


Date:	17th/18th February 2024	First Sunday of Lent			
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Margaret Smith	No One
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	Cecilia Hunt	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Steve Bishop	Peta Sparkes	Phillip Saville	Chris Wilson
	Celebrant: Fr Paul Slyney				
Date:	24th/25th February 2024	Second Sunday of Lent			
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Colleen Baker	Felix Kobus	Tanya Graham	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Vicky Walker	Tom Horsfall	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Margaret Hickey	Katherine Mahns	Streeters

Kid's Corner

Resist the Temptation

Place ticks ✓ next to what you think are the right things to do.
Place crosses ✗ next to the things you would be tempted to do.

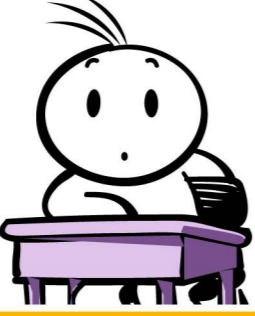
You see money lying on the ground at school



What do you do?

- ☐ You pick it up and take it to a teacher.
- ☐ You use it to buy icecreams and chocolate for all your friends.
- ☐ You leave it where it is.


You forget to do your homework



What do you do?

- ☐ You tell the teacher that you left it on the bus.
- ☐ You pretend to feel sick so that you can get out of class.
- ☐ You tell the teacher that you forgot to do your homework.

You break your mom's favorite vase when playing basketball in the hallway



What do you do?

- ☐ You tell your mom that the cat knocked it over.
- ☐ You tell her that you knocked it over with your basketball.
- ☐ You glue it back together and hope that no-one notices.

The season of Lent is a special time when we prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter.
What things can you do to try to be more like Jesus during the forty days of Lent?



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

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am
Weekday Mass: Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
Adoration: Monday - Saturday from 8:15am - 9:15am
First Friday Adoration: Starts from the 1st of March 2024 at 7pm
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!
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The Devil and Temptation

I'm sure you're all familiar with the supernatural/horror genre in films. This particular theme often includes ghosts and demons usually linked with a variety of ancient and contemporary religions. Whilst not being the most pleasant of genres it has continued to generate millions from thrill seekers as it sparks curiosity about the metaphysical reality of creation. With movie actors and directors benefiting from their creative efforts, the understanding of the reality of the spiritual realm has been negatively affected. With 'Christian mythology' now deemed a subgenre in the supernatural/horror category the reality of the devil, demons and Hell have been reduced to fairy tale. I recall one instance speaking to a child who regularly attended Holy Mass; he was adamant that the demonic world and influence did not exist and that it was a useful ploy to ensure Christians followed God's laws. I was initially impressed at the child's sophisticated reasoning and logic, but then saddened at the unfortunate outcome: for many the devil is not real.



Our Gospel for this Sunday, albeit short, highlights the existence of the devil and his ultimate pursuit for human destruction. St. Mark doesn't say much other than 'Jesus was tempted by Satan' but one can naturally imagine what Our Lord endured during those forty days. One truth films present about the devil is his incredible power and relentless pursuit for destruction. Despite the reality of Jesus possessing the hypostatic union (Jesus is true God and true Man) the devil tempts him in ways that could further the mission of Our Lord. In St. Matthew and St. Luke's Gospel, Our Lord is offered bread, divine assistance and the world on condition he succumb to his passions and worship the devil. It seems almost too difficult of a temptation as Our Lord would have been exhausted from his fast in the desert and keen to start his mission. Yet our Lord shows courage: he reminds Satan that one worships God alone and that true happiness comes from him. The devil, an egotistical and disobedient fallen angel who once dwelt with God in Heaven, sought to bring all humanity to the kingdom of darkness by tempting the Son of God to also fall. Yet Christ proves his power is much greater. Christ, weakened by the harsh desert conditions, dispels all temptations of the devil and carries on with his mission. It is an incredible feat of Christ who shows his power over Satan.

