

Date:	20th/21st January 2024		Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Tanya Graham	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Cecilia Hunt	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Steve Bishop	Peta Sparkes	Katherine Mahns	Chris Wilson
Date:	27th/28th January 2024		Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Feast of St Thomas Aquinas)		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Colleen Baker	Felix Kobus	Margaret Smith	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Tanya Graham	Ros Comfort	Vicky Walker	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Phillip Saville	Margaret Hickey	Anne Ellis	Streeters

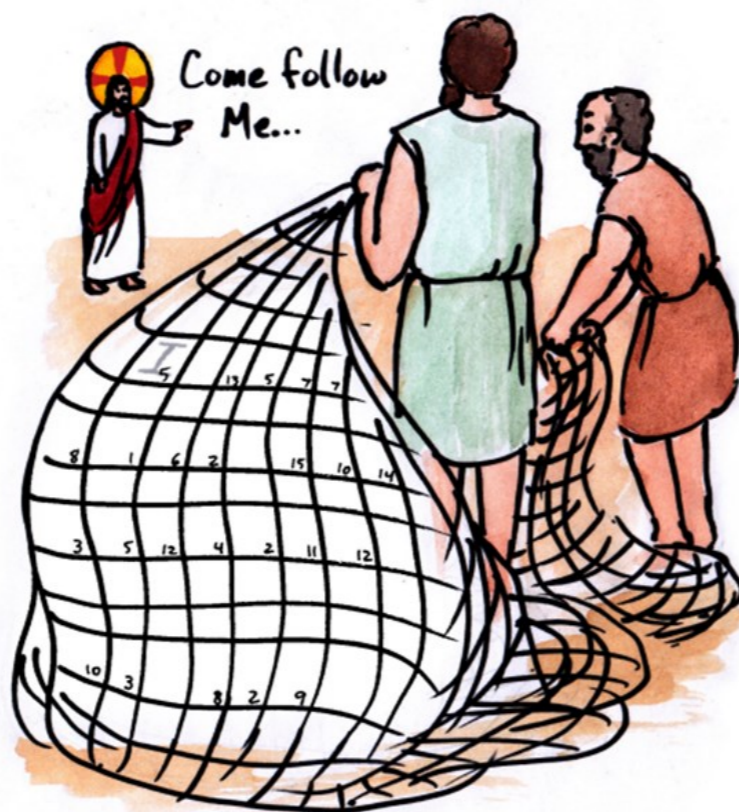
Kid's Corner

JONAH GOES TO NINEVEH: TRUE OR FALSE?

How well do you know the second part of Jonah's story? Which of these are true and which are false?

1. After Jonah's incident with being inside a whale for three days, God asked him to go to Nineveh again. True or false?
2. Jonah refused to do what God asked this time too. True or false?
3. Nineveh was only a small city, so Jonah walked across it in a couple hours. True or false?
4. Jonah cried out that in forty days the city would be overthrown. True or false?
5. The people ignored Jonah and went on with their lives. True or false?
6. All the people believed in God, proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth. True or false?
7. God saw what the people were doing and decided that the city would not be overthrown. True or false?

What else did Jesus say when He called the fishermen? Find the letters that match the numbers in the net to fill in the spaces in the net and find out!



A E F H I K L M N O R S W U Y
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15



If God asked you to come and follow Him right now would you be ready to drop everything and follow? In today's Gospel reading that's exactly what happened to Simon and Andrew and James and John. They had been working at their fishing nets when Jesus walked past and called them to follow Him.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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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.

Live of Repentance by Fr Peter H. Harries O.P.

In today's gospel, Mark gets straight to the point, with little to distract us or set the scene. Today's passage is only the second scenario in the gospel, just after Mark has started his Gospel by telling us of the baptism of Jesus with the preaching of John the Baptist.

Jesus calls first Andrew and his brother Simon (Peter) from their fishing boat and then their colleagues James and John who abandon their father Zebedee. These first disciples were not landless labourers or social misfits. They were self-employed skilled workmen in family businesses, owning and repairing their boats and equipment, probably co-operating with each other. Galilee had a flourishing fish export trade, presumably including Jerusalem, which may account for Peter's familiarity there. But why did the apostles abandon the – admittedly limited – security of their livelihoods and follow Jesus with no apparent economic means of support?

John, in his Gospel, tells us that Andrew and Peter had been followers of John the Baptist. They had answered his call for repentance, admitted their sins and shortcomings and presumably had been baptised by John the Baptist. So it is reasonable to assume that all four of these fishermen had already responded to God's grace and were open to something more than a lifetime of heavy labour on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, along perhaps with marketing trips to Jerusalem.

Jesus doesn't just invite them to join a mission of preaching repentance. Repentance, turning away from evil and choosing good is the first step. We all know people who do try to turn away from some evil or another but fail. Indeed we ourselves often do so. There is further step: accepting the Good News, the Gospel of the Lord. Salvation is possible for you and for me. Jesus preached that the kingdom of God was close at hand. The apostles responded and preached from Galilee to far distant lands, that salvation had come, and that men and women could have their sins forgiven and live at peace with God and all creation.

In our first reading, Jonah eventually, despite his initial fervent rejection of God's call, and his fantastic adventure with the whale, does go to Nineveh. There he preached repentance, and to his own amazement, is well received. The people repent of their sins. Disaster, we are told no longer falls upon that exceedingly great city.

