

Date:	13th/14th January 2024 <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>				
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
8:00 AM	Ian Miles	Felix Kobus	Lynette Boyd	Margaret Smith	Chris Wilson
9:30 AM	Randall Noney John Belfanti	Jim Gresser Anne Edwards	Ros Comfort Brian Edwards	Tom Horsfall Phil Saville	Streeters
Date:	20th/21st January 2024 <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>				
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
8:00 AM	Ed Junis	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Tanya Graham	No One
9:30 AM	Marek Grus John Belfanti	Cecilia Hunt Steve Bishop	Kim Crawford Peta Sparkes	Jim Gresser Katherine Mahns	Chris Wilson

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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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



Kid's Corner

Be Ready to do God's Will

In today's first reading, God called young Samuel in a special way. Samuel's life had been dedicated to God, and because he was willing to follow God's plan, God made Samuel a holy prophet.

Samuel's Call Cross-Word

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle. Use the left over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

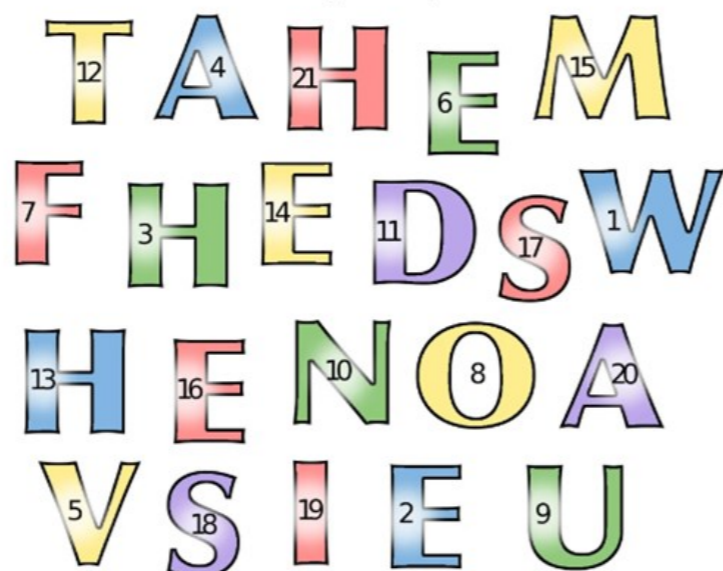
SAMUEL was sleeping in the TEMPLE. He heard a voice calling him, so he RAN to ELI and said, "Here I am. You called me."
 "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go BACK to sleep."
 So he went back to sleep. Then the same thing happened again. The voice CALLED Samuel again, for the THIRD time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "HERE I am. You called me."



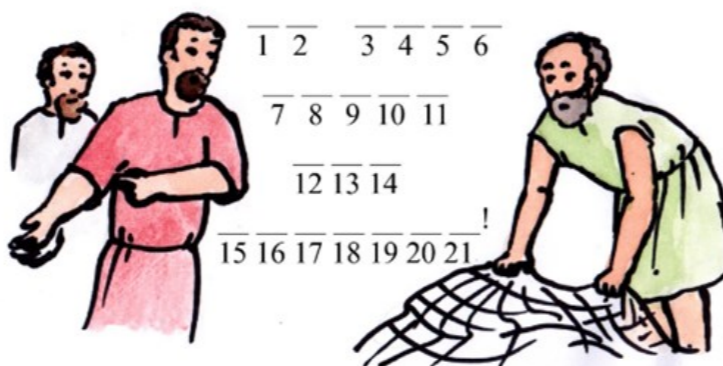
Then Eli UNDERSTOOD that the Lord was calling the YOUTH. So he said to Samuel, "Go to SLEEP, and if you are called, REPLY, "SPEAK, Lord, for your SERVANT is listening." When Samuel went to sleep, the LORD came and REVEALED his presence, calling out as BEFORE, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel ANSWERED, "Speak, for your servant is LISTENING."

Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

What's another way of saying this was Samuel's calling?
 It was



What did Andrew say to his brother Simon in today's Gospel reading? Fill the spaces with the letters in the right order to find out!



In the Gospel reading, Saint John the Baptist tells his followers that Jesus is the Messiah. Two of them decided to follow Jesus, and one of them, Andrew, went and got his brother Simon. When Simon went to follow Him, Jesus told him that his name would now be "Cephas," or "Peter," which means 'rock.' God had a special plan for Simon Peter. He was to become the leader of the Church- the first pope!

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

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.



Support us!
 Scan to donate

Come and See

Imagine what it would be like to be in the company of Jesus... to sit at his feet and bask in his presence; the experience would be both exhilarating and intimidating. To know that the very person sitting in front of you is him whom the heavens cannot contain would be a happy privilege many would envy. What would you say to him? What would you ask? I've often place myself in this scenario and I imagine the first few moments would be me staring in silence; I'd be completely awestruck. This would be followed by a flood of tears for all my sins committed against his Sacred Heart then me begging to be received into Eternal Life. That's me as I know I'm in desperate need of Him. You, the reader, would most likely have a different experience than me if given the chance to be in Our Lord's company. Regardless of our interaction I do believe each of us, given the chance, would love the opportunity to be in Our Lord's company; to converse and interact with him as we do with our closest friends.