Dear friends, as we begin our Lenten journey with increased prayer, penance and almsgiving whilst moving towards the holiest week in the liturgical year we are sure to face many temptations of the devil. We may be tempted to relinquish our penance and reduce this penitential season to begrudgingly following Catholic tradition. In those moments don't give up. Our Lord never sought the easy way out. Our Lord always faced adversity with faith and courage. Our Lord never stops loving each of us. So in those moments of temptation, yes the devil is powerful, but Christ is infinitely greater. I invite you to always rely on his grace and seek his assistance when faced with trials. If Our Lord was victorious in the desert, so can we in the desert of Lent so long as we lovingly trust in his grace and providence.

With every blessing in this Lenten season,

Fr. Chris



Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading [Genesis 9:8-15](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

*I will recall the covenant between myself and you...
the waters shall never again become a flood to
destroy all flesh.*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’

God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.’

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10](#)

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.

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.)

Second Reading [1 Peter 3:18-22](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which
saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people ‘by water’, and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God’s right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 4:4](#)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel [Mark 1:12-15](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.’

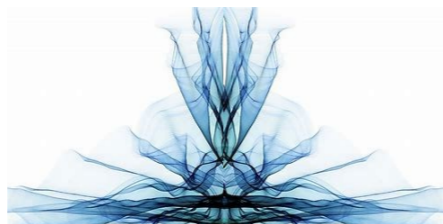
Communion Antiphon [Matthew 4:4](#)

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

or

Cf Psalm 90:4

The Lord will conceal you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will trust



Recently Deceased: Simone Mitrevski, Catherine Howard (sister of Joan Noney)
Sick: Aurea Hernandez, 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.

PPC MEETING: There will be a PPC Meeting on Wednesday 21st February 2024. If you would like to add any items to the agenda, please email suggestions to springwoodparishpc@gmail.com

STA EARTHCARE GROUP invites you to participate in a **CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA** day activity on **MARCH 3rd** from **10.30am**, **after SUNDAY MASS has concluded.** You will be able to help clean up the larger church environment. Simply come along with closed-in shoes, a hat, gloves and water bottle. Extra gloves and collection bags are available. This was a successful activity last year – you can do as much or as little as you choose.
An extra **INITIATIVE THIS YEAR** is that if you have some **unwanted spectacles and glasses frames**, you can donate them at the EARTH-CARE gazebo and they will be sent to an optometry organisation for re-use in third world countries. **Simply bring them along on March 3rd.** Any enquiries call Dennis Farrar 0425209840.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be celebrated each Friday at 6pm. Everybody is invited to join.

Thank you to donors like you, we were able to meet the cost of the restoration of the candle holders but we still have a long way to go. We will need your generosity to continue to collect funds that will go towards the purchase of our new Atar Crucifix. We are so grateful for your continued support.



ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH CHOIR is currently looking for more singers, of ALL VOICE TYPES. Do you enjoy singing? So, if you enjoy singing and would like to join this happy group, we practice most Monday nights weekly in the church at 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood at 7.30pm to 9 pm. You will be made very welcome. We sing on the first Sunday of each month, with our first practice for 2024 commencing 12th February 2024. All music is supplied free. St Augustine said: “... who sings prays twice”. So come and join us in praising the Lord (twice). Enquiries Chris Wilson 0425 290 952 or Margaret Hickey 02 4751 2343 (*answering machine if unattended*).

WHAT IS LENT?

The 40-day period from Ash Wednesday and before Easter Sunday. It is marked by prayer, fasting, abstinence, and other acts of penance.

WHAT IS FASTING?

One meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed one full meal.

WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?

Abstinence is refraining from eating meat. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl.

DAYS OF FAST?

Ash Wednesday Good Friday

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE?

Ash Wednesday All Fridays of Lent Good Friday

WHO ARE REQUIRED?

Catholics from age < 18 to 59 >

The sick and expectant mothers are excused from fasting.

WHO ARE REQUIRED?

Mandatory for everyone older than 14 years old