We may caricature preaching repentance with the obnoxious guy outside the underground station blaring out a simplistic message on his loudspeaker to everyone's annoyance. Billboards are out of fashion these days.

However, may I suggest that we preach repentance best by living lives of simplicity and charity? How we do this will differ, depending on our family situations, our responsibilities, our jobs and our temperaments. In our second reading, Paul writing to the Corinthians gave some suggestions, although his suggestions are heavily influenced by his hope that the second coming of Jesus was imminent. But we can perhaps take some of them on board. A life dedicated to enjoyment, to pleasure, will leave us shallow beings unable to love deeply. A life dedicated to buying things, 'I shop therefore I am' – to misquote the famous philosopher Descartes – is an attachment to consumable things and not to virtue. And if Paul meant by a life of buying things, a mercantile life, then may I suggest that a mercantile life can be a life of service to others, providing necessities rather than yet more expensive fripperies. Paul completes the list by mentioning that those who deal in the world should not be engrossed by it. Our values must be true virtues and not the values of the world which too often allow exploitation of others, or the degradation of creation.

So how do we imitate the apostles and follow after Jesus? The simple answer is by trusting in God and in his mercy. Yes we may be tested by bereavement, by illness, by violence against us. But Jesus tells us that we will not be tempted beyond our endurance. So let us be faithful in little things, by small acts of kindness and self-denial, so we can pick up our cross and follow after him to Calvary and then to the resurrection from the dead and eternal life with Jesus in heaven. Or we may be called to more dramatic ways.



Second Reading [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#)

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

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation [Mark 1:15](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:14-20](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

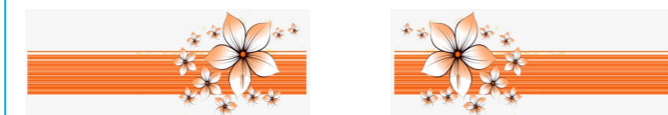
Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 33:6](#)

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

or John 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.



Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading [Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#)

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4](#)

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. *(R.)*
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. *(R.)*



Recently Deceased: Doreen West, Rudy Mauritz, Geordie Conyngham

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:

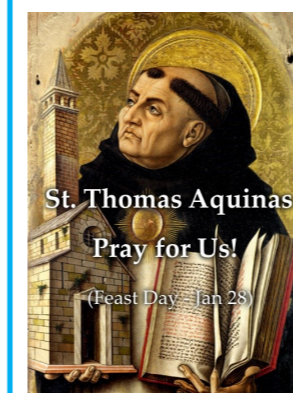
Bank Account Name: Springwood

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.



CELEBRATE WITH US: Sunday 28th January 2024. This 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 and spend some time getting to know other parishioners from 10.30-12.30pm. Our Parish Pastoral Council will be selling sausage sandwiches, tea, coffee

and juice for \$3.00 starting from 11.00am. Bring along a plate of something sweet to share!

BIG THANK YOU FROM THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE GROUP:

Thank you for a beautiful week of journeying together in faith and friendship to commence 2024. We feel super blessed to have shared it with you and so thankful for the generosity of the many parishes, clergy and other volunteers who made it possible.



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS 2024 PILGRIMAGE:

All are invited to join the 2024 pilgrimage visiting Medjugorje, Zagreb and the Croatian Coastline departing on the 20th May 2024 (13 days). Please refer to the STA Parish noticeboard for more information.

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



2024 St Thomas Aquinas Sacramental Program

Each sacrament will take place through a parish-based process. This means that you will do the preparation with your child, but we help you through a process of guided reflection on a weekly basis by meetings in the church.

Enrolment Forms, payment schedule and other information will follow closer to the program dates.

2024 Confirmation Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:
Tuesday 21st May at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Tuesday 28th May at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Children and Parent Information Sessions:
Saturday 8th June at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday 15th June at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church (and practice)
Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 19th June at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

2024 Reconciliation Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:
Tuesday 6th August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Tuesday 13th August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Children and Parent Information Sessions:
Saturday 24th August at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday 31st August at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church (and practice)
Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 4th September at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

2024 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:
Tuesday 22nd October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Tuesday 29th October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Children and Parent Sessions:
Saturday 9th November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Saturday 16th November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Practice:
Wednesday 20th November at 5.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 5pm Vigil Mass, Christ the King, Saturday 23rd November 2024, St Thomas Aquinas Church

REKINDLE OUR WONDER - ASPECTS OF THE EUCHARIST:

Please join Mr Chris Ohlsen in the exploration of the fundamental aspects of the Eucharist. Talk on the Eucharist is on Wednesdays 21st & 28th Feb 2024 at 7:30pm, St Finbar Parish, 52 Levy Street, Glenbrook NSW. Entrance: Gold Coin Donation. Please RSVP attendance to glenbrook@parracatholic.org

RELEASE OF SYNOD DECREE: In 15th January 2024, the Most Reverend Bishop Vincent has issued a Synodal Decree promulgating the resolutions of the Synod to inform the development of a Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The Synod Decree of Promulgation is available to download on the Diocese of Parramatta website: <https://parracatholic.org/synod/> or for easy read, please see post in STA noticeboard.