

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

Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Randall Noney	John Belfanti
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Vicky Walker	Katherine Mahns
First Reading:	Tanya Baldwin	Ros Comfort	Margaret Hickey
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Tanya Graham	Domhnall MacCormac
Music:	Chris Wilson		Streeters

Date: **18th/19th Nov 2023 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Marek Grus	Bernard Ellis
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Kim Crawford	Ingrid Merchant
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Jim Gresser	Steve Bishop
Second Reading:	Colleen Baker	Cecilia Hunt	Matt Aldous
Music:	No one		Chris Wilson

Morning Tea Roster - 19th November after 9:30am Mass: **Choir #2**

FORMATION OPPORTUNITY - BISHOP VINCENT & ANNE BENJAMIN

PRESENTING ON VATICAN II: As the Diocesan Synod process continues, Pastoral Council Members are encouraged to take part in Faith LIFE Short Course beginning next week. One of the most requested topics for personal formation has been learning more about the Second Vatican Council, as the great council which laid the groundwork for our movement towards Synodality. Over 3 Tuesday evenings, 14th, 21st & 28th November Bishop Vincent and Anne Benjamin will be presenting sessions on Vatican II.

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Place: Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW

RSVP via: pfparr.org.au/faithLIFE

THE STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP:

Will hold its last meeting for the year on Friday 17th November after the 9:30am Mass at the Parish Centre.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

Next weekend at our 9:30 am Mass, we invite children aged between 4-12 to attend our Children's Liturgy. The children are called forward and sent with a blessing over to our parish rooms for a Gospel lesson. The children will return to their families in church after the Creed, as the Offertory and Liturgy of the Eucharist begin.



Saint Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (1200-1280) - Memorial 15th November

A Swabian by descent, Albert was sent to the University of Padua where he joined the Dominicans. Appointed lector of theology, he taught at Cologne and Paris. Here, St Thomas Aquinas was his disciple, and Albert was the first to recognise Thomas's genius and to foretell the future work of his pupil. Albert became provincial of his order in Germany and in 1260, accepted under obedience the see of Regensburg. He resigned two years later and retired to Cologne, where he spent the rest of his life teaching and writing. Albert was the chief pioneer in the application of the Aristotelian system of theology. His printed works fill thirty-eight quarto volumes and deal with all branches of learning. For this reason, he is called "the Great" and "Doctor Universalis". He was beatified in 1622 and was equivalently canonised by being declared a Doctor of the Church in 1931.

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



Peter McTaggart, a long time parishioner of St Thomas Aquinas had recently passed away. Let us keep him and his grieving family in our prayers. His funeral Mass is going to be held here at St Thomas Aquinas Parish on Wednesday 22nd of November 2023 at 10:30 am. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.



"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."
- St Thomas Aquinas

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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Phone: 02 4754 1052; Emergency ONLY: 0474 631 168

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: 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.

Jesus Christ: Hope Incarnate

In my relatively short time as a Priest, I have been blessed to serve my community in a variety of ways - most especially through the administration of the Sacraments. To bring Jesus Christ to the soul seeking Him is one of the greatest joys I have as a Priest; a privilege I thank God for every day. Unfortunately, there are some aspects of this vocation that aren't as enjoyable as others. Funerals, I find, are difficult as they require particular pastoral sensitivity and social tact. Colloquial phrases such as 'How are you?' or 'How you going?' are not pastorally appropriate phrases as the family of the deceased, more likely than not, are grieving and therefore coming to terms with the loss of their loved one. I recall one instance asking the family one of the above phrases and being met with glaring eyes as if to say, 'How do you think we are going?' In short, funerals are difficult pastoral situations which require careful attention and pastoral sensitivity.

Part of the healing process following the death of a loved one is the act of grieving. Here, as mentioned above, the person undergoes a period of mourning where he/she comes to terms with their loss. This period is both healthy and necessary as relationships made in this life are to be cherished and not forgotten or brushed aside following death. This idea, I believe, is universally accepted and one that is promoted amongst all persons. It is quite surprising then that we hear St. Paul in our second reading brush off the act of grieving; in fact, he is so bold as to somewhat denounce it. He writes 'We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope.' How are we to understand this part of the Scriptures? Is St. Paul blind to the reality of grieving and its importance? Is he unaware of the nature of human relationships and its potency? Most certainly not: St. Paul is not oblivious to the beauty of formed relationships. His letter to the Thessalonians is not a reduction of the importance of grieving, but rather to stress the primacy of the theological virtue of Hope in the midst of our Christian lives. Hope spurs the Christian onwards as he/she sees beyond the physical world and keeps one's heart and mind directed towards Heaven; the difficulties of this world loses its power as Christ, the hope of the world, conquers all. Death, a seemingly powerful force, has also lost its gravitas due to Christ; as St. Paul writes 'At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever,' and additionally in the first letter to the Corinthians 'Death, where is your sting?' In short, to grieve in this life is a good thing, but to hope in Christ eases our burdens and calms our hearts, for Christ is the Lord of life.

Dear friends, as we remember the faithful departed this month of November, may we keep hope alive in our hearts. Yes, we are saddened at the loss of our loved ones but we take inspiration from St. Paul who reminds us that death is not the end; Christ, the first to rise from the dead, will take all those who have died in Him into Eternal Life. We pray they be welcomed into the Kingdom of God and hope one day that we join Christ in Heaven.





Entrance Antiphon

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading [Wisdom 6:12-16](#)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes
herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy
of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2](#)

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

- O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
- So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
- So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
- On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

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

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 24:42. 44](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 22:1-2](#)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.



Recently Deceased: Peter McTaggart

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

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

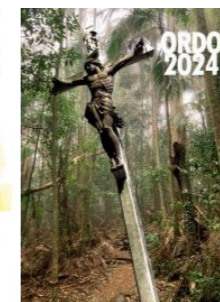
Reference: YOUR NAME IN FULL

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

2024 DAILY MASS BOOK & ORDO:

Ordered books are now in and ready for collection. Payment can be made by card or in cash.

2024 DAILY MASS BOOK



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 Rest 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 contacting Dennis Farrar on 0425 209 840.



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.