of obedience, reads, 'Do you resolve to be united more closely every day to Christ the High Priest, who offered himself for us to the Father as a pure Sacrifice, and with him to consecrate yourself to God for the salvation of all?' In my mind this speaks of the vocation of the Priest - the Priest is to be united heart and mind to Jesus Christ in order to act in his person. In doing so he takes the back seat, like John the Baptist, and allows Christ to shine through so that those whom he encounters through the administration of the Sacraments and in his fatherly ministry may see Our Lord ministering to them both physically and spiritually. This is the blessed vocation of the Priest - to be another Christ (Alter Christus) in our world. Unfortunately those called by God to minister in a unique way has not always lived up to divine expectations. Our Gospel for this Sunday has Jesus warning the people of the attitude of the Pharisees: 'Do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.' Jesus is clearly vexed at the Pharisees. Why? They have not lived up to their vocation. Only a few years ago the Universal Church examined itself and found a portion of their worldwide clergy were involved in sexual abuse either as abusers or covering up such acts. Like the Pharisees they didn't live up to their vocation. Considering all the above, the ugly side of the Church if you will, we ask the question: Do we write off the Priesthood and, by extension, all Priests? Do we no longer value them because of the sins of their brother Priests?



ABSOLUTELY NOT! Yes the Church acknowledges its mistakes and the sins of her leaders - its both disappointing and unfortunate - however the Priesthood is always a vocation to be praised and supported. Through the Priest we are able to receive the Eucharist. Through the Priest we are able to receive the forgiveness of sins. Through the Priest we are able to receive the gift of faith and prepare to meet our maker. Through the Priest we tangibly encounter God! All this is possible through the consecrated hands of the Priest. What a joy! What a blessing! So what can we do? How do we assist our Priests to faithfully live out their vocation? Pray and support them. Pray that they remain faithful to their vocation to imitate the Good Shepherd. Support them in their desire to draw their flock towards eternal life. Comfort them in their times of strife. Remind them of their God given calling. All this assists the Priest in his mission. As such I ask you, the good people of St. Thomas Aquinas Springwood, pray and support all priests. Pray that they be forever faithful in their vocation to be Jesus Christ (Alter Christus) in our world.



Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13](#)

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

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 23:9, 10](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 23:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 15:11](#)

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

First Reading [Malachi 1:14 – 2:2, 8-10](#)

A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 130](#)

(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

- O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. (R.)
- Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul. (R.)
- O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. (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



UPDATES ON MASS AND RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Weekday Mass time now is at 9:30 am Monday to Saturday and Reconciliation times are on Saturdays after the 9:30am Mass and 4-5pm (before the Vigil Mass).

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.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE

We would like to purchase a new Our Lady of Fatima Statue. Our present Our Lady statue is broken, and we would like to replace her. We have sourced a new one (see picture) and are seeking donations to be able to purchase this beautiful statue that will take pride and place in the middle of our altar where we will be able to honour our Blessed Mother of God. Please help us by placing donations into the tin situated next to the eftpos machine at the back of the church (cash or eftpos). May God bless you all.



Members of the Springwood St. Vincent de Paul conference will be inviting parishioners to contribute to their Christmas Hamper Appeal, by offering to supply either a hamper or cash so we can purchase fruit and vegetable or fresh food vouchers, at

all Masses on the weekends of 11th /12th and 18th /19th November. Donations towards this appeal will be accepted by conference members on the weekend of 16th / 17th December. All cash donations placed in the Poor Box, near Our Lady's statue, from 11th November will go towards supporting the 40 local families we are supplying with hampers this Christmas.

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:

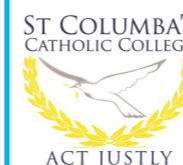
The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose 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.



As a parish, we are called to be a community. **THE FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT** builds this

sense of community by providing opportunities for people to get to know each other better. The motto of Family Groups is A FAMILY FOR ALL.

Everyone is invited to express an interest in Family Groups by completing a form (found inside the church near the Children's room) with your contact details and submitting this to our Parish Office.



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.