

Date:	6th/7th January 2024		The Epiphany of the Lord		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Cheryl Kirby	Neil Kirby	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Cecilia Hunt	Kim Crawford	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Steve Bishop	Anne Ellis	Domhnall MacCormac	Chris Wilson
Date:	13th/14th January 2024		Second Sunday of Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Felix Kobus	Lynette Boyd	Margaret Smith	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Jim Gresser	Ros Comfort	Vicky Walker	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Phil Saville	Streeters

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
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



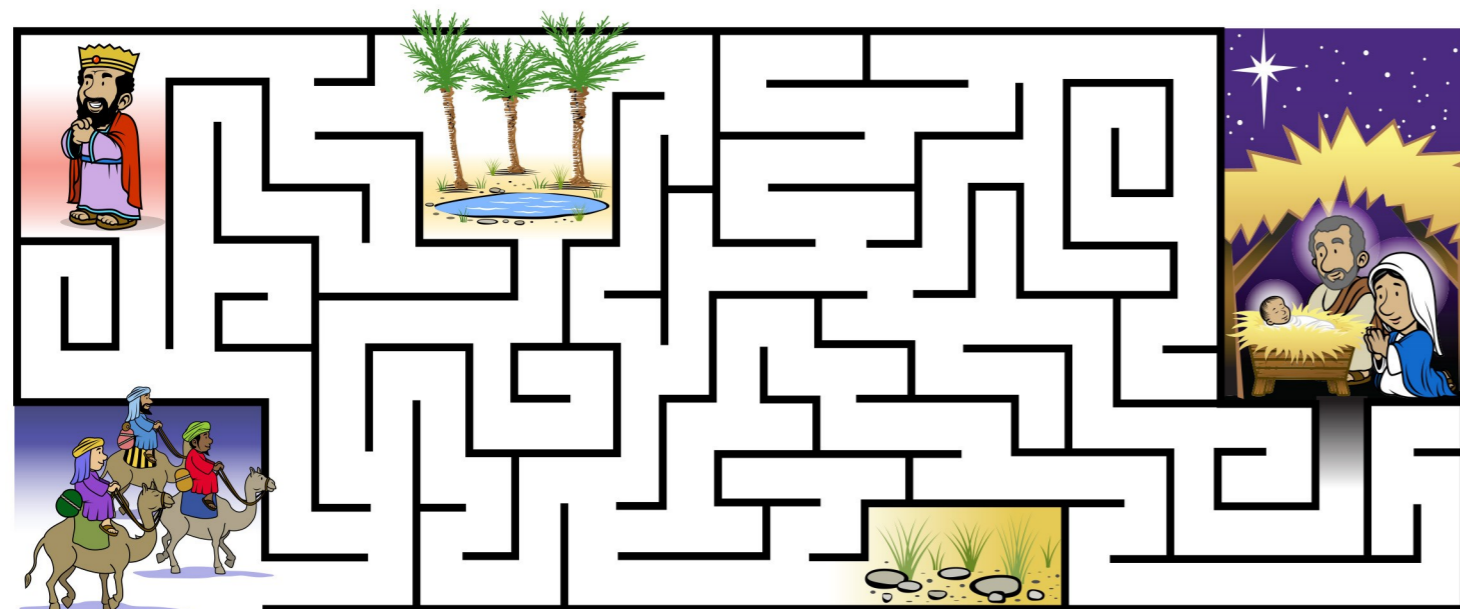
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Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am
Weekday Mass: Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4-5 pm before the Vigil Mass
Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
Baptisms: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

Kid's Corner













Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!



Some Wise Men came from the East to worship the newly born king. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Draw yourself offering a special gift to Jesus.



Here is the story of the Wise Men, with pictures to make it fun to read!

Long ago,  saw a special  in the sky. They followed it to find the newborn . But first they came to Herod, and asked him if he knew where the  would be born. He asked the priests,  who told him the  would be born in Bethlehem. So the  went, and found the  where the  and His mother,  were staying. They knelt before the baby  and gave him their  of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Understanding the Epiphany

According to the Collin's Dictionary Epiphany is understood as:

1. A Christian festival which celebrates the arrival of the wise men who came to see Jesus Christ soon after he was born.
2. A moment of sudden insight or understanding.



