

Date:	3rd/4th February 2024	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Cheryl Kirby	Neil Kirby	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	Cecilia Hunt	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Peta Sparkes	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea Roster - STA Ladies Fellowship					
Date:	10th/11th February 2024	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Colleen Baker	Felix Kobus	Tanya Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Ros Comfort	Tanya Graham	Tom Horsfall	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Ingrid Merchant	Domhnall MacCormac	Anne Ellis	Streeters

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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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

Spending Time with God

In today's Gospel reading, Our Lord went to Simon and Andrew's house, where He spent the evening healing the sick and casting out demons. But early the next morning before the sun came up He went away into the wilderness to pray.

At first we wonder why Jesus would have to pray- He is God, after all! But He was also human so He needed to take some time to be with His Heavenly Father. And that is what real praying is- it's being with God and talking to Him and listening to Him.

Like Jesus, we also need to spend time with God. Even if we are always doing His work, like helping people or studying His truths, we still need to take some time to talk with Our Father in Heaven. Starting today, take a few minutes every day to go to a quiet place and talk with God.



At the end of today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells Simon that they will go to the nearby villages to preach. Can you find your way through the maze to the nearby village?

Jesus went away to be alone and pray. Where are some places that you pray?

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.

A New Creation by Fr Allan White O.P.

Jewish understanding of the last days, when the Messiah came, the End would be an image of the beginning, the first creation would be as the last. In the last days not only would the last redeemer, the Messiah, be as the first, Moses the great and pre-eminent teacher, the world would once again be as it was in the beginning. Jesus restores that unity between humanity and divinity lost in Eden. These things happen on the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a symbolic return to the peace and communion of the Garden of Eden. On this Sabbath Jesus heals a man and a woman, the symbolic representatives of the wounded human creation. They represent us: the man who has lost his freedom and is subject to an alien force which enslaves him, and the woman, who is laid low by physical infirmity. Jesus begins his work of recreation in this small town by starting to construct a new community in the house of Simon and Andrew.

In the house Jesus took hold of the sick woman's hand and 'raised her up.' Now healed and made whole, her first response was to serve the Lord. The service of the Lord is for men and for women. Jesus is not founding an institution but restoring the integrity of humanity. The service of the Gospel is for all. This new people in Simon and Andrew's house called out of the elect people of Israel embarks on the pilgrimage of repentance. The word Mark uses for repentance is 'metanoia'. It is formed of two Greek words meaning 'change' and 'mind' or 'outlook' or 'vision' or 'perception'. When we repent we change our minds with a view to changing our hearts. We acquire a new way of seeing. This small group, gathered in the apostolic house, was beginning to see, but their neighbours could not. Mark tells us that when the Sabbath was over the entire city arrived at the door of the apostolic house. They brought with them their sick. Jesus had compassion and healed them. There is a difference between the household of faith and the crowd who are thronging around the door of Simon's house. The crowd punctiliously observes the Sabbath. They had heard what he did for Simon's mother-in-law. They were drawn to him not by the religious impulse of conversion but out of a desire for healing. When they had received that gift they went away. They did not stay and serve Jesus. They did not become members of his new household of faith.

Early the next morning Jesus went off to a lonely place to pray. His disciples came in search of him. Mark uses a strong phrase, 'they hunted him down'. They said, 'everyone is looking for you.' They imply that he should come back and satisfy his public. Jesus says that he is not to be confined to this place. He is not to be a local boy made good. He must extend his preaching work. His mission was not to be a healer but to change the world by completing the work of salvation. The crowds who pursued him came to him not because they recognised his dignity and mission, but because they wanted something. They saw him as offering them a service. They did not come to serve him but saw him as a function of their own needs. God is not there to serve us and to be rejected when he appears to fail us and does not fulfil what we see as our needs. Jesus had come to preach repentance and the arrival of the kingdom, but they were overwhelmed by their present need. They did not want the world to be changed but only their circumstances. They wanted their lives to be changed through the removal of suffering and pain. The consequences of the Fall were sickness and death. That original wound can only be healed through the cross of Jesus. It is Jesus who will take the consequences of the Fall on his shoulders in the shape of the cross. In compassion and grace Jesus extends the possibility of authentic healing. They stop short at that and opt for the superficial.

Entrance Antiphon

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading [Job 7:1-4. 6-7](#)

A reading from the book of Job

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed
service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have
passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3](#)

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. **(R.)**
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **(R.)**
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23](#)

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

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

Second Reading (continued)

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 8:17](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:29-39](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 106:8-9](#)

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

or

[Matthew 5:5-6](#)

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall have their fill.



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.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS:

On Sunday 28 January our parish community came together to celebrate our Patron Saint with a sausage sizzle, sharing of cakes/slices and some games on the front lawn. Thank you to all those wonderful parishioners who stayed to enjoy the morning.



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



STA SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024: Please see the parish noticeboard or website for this year's dates. First sacrament will be confirmation beginning on Tuesday 21 May 2023 at 7pm.



CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISHIONERS:

Vic and Liz O'Callaghan who each received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) on Australia Day. Vic's was for services to Restorative Practices while Liz received her award for life time services to Catholic Education.



GOOD LUCK TO ST THOMAS AQUINAS AND ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE STUDENTS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL!

We hope this new year is full of exciting stories, new friends, cool new facts and adventures! Have so much fun learning and always remember how special you are!



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 drcretreatrego@gmail.com to confirm attendance. Visit www.divineretreatcentre.org for more information.