

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

Date: 25th/26th Nov 2023 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Mass Time: VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Acolyte: Ian Miles	Randall Noney	John Belfanti
Commentator: Margaret Smith	Cecilia Hunt	Peta Sparkes
First Reading: Wilhelmina de Raadt	Vicky Walker	Anne Edwards
Second Reading: Tanya Graham	Kim Crawford	Brian Edwards
Music: Chris Wilson		Streeters

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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.



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: pfparra.org.au/faithLIFE



FUN FUNDRAISING EVENT:

The Parish Pastoral Council are running a BBQ this coming weekend as a Christmas fundraiser for the Springwood chapter of St Vincent de Paul. After the Vigil Mass on Saturday 18 November you may purchase a sausage sandwich and a cool glass of cordial for \$3.00. After the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 19 November you have the option of a bacon and egg roll with a hot tea/coffee or cordial for \$5.00. Thank you to Phil Saville for all your hard work in organising this wonderful fundraiser.



CANDLE HOLDERS: Over the course of a few days, the Sacristy and under the Church have had a rather good sort through and we were astounded to what we found. We were extremely lucky to find the treasures of Springwood Parish: a variety of Candle stands which we have taken to be restored.

They are brass, five of them are over a metre high, one is the paschal candle holder, six are for the altar, and two candelabras for adoration. They are all going to be for continuous flame candles. The state of these items were extremely poor and so we are asking you, our generous parishioners, to help restore these candle holders in order to elevate the Sacred Liturgy and make our Church more beautiful. If you feel called to help please do via cash or eftpos donation at the back of the Church near the sacristy.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting for the PPC will be held on Tuesday 21st November. If you would like to include any items to the agenda, please send an email to:



springwoodparishpc@gmail.com



"The study of philosophy is not that we may know what men have thought, but what the truth of things is." - St Thomas Aquinas

'You have been faithful in small things: come and join in your master's happiness'



When reflecting on our Gospel for this Sunday our mind is drawn to the common understanding of talents. According to the Oxford Dictionary a talent is 'a special natural ability or aptitude, usually for something expressed or implied.' This is evident in sports icons like Michael Jordan or Nathan Cleary (I almost wrote Mitchell Moses but thought better of it) who's natural talent in basketball and rugby, coupled with hard work, allowed each to excel at the highest level. This understanding however has not always been the case. In the ancient world the term talent did not refer to one's natural ability but rather a unit of measurement. When the Scriptures speak of talents it refers a large sum of money. To clarify one denarius equates to one day's work whereas one talent equates to sixty kilograms of coinage (gold, silver or denarii). As such talents in the scriptures never once refers to the natural ability of a person, but speaks of a vast amount of money one is entrusted with.

With this in mind we turn to the Parable of the Talents from our Gospel today. Our Lord speaks of three servants who are entrusted with a large sum of money: five talents, three talents, and one talent. In the case of the first two, both servants, whilst their master is away, spend their time investing the talents for the sake of the master. They recognise the great responsibility they have been entrusted with and do all they can in order for the master's household to flourish. The last servant however fears the master; the passage does not say he is ungrateful for the responsibility but it is clear fear grips him. He therefore hides the talent and waits for the master's return. The ending is obvious, the first two are lauded and the last is shunned - the master is not unjust in his response to the wicked servant for a slave who does not follow the master's instructions is not of the same mind as his lord and therefore does not foster the growth of the household.

Dear friends there are two lessons we can take from our Gospel today. 1) **Christ has entrusted each of us with the most precious talent purposed to foster growth of the Kingdom of God: the gift of faith.** Faith, when lived out, transforms the soul to fully reflect the image and likeness of God. This gift isn't for private use, nor is it to be buried and left until the second coming of Christ - it is to be strengthened in order to bear fruit through our desire to live it out in our daily lives. The gift of faith will change the world - St. Thomas Aquinas showed this in his life. 2) **Erroneous fear of God will cripple our ability to serve.** Should we fear our Lord? Yes and no. Fear of the Lord, a gift of the Holy Spirit is a holy fear - it recognises that God is the Almighty, the beginning and end of all things with whom we ought to love; it recognises that he is God alone and that we are people. It inspires us, not to fear him like a dictator, but to love him for he calls us to himself; to eternal life. In short it promotes love and devotion. Fear of the Lord inspires us to go beyond ourselves and allow the Spirit of the Lord to be our guiding principle in order to utilise the gift of faith. Friends, may we be inspired by the Holy Spirit to use the gift of faith in our lives and so serve Our Lord until our last breath.

God Bless you in the week ahead.

Fr. Chris

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.
You will call upon me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading [Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31](#)

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1](#)

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**
- Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**
- Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 5:1-6](#)

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

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.



Gospel Acclamation [John 15:4. 5](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 72:28](#)

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.



Recently Deceased: Lise Sarders, 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.



FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT:

With loneliness and isolation so prevalent in our society, there is a genuine need for people to know and support each other. The focus on the Family Group Movement is on caring for, loving and accepting each other. You are invited to join with other members of our parish Family Group Movement. The motto of the family groups is A FAMILY FOR ALL. Download an expression of interest form from our website: www.stchurchspringwood.org.au or via the link on our Facebook page. For further information contact Dennis Farrar on 0425 209 840.

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 REMEMBRANCE please print their name clearly on to an envelope and place into the collection box at the back of the church.



The Saint Thomas Aquinas Ladies Fellowship will be holding their annual Christmas Raffle at the Saturday night and Sunday morning Masses on 25th/26th November and the 2nd/3rd December. Great prizes. All money will be given to St Vincent de Paul to purchase vouchers to assist with their Christmas Appeal.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This 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.



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.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE:

Thank You!

It is with a grateful and humble heart that we say thank you to all of our parishioners for your generous contributions to our new Our Lady of Fatima Statue. Our target has been reached! This beautiful statue has been ordered and will be arriving in the next few weeks. 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.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE CHAPLAINCY SERVICES:

We will be having a collection next week for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care chaplaincy services. Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely and distraught people this Christmas. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au appeal or scan this QR code.



2024 DAILY MASS BOOK & ORDO: Ordered books are now in and ready for collection. Payment can be made by card or in cash.