

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	
First Reading:	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Vicky Walker	Anne Edwards
Second Reading:	Tanya Graham	Kim Crawford	Brian Edwards
Music:	Chris Wilson		Streeters
Date:	2nd/3rd Nov 2023 First Sunday of Advent		
Mass Time:	VIGIL 5:00PM	8.00AM	9.30AM
Acolyte:	Ed Junis	Marek Grus	Richard Merchant
Commentator:	Tanya Graham	Jim Gresser	Anne Ellis
First Reading:	Cheryl Kirby	Kim Crawford	Ingrid Merchant
Second Reading:	Neil Kirby	Vicky Walker	Domhnall MacCormac
Music:	Andrew Wilson		Chris Wilson

Morning Tea Roster: 3rd December after 9:30am Mass - East Timor Support Group #2



SYDNEY SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION: 7 – 14 JANUARY 2024

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville NSW, featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31 October. Register by 30 November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625). More info: contact@summerschool.org.au. Bookings: summerschool.org.au

ST THOMAS AQUINAS 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 within the Blue Mountains.

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

We would dearly love for our kind hearted parishioners to wrap a gift for a woman and a child to open this Christmas who might otherwise not be able to open anything.

We have been notified by Wimlah that they are currently housing:

20 women	6 months – 2 years : 5 boys and 7 girls
3 years – 7 years : 9 boys and 11 girls	8 years – 14 years : 7 boys and 12 girls
15 years – 17 years : 4 boys and 1 girl	

That is 20 women and 55 children who are relying on this refuge at this given time.

Please leave your gift under the Christmas Tree from Saturday 2nd December which will be located at the back of the church next to our St Thomas Aquinas statue. The gifts will be hand delivered on the Wednesday prior to Christmas Day to the women and children who are relying on the refuge this year for a safe haven – a place to call home.



STA CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

Christmas Eve, Sun 24th December:	8:00am Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass 9:30am Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass 5:00pm Children's Mass 12:00am Midnight Mass
Christmas Day, Mon 25th December:	8:00am Christmas Morning Mass 9:30am Christmas Morning Mass
Boxing Day, Tues 26th December:	9:30am
Wed - Fri 27th - 29th December:	9:30am
Saturday 30th December:	9:30am Saturday Morning Mass 5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass
Sunday 31st December:	8:00am and 9:30am

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:	<i>email: springwood@parracatholic.org</i>
Parish Website:	www.stchurchspringwood.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.

King Jesus

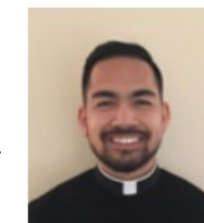
Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (please say with an Italian accent) is one of the most remarkable places I have ever visited. This Church is found in Rome, around seven kilometres from St. Peter's Basilica, and houses one of the Catholic Church's greatest treasures; the True Relics of the Cross. Now you're probably wondering how on earth such a relic found its way to Rome? We can thank St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, who scoured the Holy Lands and brought to Rome many symbols of our faith; the true relics of the Cross being one of them. After entering the small chapel housing said relics (and eventually bursting into tears) I noticed in the corner of the large reliquary (the large container holding the relics) the wooden plaque containing the inscription placed above Christ's head on the Cross. With a bit of concentration I could still read, in Latin, the faint inscription: *Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum* - Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews. Two thousand years ago this plaque was placed above our Saviour's Head as he hung on the Cross; this plaque detailed a truth of Jesus Christ: he is a King. King, not just of the Jews, but as the Church states, King of the Universe. He is Lord over all. But what makes him king? Why do we celebrate this day as we come to the end of the liturgical calendar?

The history of this solemnity is unlike that of other major liturgical celebrations. Pope Pius XI instituted this solemnity in 1925 as a response to the growing secularism the Church faced. The Pope asserted that the most effective defence against the destructive forces of the age is the recognition of the kingship of Christ; and, furthermore, a feast which is celebrated every year by everyone is a far better way of deploying that defence than any number of books written by learned people. First, we do; then we come to understand what it is that we are doing. But again we ask the question, what makes him our King? Is it simply because he is God? In short yes, however our yes is drawn upon the perfect act of love found on the Cross. Whilst Our Lord was beaten, bruised and nailed to the Cross - so much so that the Scriptures say he no longer resembled the form of man - the spiritual reality of his crucifixion highlights his majesty; Christ conquers Death. Consider that statement friends: Christ conquers death. An almost immovable force no longer has any power on the human person through the saving power of Christ. Furthermore this act was not for His sake, for Christ is perfect in of himself, but ours; He died on the Cross so that we could share in his kingdom for all eternity. Therefore we acclaim Christ as King because of his death defying act to save us from sin and death.

Dear friends, as we come to the end of the liturgical year may we profess with faith on our lips and heart the reality that Jesus Christ is the King of the Universe; He is our King.

With every blessing in the week ahead.

Fr. Chris





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.

First Reading [Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1](#)

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. (R.)
2. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28](#)

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

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in

Second Reading (continued)

their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation [Mark 11:9-10](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 28:10-11](#)

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



Recently Deceased: *Robyn Annette Tomczak, Lise Sarders, Peter McTaggart*

Sick: Fr Bob Bossini, 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.

CHURCH PARKING: Due to recent incidents involving near misses of children from our neighbouring schools, and on advice from the Diocese of Parramatta Office of Safeguarding, there will no longer be parking available outside of the parish office. This space is only to be used for funerals and weddings. Thank you for your understanding.



WORKING BEE: Please place Saturday 16th December from 10am - 4pm in your diaries. We would like as many parishioners as possible to help us clean up our church property. We will be gardening, raking, sweeping paths - everything to make our parish look beautiful. Bring along your gardening tools, hats, sunscreen and smiles!



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.

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.

STA PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON

WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2023: Due to the scheduled In-service Training for the Diocese of Parramatta Office Staff, our Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday 29th Nov 2023.



Bishop Vincent invites all to join him in a commemorative Mass to mark the 60th Anniversary of Sacrosanctum Concilium (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Monday 4th December at 7:30pm. Please RSVP for catering purposes to 0460 037 795 or email Hannah Portelli at hanna.portelli@parracatholic.org

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE CHAPLAINCY

SERVICES: We will be having a collection this 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.



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.

ORIGINAL STA PARISH OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESS:

The original email address of St Thomas Aquinas, sta@internode.on.net has not been used by the parish for some months. It will cease to exist from the 26 November 2023 and all emails sent to this address will be returned to sender.