

Date:	13th/14th July 2024		Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tanya Baldwin	Tamsyn Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Loida Derbyshire	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Matt Aldous	Peta Sparkes	Streeters
Date:	20th/21st July 2024		Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Margaret Smith	Wilhelmina de Raadt	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Tanya Graham	Tom Horsfall	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Phil Saville	Steve Bishop	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Parish Pastoral Council			

KID'S CORNER

Believe in the message of God

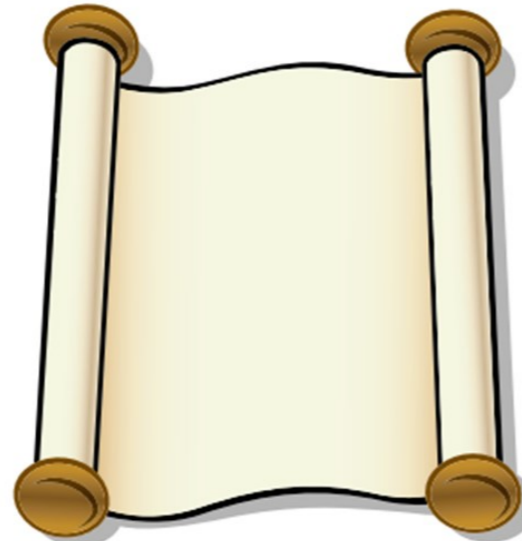


15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Gospel

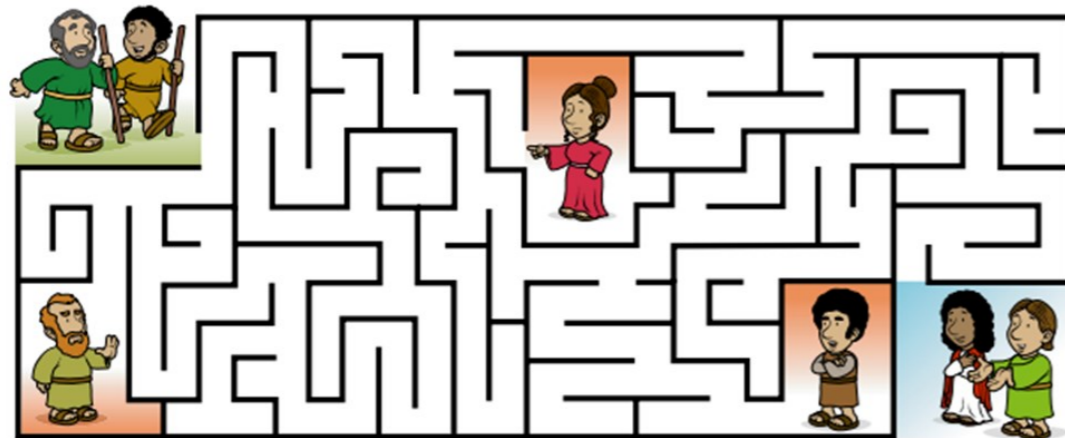
Mark 6:7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals, but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.



If Jesus sent you out to proclaim his Good News, what would you tell people? Write or draw your answer in the scroll above.

Peter and John are on their way to spread God's message to others. Help them find their way through the maze where they will find people who will welcome them and listen to their message. Keep an eye out for those who look unwilling to listen!



The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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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
Adoration: Monday - Saturday from 8:15 am - 9:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Every first Friday of the month 7:00 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Vigil Mass
Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11:00 am and by appointment
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: Please Contact the Parish Office



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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.

Pope Francis Angelus Address: 15 July 2018: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good Morning,

Today's Gospel passage (cf. Mk 6:7-13) narrates the moment Jesus sends the Twelve [Apostles] on mission. After calling each of them by name "to be with him" (Mk 3:14), listening to his words and observing his gestures of healing, he now calls them again to "send them out two by two" (6:7) to the villages he was going to visit. It is a sort of "internship" of what they would be called to do following the Resurrection of the Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel passage pauses on the style of the missionary which we can sum up in two points: the mission has a centre; the mission has a face.

First of all, the missionary disciple has his centre of reference who is Jesus himself. The narrative indicates this by using a series of verbs which have him as the subject — "He called to him"; he "began to send them"; he "gave them authority"; "he charged them", "he said to them" (vv. 7, 8, 10) —, so that the going out and working of the Twelve appears to be radiating from a centre, reaffirming the presence and work of Jesus in their missionary actions. This demonstrates that the Apostles have nothing of their own to proclaim, nor any abilities to manifest, but rather that they speak and act as "emissaries", as messengers of Jesus.

This episode of the Gospel also applies to us and not only to priests but to all baptised people called to witness to the Gospel of Christ in the various spheres of life. And for us too, this mission is authentic only in so far as its unchanging centre who is Jesus. It is not an initiative of faithful individuals nor of groups and not even of large gatherings. It is the mission of the Church, inseparably united to her Lord. No Christian proclaims the Gospel "on his/her own", but is only sent by the Church who received the mandate from Jesus himself. Indeed it is Baptism that makes us missionaries. A baptised person who does not feel the need to proclaim the Gospel, to proclaim Jesus, is not a good Christian.

