

<b>Date:</b>	27th/28th January 2024		Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Feast of St Thomas Aquinas)		
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil: 5:00 PM</b>	Ian Miles	Colleen Baker	Felix Kobus	Margaret Smith	Chris Wilson
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Marek Grus	Tanya Graham	Ros Comfort	Vicky Walker	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Bernard Ellis	Phillip Saville	Margaret Hickey	Anne Ellis	Streeters
<b>Date:</b>	3rd/4th January 2024		Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil: 5:00 PM</b>	Ian Miles	Cheryl Kirby	Neil Kirby	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	Cecilia Hunt	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Phil Saville	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Peta Sparkes	Chris Wilson

## 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](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://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](mailto:christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org))  
**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email suggestions to [springwoodparishpc@gmail.com](mailto:springwoodparishpc@gmail.com)  
**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



## Kid's Corner

### Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Jesus taught with great authority and people listened to him. We too are more likely to listen to someone who really believes in what they say. Draw a picture of someone who you listen to.

### Unscramble: Jesus Casts out a Demon

Sort out the letters to fill in the blanks.  
 Use the letters in the boxes to fill in the last row of boxes.

And immediately there was in their synagogue a \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (NMA) with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (ESSJU) of Nazareth? Have you come to \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (YDSETRO) us? I know who you are, the \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (OYLH) One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (MEOC) out of him!"  
 And the unclean \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (TRSIPI), convulsing him and crying with a loud \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (IOCEV), came out of him.

And \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (YEHT) were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, \_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ (YSNIAG), "What is this? A new teaching!"

With □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."



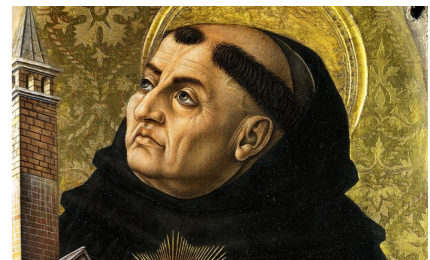
**Weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am  
**Weekday Mass:** Monday - Saturday 9:30 am  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4-5 pm before the Vigil Mass  
**Children's Liturgy:** 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am  
**Baptisms:** 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11 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.

### St Thomas Aquinas

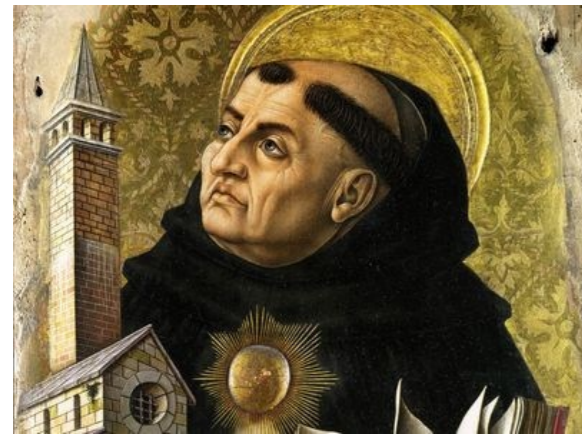


Perhaps you have heard of St. Thomas Aquinas as the Patron saint of Catholic schools – or maybe you heard his name in a philosophy or theology class – or perhaps you have even heard him called “the dumb ox”! As a great saint and Doctor of the church, St. Thomas Aquinas was a very bright, virtuous, and humble man whose example and writings are still admired and studied to this day.

Saint Thomas Aquinas was born in 1226 in Roccasecca, Italy. His father, Landolph, was the Count of Aquino, and his mother, Theodora, was also part of a powerful . When he was young, his father sent him to live with the Benedictines at Monte Cassino. As a student, he was a very quick learner. He quickly surpassed the other students in both knowledge and virtue. As he grew he felt God calling him to the religious life, which disappointed and even angered his family, who prized their wealth and status. His family held him prisoner in one of their castles for a year, trying to persuade him to change his mind. They even sent a woman in, to try to convince him that he should marry rather than take a vow of celibacy. Instead of allowing her in, he took two logs out of the fire and branded a cross on his door, making his intentions very clear. His mother, in an attempt to stop the family contention, helped him to escape in the night through a window. St. Thomas Aquinas fled to meet with Johannes von Wildeshausen, the Master General of the Dominican Order in Naples, Italy. He joined the Dominican Order and became a priest.

St. Thomas Aquinas was sent to study under Albert the Great (soon to be known as St. Albert the Great) in Paris. He was a quiet, slow-moving student, which led other students to give him the nickname of the “dumb ox.” Upon hearing this. St. Albert the Great stated, “You call him the dumb ox, but in his teaching he will one day produce such a bellowing that it will be heard throughout the world.” As time passed, St. Thomas Aquinas grew into an extraordinarily gifted professor and writer of theology and philosophy. His works are still highly regarded and studied by many today. He is most famous for his writings entitled the “Summa Theologica,” often referred to simply as “the Summa.” It is said that while writing the third volume of the Summa, St. Thomas Aquinas had a vision in the chapel before an icon of Christ crucified. St. Thomas Aquinas heard Jesus say to him, “You have written well of me, Thomas. What reward would you have for your labour?” St. Thomas Aquinas answered, “Nothing but you, Lord.” After this, St. Thomas Aquinas stated that he would not continue writing, for “all I have written seems like straw to me.” It is said that his mystical experience with Christ was so great that his words would never be sufficient to describe the glory and majesty of God.

