

Reading Roster**19th/20th November**

VIGIL	8:00AM	9:30AM
Priest:	Fr Paul	Fr Paul
Acolyte:	Roshan Rupesinghe	John Belfanti
Commentator:	Felix Kobus	Cecilia Hunt
First Reading:	Lynette Boyd	Roslyn Comfort
Second Reading:	Colleen Baker	Kim Crawford
Music:	No music	No music

26th/27th November - First Sunday of Advent

VIGIL	8:00AM	9:30AM
Priest:	Fr Shinto	Fr Shinto
Acolyte:	Ian Miles	Bernie Ellis
Commentator:	Margaret Smith	Kim Crawford
First Reading:	Colleen Baker	Jim Gresser
Second Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Cecilia Hunt
Music:		E-Street Band

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday is the Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time and the last week of the liturgical year. As always on this last Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. The readings remind us of God's faithfulness to us as he promises to shepherd the people of Israel. In Luke's Gospel we are taken to the crucifixion and Jesus being mocked as "King of the Jews." The man crucified next to him asks Jesus to remember him when he gets into his Kingdom. Jesus replies, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Monday is the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Tuesday is the Memorial of Saint Cecilia, virgin and martyr. Thursday is the Memorial of Saint Andrew Dün-Lac, priest and martyr, and his companions, martyrs.

In this last week of Ordinary Time, we have readings from Luke's Gospel, which grow more explicit about the end time as Jesus and his disciples draw closer to Jerusalem. Jesus watches rich people make donations at the Temple but when a poor widow drops in two small coins he notes that her donation is far larger for "she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood." He speaks of the end time, and cautions that many will claim to come in Jesus' name. "Do not follow them!" He says that the cost of following him may be high, and may lead to trials and divisions in families. But, he says, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives." In a dramatic look at the end time, Jesus says, "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Just as we know what the signs in nature tell us - fig trees in bloom announce the coming of summer - Jesus wants us to be aware of the signs of the coming of the Kingdom: "when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near." Finally, he tells us not to let our "hearts be drowsy" but to be vigilant at all times and to pray for the strength we will need for the "tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

The First Sunday of Advent begins a new liturgical year and the beginning of a season filled with the riches of our scripture readings. For the next few weeks, the main focus will be on the first reading, with the gospel chosen to accompany it. Isaiah offers the people of God a promise of peace: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." Matthew's gospel is the story of Noah and a caution from Jesus to prepare "for an hour you do not expect."

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer/C2-OT-34.html>

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Christmas Giving Tree

This year, our parish is again supporting **Wimlah Women's Refuge Outreach and Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service**, a specialist domestic violence service located in the Blue Mountains.

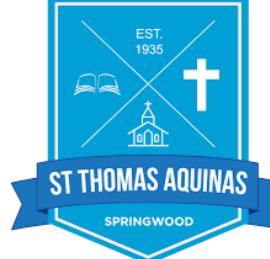
Wimlah offers a Domestic Violence Support Group, Family Law Support Group and residential crises accommodation for women and children.

We would love for our parishioners to wrap a gift for a woman and a child (we will have exact ages for you soon) to open at Christmas, who might otherwise not be able to open anything.

Please leave this gift under our Christmas Tree and it will be hand delivered the Wednesday prior to Christmas Day to the women and children who will be relying on the refuge this year for a safe haven - a *place to call home*.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
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Phone: 02 4754 1052



Parish Email:	email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website:	www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page:	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Priest:	Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 0418 461 316
Assistant Priest:	Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 <i>Emergency ONLY:</i> 0415 077 969
Parish Pastoral Council:	email - springwoodppc@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:	Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am
Healing Mass:	1st Friday of the month, 9.30am
Rosary & Devotions:	Tuesday-Saturday 9.00am
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

THE GOSPEL*Luke 23:35-43*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Christ,
with your last breath
you cared for the lost and lonely.

Please
remember us.
Call all of us to mind,
each and every one of us,
when you come into your kingdom!
We entrust ourselves, with Dismas, to you,
to your infinite love and mercy, and
like him, we ask simply:
remember us.

Anne Osdieck

THE FIRST READING*2 Samuel 5:1-3*

You shall shepherd my people, Israel.

Guide us into
your kingdom, O Jesus.
Put us on the path of peace.

Raise us as we fall. And hold us awhile.
If we run off to a wild, dark place,
then please pull us
back.

Watch over us
with love.

And shepherd others
through us.

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

Entrance Antiphon: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121:1-5. R. cf. v. 2

R. *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.



Recently Deceased: Tony Ellis, Fr Peter Maher

Sick: Brian Hickey, Baby Leonardo Diaz, Susie Ziino, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Kate Moore, 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

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP RAFFLE TICKETS: The STA Ladies Fellowship will be selling raffle tickets to support the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal at each of the Masses on the weekends of 26th and 27th November along with the 3rd and 4th December. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. There are wonderful prizes on offer and the money raised will buy fresh fruit and vegetables for the families that are being supported by our parish this year.