The second characteristic of the missionary's style is, so to speak, a face, which consists in the poverty of means. His accoutrement responds to a criteria of modesty. Indeed the Twelve have the order to "take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts" (6:8). The Teacher wants them to be free and unhampered, without reserves and without favours, certain only of the love of the One who sends them, strengthened only by his Word which they go to proclaim. The staff and the sandals are the gear of pilgrims because that is what the messengers of the Kingdom of God are, not omnipotent managers, not irreplaceable officials, not celebrities on tour. Let us think for example of this Diocese of which I am Bishop. Let us think about some saints from this Diocese of Rome: Saint Philip Neri, Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, Saint Alessio, Blessed Ludovica Albertoni, Saint Frances of Rome, Saint Gaspare del Bufalo and many others. They were not officials or business people, but rather humble workers of the Kingdom. This was the face they had. And to this "face" also belongs the way the message is received: it can happen that one is not welcomed or listened to (cf. v. 11). This too is poverty: the experience of failure. The experience of Jesus who was rejected and crucified anticipates the destiny of his messenger. And only if we are united to Him, who died and rose, can we find the courage to evangelise.

May the Virgin Mary, the first disciple and missionary of the Word of God, help us to convey to the world the message of the Gospel in a humble and radiant exultation, beyond any rejection, misunderstanding or tribulation.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading Amos 7:12-15

A reading from the prophet Amos

Go, prophesy to my people.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets.' Amos replied to Amaziah, 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Before the world was made, he chose us in Christ.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight.

Second Reading (continuation)

He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came. Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it: and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

Gospel Acclamation See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 6:7-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He called the Twelve, and began to send them out.

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals, but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



Sick: John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, Liz Miles, James Connor, Richard Ford, Odette Harb, Andy Hutvagner, Precious Tamayo, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson, 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

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS WORKS: Please support our Parish and its projects.

- **Direct Debit:** Please contact the Parish Office for more details.
- **Direct Deposit:** Details are as follows:
Bank Account Name: Springwood; BSB: 067-950
Bank Account Number: 00000560
Reference: Your name in full.



FIRST COLLECTION: This goes to the Board of Management. The fund supports the living expenses of the priests within our Diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION: This goes to our Parish of St Thomas Aquinas—directly funding operational costs, pastoral activities and various programs that enrich our community. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS: Pope Paul VI said, "The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!" It has immense power and countless miracles and conversions have occurred throughout the centuries by offering Masses for a specific intention or person. Intentions like for quick recovery of our loved ones who are ill, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died, for the intentions of another person such as on a birthday or thanksgiving. Mass intentions are a great treasure of the Church and have a spiritual weight that is incalculable. The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works. **Mass Offering Envelopes are available at the back of the church which can be used to express your ongoing generosity and support to our church.** Thank you.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: CHURCH CLEANING

Our community greatly values the contributions of dedicated volunteers and help is always needed to keep our church looking clean and welcoming. As we continue to maintain our sacred space, we invite anyone who may be interested to be a part of our church cleaning team. We appreciate any time you can spare, whether it's a few hours a week or once every eight weeks. Benefits: 1) Fulfillment through service, 2) Strengthening our church community and 3) Connecting with fellow parishioners. If you would like to become one of our fantastic group of volunteers, please contact our Parish Office on 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org. Your willingness to serve is a blessing to us all.



NAIDOC Week EVENT:

Last weekend many people tasted Davison Plum biscuits, sipped lemon grass tea and asked questions about the native plants on display. This weekend (14th July) you are invited to attend the COMMUNITY Garden (just near St Columba's gates) after the Sunday morning mass to see the 18 native plants and learn from Indigenous gardener Evan YANNA MURU and other gardeners. Kids and families welcome to enjoy the Morning Tea available there also.



STA PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Monday 8th July to Friday 19th July except on Thursdays 11th and 18th July. For any enquiries please call 02 4754 1052 or send an email to: springwood@parracatholic.org

GREAT SAINTS OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE: Join Fr Chris del Rosario on a breathtaking pilgrimage on the footsteps of some of Italy's well-known saints. This is an amazing opportunity to deepen our faith and explore the rich culture and history of Italy. Pilgrimage starts on 21st Oct 2024. For more details scan the code or visit: harvestjourneys.com/Italy



2024 Reconciliation Sacramental Program

We invite you and your child (Year 3 or older who have not yet received Reconciliation) to be part of our 2024 Reconciliation Sacramental Program.

This sacrament will take place through a parish-based process. This means that you will do the preparation with your child, but we help you through a process of guided reflection on a weekly basis by meetings in the church.

Parent Information Sessions:

- 1ST MEETING: Tues 6th Aug at 7.00pm, STA Church
- 2ND MEETING: Tues 13th Aug at 7.00pm, STA Church
- Children and Parent Information Sessions:**
- 3RD MEETING: Sat 24th Aug at 11.00am, STA Church
- 4TH MEETING: Sat 31st Aug at 11.00am, STA Church (and practice)

Reconciliation will take place on Wed 4th Sept at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Reconciliation enrolment forms are available on our website, parish office and back of the church.

Child Safe Standards - Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account

The Diocese of Parramatta upholds equity and takes into account diverse needs through:

- Its Commitment to an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness, and solidarity for all people
- Supporting refugees and asylum seekers
- The Safeguarding Council – Members are from diverse circumstances and backgrounds
- Provision of financial assistance to those experiencing hardship
- Training for staff and volunteers on Elder Abuse Awareness, vulnerable adults and children, and domestic and family violence
- Advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugees, and asylum seekers
- Recruitment practices which include principles of equity and diversity
- Equal opportunities for staff, volunteers, gender equality, race, age, religion, marital/family status, sexual orientation, or disability

For more information on Diocesan Safeguarding go to <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding> or phone 8838 3429