While traveling along the Appian Way to meet with Pope Gregory X at the Second Council of Lyons, St. Thomas Aquinas was struck in the head by a falling branch while riding his donkey. He fell ill and was taken to Monte Cassino to recover. After resting, he began traveling again, then stopped at the Cistercian Fossanova Abbey where the monks nursed him for several days. As he received his last rites he prayed, “I receive Thee, ransom of my soul. For love of thee have I studied and kept vigil, toiled, preached, and taught.” St. Thomas Aquinas died on March 7, 1274. His remains are entombed at the Church of the Jacobins in Toulouse, France. Fifty years after his death, Pope John XXII, while seated in Avignon, France, declared Thomas a saint. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius V. Because of his perfect chastity, St. Thomas Aquinas has been given the title of the “Angelic Doctor.” His feast day is celebrated on January 28, which is the date his relics were transferred to Toulouse, France.



## Second Reading [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)

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

*It was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message that we preach.*

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save. As scripture says: I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing all the learning of the learned. Where are the philosophers now? Where are the scribes? Where are any of our thinkers today? Do you see now how God has shown up the foolishness of human wisdom? If it was God's wisdom that human wisdom should not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message that we preach. And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

## Gospel Acclamation [Mt 23:9-10](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

## Gospel [Matthew 23:8-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*You must not allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one teacher, the Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

## Communion Antiphon

Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when he comes. Amen I say to you: he will put that servant in charge of all his property.

## Entrance Antiphon

Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; your holy ones shall ring out their joy.

## First Reading [Wisdom 7:7-10, 15-16](#)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*I have loved wisdom more than health and beauty.*

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing. I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud. I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps. May God grant me to speak as he would wish and express thoughts worthy of his gifts, since he himself is the guide of Wisdom, since he directs the sages. We are indeed in his hand, we ourselves and our words, with all our understanding, too and technical knowledge.

## Responsorial Psalm [Ps 118:9-14. R v.12](#)

(R.) Lord, teach me your decrees.

- How shall the young remain sinless? By obeying your word. I have sought you with all my heart: let me not stray from your commands. (R.)
- I treasure your promise in my heart lest I sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. (R.)
- With my tongue I have recounted the decrees of your lips. I rejoice to do your will as though all riches were mine. (R.)



Recently Deceased: **Doreen West**

**Sick:** 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:

There are a variety of ways you can support our Parish and its Mission:

- QR Code:** located on the Bulletin Front Page.
- EFTPOS Machines:** located at the back of the Church.
- 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.

All donations go to maintaining our Church and supporting the various ministries associated with our Parish.

### THIS WEEKEND Sunday 28th JANUARY CELEBRATE WITH US:

This Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January our parish will celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Thomas Aquinas. To help mark the occasion the Parish Pastoral Council invites all parishioners to a Parish Barbecue and Picnic in the church grounds after 9.30 Mass. BYO fold-up chair or rug, and picnic fare – or enjoy a sausage sandwich for \$3. Hot drinks and cordial will be available till 12.30. You may also wish to bring garden games (quoits, badminton, bowls, etc.) or something tasty to share.



### THE LIFE OF THE SCHOENSTATT SISTERS OF MARY:

Come & See Week-end February 2-4, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. For those discerning religious or consecrated life, live-in experience of community, prayer, work, learning about the spirituality with the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. Cost \$125 contact 0417 738 339 by Friday 26th Jan or email: [sr.rebeccasampang@gmail.com](mailto:sr.rebeccasampang@gmail.com)



**STA MASS SCHEDULE 18th Jan - 3rd Feb 2024:** Please see Parish noticeboard or website for Mass schedule.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Adoration will resume on Monday 5th February 2024. Our new schedule follows:

Monday - Saturday: From 8:15 am - 9:15 am

**First Friday Adoration** starts from the 1st of March 2024 at 7:00 pm



The Springwood Conference of St Vincent de Paul would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our most generous parishioners for the hampers, gifts and cash vouchers that you donated to the many families and individuals who needed

them this Christmas.

Over 70 families received Christmas hampers, some also received personal toiletries, toys, glasses and other items along with over \$9,000 worth of vouchers which were handed to these families so they could buy fresh fruit and vegetables for their Christmas dinner.

Words cannot express our gratitude for your help. Your generosity made a significant difference to each of these families.

We received a note from one of these recipients that we would like to share: Hi there, the kids and I wanted to say thank you to you and everyone at Vinnies for everything. We really appreciate all the help, especially at this time of year. We are so very grateful and hope you all have a merry Christmas yourselves.

**YOUNG ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Sessions recommence on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at The Hustle (Unit 4, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury) at 7pm. The speaker is **Dr Mariusz Biliniewicz** who will talk about and lead discussion on **the Principles of Catholic Moral Thinking**. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza and fellowship! If you have any questions please call Mark on 0477 004 687.

### DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE OFFERINGS IN 2024:

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend residential retreats throughout 2024, starting on Friday afternoons and ending on Sunday afternoons. For more information and bookings, please contact (02) 4372 1598 or email [drcretreatgo@gmail.com](mailto:drcretreatgo@gmail.com) to confirm attendance. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org) for more information.