Our Gospel for today, the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, recounts the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Notice the way St. John the Evangelist introduces Jesus: 'As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God.'" Our Lord is introduced as a somewhat mysterious figure: one without any origin or history; he seems to have simply appeared. Whilst we are aware of his early life in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, John's Gospel does not recount his Annunciation and Birth; the Gospel begins with the Prologue. This goes hand in hand with John's depiction of Jesus; the Incarnate God who is in control of his life; he freely gives his life for the salvation of all. After hearing the Baptist's words the two disciples follow Jesus and ask 'where are you staying?' Jesus' reply is simple yet inviting: 'Come and see.' We are not privy to the conversation between the two disciples and Jesus, but he must have made an incredible impression as we hear the two remaining with Jesus until the early evening. Later on both disciples call others to follow Jesus: they do not withhold their experience of the Lord between themselves but seek to bring others to encounter the living God. Discipleship, at its core, first begins with an encounter with God which, in turn, leads to the mission of evangelisation.

Dear friends, at the Last Supper Jesus Christ gave to the world the greatest gift: his very self in the Eucharist. Whilst we may not see Our Lord in human form through the eyes of faith we are blessed to be able to bask in his presence, to converse and interact with Jesus. This friends is key to our lives as disciples as time with him in prayer gives strength to our ability to witness to the faith. Like the two disciples in our Gospel, Our Lord also invites us to spend time with him in prayer before the Eucharist. May we too take up Jesus' invitation to 'Come and See' so that we bring others to encounter Christ Our Lord.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr. Chris



Responsorial Psalm (continued)

- 3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R.)
- 4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20](#)

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

Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel Acclamation [John 1:41, 17](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
Alleluia!

Gospel [John 1:35-42](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

or [1 John 4:16](#)

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

Entrance Antiphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading [1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19](#)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10, R. vv. 8,9](#)

(R.) Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.

- 1. I waited, I waited for the Lord, and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R.)
- 2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)



Recently Deceased: Rudy Mauritz, Geordie Conyngham

Sick: 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.

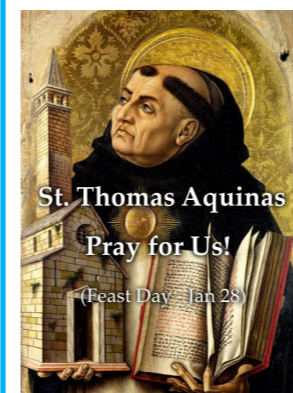
PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

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.



St. Thomas Aquinas
Pray for Us!
(Feast Day - Jan 28)

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday 28th January 2024 is an important date for our Parish - the Feast Day of St Thomas Aquinas. Celebrate our Patron Saint with a picnic and games after our 9:30am Mass. Bring along games - bowls, pétanque, badminton, whatever your family enjoys! Our Parish Pastoral Council will be sparking up the BBQ and will be selling sausage sandwiches for \$2.50.

GIRLS SUMMER CAMP

12-16 YEARS OLD
SESSIONS ARE SPLIT INTO AGE GROUPS

START
15th January
4pm

END
17th January
2pm

COST
\$85

Places are limited & registrations are necessary.

Activities

- ✓ Arts & Craft
- ✓ Games
- ✓ Spiritual Input
- ✓ Singing
- ✓ Prayers
- ✓ Discussions

Venue

"Home of Light"
230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745

Contact

Sr. M. Rita Baysari
0493 026 628
srrita@schoenstatt.or.au

PARISH OFFICE RE-OPENING: The STA Parish Office reopens on Tuesday 16th January 2024.

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



MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS: From the 18th January until Saturday 3rd February I will be on annual leave. Please refer to the Mass Schedule on the church doors and noticeboard for who will be conducting Mass while I am away. There will be limited Masses during the week. On the days where no Priest is available, St Finbar's Parish Glenbrook welcomes you to join them for morning Mass at 9.15am. God bless, Fr Chris del Rosario.

MIDSUMMER MUSIC CONCERT – At St Finbars Catholic Church, 2 pm Sunday 21st January 24.

Be captivated by the beautiful voices of Bernadette and Samantha Phillips, they will be presenting 'Come to the Fair', 'Four Songs', 'Panis Angelicus' and many more. Be swooned by the chamber group Stringy Bach, they will be performing Beethoven String Trio in G Major. Entry: Donation. All proceeds go to Medecins Sans Frontieres.



PRAYER OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

Grant me,
O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance
in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally
embracing you.
Amen