BISHOP VINCENT TO CELEBRATE MASS AT STA PARISH: On Sunday, 11th December at 9.30am, Bishop Vincent will be celebrating Mass in our parish. Bishop Vincent and Fr Paul would be delighted for all family and friends in our parish community to join our Mass and then stay for a cup of tea and cake afterwards.

MASS AND ROSARY CHANGE OF LOCATION: On Wednesday, 23rd November, the morning Mass and Rosary will be held in the parish office. The outside roof, above the parent's room, is being fixed and it is expected to be a noisy operation! The good news coming from this is that the following week on Tuesday, 29th November, the ceiling and walls in the parent's room will be sheeted and painted. We do not need to move the Mass for that day.

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY: Bishop Vincent will celebrate a Mass for the Deceased Clergy of the Diocese at St Bernadette's Church, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill on Friday, 25th November, 10.30am, which will be followed by prayers at the priests' section of Castle Hill Cemetery, Gilbert Road, Castle Hill. You are warmly invited to attend these celebrations.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: If you are interested in being part of this wonderful ministry, please complete one of the yellow forms around the Church and place into the Pastoral Council box at the back of the Church. Thank you.

STA PARISH CATHOLIC EARTHCARE: St Thomas Aquinas Parish has signed up to be part of Catholic Earthcare Australia. You are invited to JOIN our parish Earthcare team to consider local initiatives - Please complete the green notes, located at the back of the church, and place into the Pastoral Parish Council box. Thank you.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE: The parishes of the Blue Mountains Deanery will host the Epiphany Pilgrimage from 2-8 January 2023. You can be part of the celebrations & help welcome the pilgrims to our beautiful mountains by - Participating in the full pilgrimage or else joining for one or more days of bush-walking; Praying & celebrating with them at the Blue Mountains parishes along the way; Assisting with the festive meal when they visit us at STA on Tuesday, January 3 2023 & Writing prayer intentions for the pilgrims to pray on your behalf (see prayer box at side of church). Register or to find out more information at www.epiphanypilgrimage.org



BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: For Catholic Care's Assistance with Care and Housing Service. No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal envelopes, at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you for stretching out your hand in compassion for our homeless community.

"QUO VADIS?" PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME: 5th – 23rd September 2023, At the request of many of his previous pilgrims, Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year. Our pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter. Details are available for download via Flyer-for-Fr-Wim-Hoekstra-QUO-VADIS-Pilgrimage-in-Sep-2023-low96.pdf (olivetretravel.com.au). If you need further details, please contact Fr Wim on 0409908361 or email wim.hoekstra@parrachatholic.org

FIRSTCPR TRAINING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST! The Diocese of Parramatta is participating in a program called FirstCPR that involves education and training in responding to cardiac arrest in the community. The program will provide you with CPR accredited training to parish staff and volunteers and is free of charge. Sessions will be organised across the Diocese and require a minimum of 10 people per session. For more information, and to express your interest, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/cpr-training-eoi/>



Please Tap to give and to support our parish.

This new tap and go machine is for the second collection

Simply tap on the device near the Commonwealth Bank logo.

There are four options: **\$2.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 and other amount**

Thank you.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Thank you to those wonderful parishioners who have volunteered to support a family or individual this year for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal.

There are envelopes at the back of the church if you wish to support this appeal by way of a monetary contribution. St Vincent de Paul members ask that you bring your contribution to any Mass on the weekend of 17th & 18th December so they can be distributed to families before Christmas.

STA School Centenary Celebration and Christmas Concert

Wednesday 7th of December, 6:30pm

This year we finally have an opportunity to celebrate our **Centenary (plus one)** with our Christmas Concert. We will take a step back through time and enjoy **100 years of Christmas magic from 1921 until today**. Many wonderful people have shaped the Catholic identity of St Thomas Aquinas, and **we invite all of our community past, present and future** to enjoy this special celebration. So bring your picnic chairs and settle in for a nostalgic night filled with the Spirit of Christmas.

Centenary Crosses

To celebrate our School Centenary, as a way to honour the past and to lay a foundation for the future, we are inviting families from our parish community to donate a crucifix or cross which represents their family and the diverse cultures of our community. The crosses will be displayed in classrooms and other learning spaces throughout our school and be engraved with your family name. The crosses should be approximately 25cm and able to be hung on the wall (not free standing). Please send or deliver to the school office by Monday 12th of December, please include your family name and contact details, including address.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2022:

Christmas Eve, Sat 24th Dec

Springwood

5.00pm Children's Mass
(at St Thomas Aquinas Church)

Christmas Day, Sun 25th Dec

8.00pm VIGIL

Boxing Day, Mon 26th Dec

9.30am

Tues 27th - Fri 30th Dec

9.30am

Sat 31st Dec

9.30am

Lawson (OLN)

5.00pm Children's Mass
(at OLN Cola if fine weather)

8.00pm VIGIL

8.30am

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Monday, 19th December, 7.00pm - Lawson
Tuesday, 20th December, 7.00pm - Springwood

No great mind has ever existed without a touch of madness.

- Aristotle