Whilst the Church throughout the ages continues to stress the importance of the Epiphany the rise of secularism has demoted its understanding to simply a 'vision' or moment of clarity. Commonly used phrases such as 'an Epiphany moment' or 'you had an epiphany' now takes precedence over the revelation of Christ. With this in mind, I'd like to (in the few moments I have) recapture the significance of the Epiphany. Why? For it is an important event in Salvation History which shapes, and continues to shape, our relationship with the Lord.

What is the Epiphany? The term is derived from the Greek verb epiphainein meaning 'to manifest' or 'to make known'. What is made known on this particular celebration? God and his divine love for humanity is made manifest through the person of Jesus Christ. In ancient times God was understood through the deistic model - an unapproachable divine being; seemingly impersonal to the Jewish people. This was evident through the Jewish use of 'Adonai' when speaking of the Lord as opposed to 'Father' post Resurrection. However, through the Epiphany God is understood as vastly intimate. How? His incarnation and subsequent revelation highlight his desire for perfect communion, as ordained in the beginning of time, with his people. As such the planned visitation of the Magi to the Christ child is the Epiphany explained earlier. God is made known, not only to the Israelites, but to all nations, as expressed through the Magi coming from foreign lands. There is no need for further revelation of God for he is truly present in our midst through his Son, Jesus Christ. What then is the Epiphany? A celebration of God's intimate love for us through incarnation - He is no longer unapproachable but vastly intimate and loving.

Dear friends, how can we appreciate this great Solemnity? The Epiphany teaches us the significance of God's revelation - His love for us is unbounded as shown through his Incarnation. One must not forget that Christ continues to pour out his love for us in different moments of our lives; most especially during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Here we are nourished by his Word and Eucharist. He does not hide himself away but fully reveals himself - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Furthermore, he offers himself to us so that we can inherit paradise through his works. Dear friends, as Christmastide draws to a close may we give thanks to God for his revelation through Jesus Christ. His efforts have paved a way towards perfect communion; may we utilise this grace and journey, like the Magi, towards him.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr. Chris

Entrance Antiphon

AT THE VIGIL MASS:

Arise, Jerusalem, and Look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun

AT THE MASS DURING THE DAY:

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading [Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11](#)

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)
- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading [Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 2:2](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Communion Antiphon

AT THE VIGIL MASS:

The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

AT THE MASS DURING THE DAY:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



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.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE:

The Parish Office will be closed for holidays from the Tuesday 26 December 2023 - Monday 15 January 2024. It will reopen on the Tuesday 16 January 2024. Masses and Confessions will continue as normal during this period.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

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

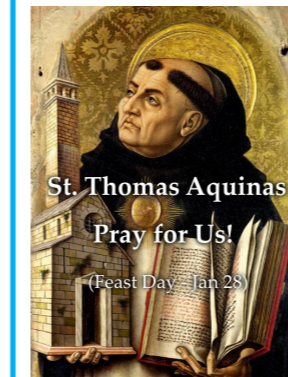
Monday - Saturday: From 8:15 am - 9:15 am

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



ONLINE BULLETIN:

There is no doubt that our bulletin is important and we are not going to stop printing it, but strongly recommend you reduce the effect these traditionally printed bulletins have on the environment by substituting with an electronic books version. You can access our parish bulletin directly from our Website or Facebook each Friday.



SAVE THE DATE! Sunday 28th January 2024 is an important date for our Parish - the Feast Day of St Thomas Aquinas. Watch this space for details of the celebration.

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.

Venue
"Home of Light"
230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745

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

Activities

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

My little piece of HEAVEN

Weekend Retreat for Young Women 17+

START: FRIDAY 12TH JAN @ 6.30 PM

FINISH: SUNDAY 14TH JAN @ 4 PM*

COST: \$75

VENUE: "Home of Light"
230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745

*There is the opportunity to stay on and be a leader at the following Girls Camp

Places are limited. Registrations are essential & close on 07/01/2024.

CONTACT:
Sr. M. Rita Baysari
0493 026 628
srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

THE WEEKEND INCLUDES:
talks | laughs | singing | music sharing | discussions | prayers walks | adoration | holy mass

PLUS a 'Home Shrine' dedication ceremony