

Date:	31st March 2024	Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord			
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	Phil Saville	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Katherine Mahns	Peta Sparkes	Steve Bishop	Streeters

Date:	6th/7th April 2024	Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)			
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	Cecilia Hunt	Tom Horsfall	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Anne Ellis	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea Roster - Mother Prayers					

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

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 8:15 am - 9:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Every first Friday of the month 7:00 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Vigil Mass
Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11:00 am and by appointment
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: Please Contact the Parish Office



Support us!
Scan to donate

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

He is risen! Alleluia!

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb. She ran to Jesus' disciples to tell them what she saw. Draw Mary looking into Jesus' empty tomb.

Help the disciples find their way to Jesus' empty tomb.

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice!

What can you do to make people glad today?

Fill in the missing words below to find out what the letters in the boxes spell.

Mary M
_____ went to the tomb.

"They have taken the
_____ from the tomb", she said.

Peter was a d_____
_____ of Jesus.

The other disciple ran f_____
_____ than Peter.

He saw the strips of
_____ cloth lying inside the tomb.

B
_____ he did not go in.

When he saw
_____ he believed.

The Scriptures s
_____ Jesus would rise to life.

Easter Message 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Once again, we are entering the most sacred, grace-filled and transformative time in the Church's liturgy. The long and sombre Holy Week ceremonies that culminates in the celebration of Easter is a powerful re-enactment of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Everything we believe and hold dear is grounded in this paschal mystery.

Easter gives us the meaning, strength and power to transform the world in which we live. Easter provides us with the horizons of hope within which we strive for the full realisation of the reign of God.

At the heart of the Easter message is the summons to a new future against the background of entrenched hopelessness. As with Mary and the disciples, who were emboldened to move from the shadows of crucifixion into the light of the resurrection, the Church today must be a pioneer leading humanity to new dawn of greater justice, equality and fraternity.

We cannot be an inward-looking institution but a missionary and prophetic community of disciples. The God who raised Jesus from the dead leads us beyond our limited horizons to a new future of life to the full. This life to the full is not static or a closed system but ever expanding and evolving.

In fact, the essence of Christian hope is contained in the abundant life that Jesus brought about through his death and resurrection. The whole point of the Risen Christ is our human capacity to become a new type of person who can do new things for a new heaven and a new earth.

Hence, we must release ourselves from religious individualism and confront the general religious experience, which is cosmic and evolutionary, and involve ourselves in the divine mandate of the flourishing of the whole of life. Without bringing these understandings into a new religious story that animates our lives and focuses our energies in a new direction, we will have diminished our mission.

Easter is not merely about our own salvation and the afterlife bliss. Easter is God conquering the forces of evil and darkness. Easter is God reconciling the estranged creation. We are called to partner with God in bringing the victory of the cosmic Christ to fulfilment. Easter therefore obliges us to work for both personal and cosmic transformation.

"Cosmic transformation" means working for the community of life of which we are a part. It means working for the whole of creation that God created, sustains and destines for flourishing.

It means that we become a place where the poor and the forgotten can be brought into a new unity; a Church that advocates life at all costs and promotes peaceful life in a war-torn and violent world; a Church that models justice in an age of greed, consumerism and power; a Church centred on the risen Christ, empowering a consciousness of the whole.

In the words of Pope Francis, let's pray in Easter 2024 that the risen Jesus of Nazareth:

"May open us to the newness that transforms, to the beautiful surprises of God. May he help us to feel his presence as the one who is alive and at work in our midst. And may he teach us each day, dear brothers and sisters, not to look among the dead for the Living One."

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
 Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv
 Bishop of Parramatta



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 138:18,5-6

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

or Luke 24:34; cf. Rv 1:6

The Lord is truly risen, alleluia.
To him be glory and power
for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23. R. v.24

23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Sequence

The sequence is said or sung on this day. On the weekdays of the Octave of Easter, its use is optional.

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.
It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'
So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia;
therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: George Capsanis, Lynette Boyd

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.

Thank you for your continued support for the Parish and its works. A few parishioners have questioned where the money of each collection goes. Does it go to the Diocese? The Parish? Fr. Chris? Here's a simple explanation of our collections:

First Collection: This goes to the Diocesan Clergy Fund. The fund supports the living expenses of the priests within our Diocese.

Second Collection: This goes to our Parish of St. Thomas Aquinas – directly funding operational costs, pastoral activities and various programs that enrich our community.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION is on the 5th of April at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

STA PARISH OFFICE EASTER CLOSURE: Our Parish

Office will be closed from Monday 1st April to Friday 5th April and will re-open on Tuesday 9th April. Adoration & Masses will continue as normal during this period.



BIG THANK YOU to all who participated, volunteered and helped in our Holy Week Liturgical Celebration. We could not have done it without you. We sincerely applaud you!



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family: Andy Hutvagnar, Samantha Passau, Timothy Whitting, and Wantana Suesut who prepared a significant milestone in their spiritual lives—their initiation into the Catholic faith at Easter. We humbly ask our parish community to hold these individuals in your prayers. Please pray that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit, strengthened in their faith, and feel the warm embrace of our parish family surrounding them.



May the Lord's blessings be on you this Easter Sunday. We wish you faith, peace and much joy!



- from Fr Chris, Debbie and Maria

2024 St Thomas Aquinas Sacramental Program

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