

<b>Date:</b>	20th/21st April 2024		Fourth Sunday of Easter		
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil: 5:00 PM</b>	Ian Miles	Cheryl Kirby	Neil Kirby	Anne Maureen Scarff	No One
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	Tom Horsfall	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	John Belfanti	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Domhnall MacCormac	Streeters
<b>Morning Tea:</b>	Children's Liturgy / Polish Group				

<b>Date:</b>	27th/28th April 2024		Fifth Sunday of Easter		
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil: 5:00 PM</b>	Ed Junis	Felix Kobus	Debbie Breytenbach	Colleen Baker	Chris Wilson
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Cecilia Hunt	Vicky Walker	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Katherine Mahns	Peta Sparkes	Chris Wilson

Kid's Corner

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

Jn 10:11-16

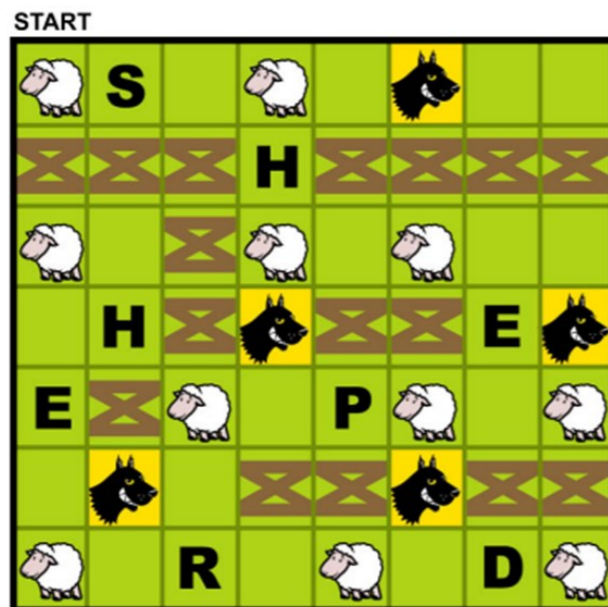
My name is

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who takes care of his sheep. Draw a flock of sheep around Jesus.



Help gather all the sheep by connecting them together using only straight lines - including diagonal lines. But do not pass through fences or wolves. Complete the word below by adding each letter as your connecting line passes through it.



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](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://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](mailto:christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org))  
**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email suggestions to [springwoodparishpc@gmail.com](mailto: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



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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.

The Shepherd's Sacrifice by Fr Richard Conrad O.P.

In Eastertide, at Mass, we say that we laud God more gloriously at this time 'when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.' This season celebrates Jesus's Resurrection, and his Paschal Sacrifice – celebrates it as his Victory over Satan, sin and death. Hence, for centuries, the Church has read today's Gospel during Eastertide, listening to Jesus tell us he's the Good Shepherd who 'lays down his life for the sheep.' Nowadays, over a three-year cycle, we hear on this Sunday of Eastertide three passages in which Jesus calls himself the Shepherd.

In Jesus's time, shepherds related intimately to their flocks. Last year, we heard how a shepherd calls his sheep by name; they respond to his voice, he leads them to pasture. Jesus guides us by his teaching – and goes before us through death to higher life. At the Easter Vigil, before hearing of Moses leading God's People through the Sea, we lit the Paschal Candle. It stands for the fiery pillar that symbolised God accompanying his People, and stands for Jesus. He's not just a new Moses; he fulfils Ezekiel's prophecy that God would shepherd his People. In the flesh, God has gone through death as our Leader.

What we heard last year about the behaviour of shepherds was true to life. Jesus sometimes shocks us by parables that aren't true to life. Any conscientious shepherd would defend his flock bravely. But he tends a flock because it contributes to human livelihood; it would be odd for him to accept certain death to save sheep. In any case, if a huge pack of wolves killed him, they'd still kill the sheep, and his shepherding skills would be lost. But, in an extravagant, apparently foolish gesture, the Good Shepherd 'lays down his life for the sheep.' No wonder John goes on to record some of the crowd saying, 'He is mad; why listen to him?' Others do listen to him, and reply, 'These are not the words of one who has a demon.' Jesus invites us, with them, to be struck by the powerful gesture that he, God's Wisdom, performed – namely, his voluntary Martyrdom.

Today, Jesus tells us something of the power of his Sacrifice: 'I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must lead them also.' His Sacrifice will gather Samaritans as well as Jews into his flock. In a later passage – which we heard on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – he goes further: 'When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all things to myself.' His Sacrifice works a cosmic reconciliation.

Today, we glimpse how Jesus's Sacrifice works: 'I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father.' In eternity, the Father 'speaks' himself fully in his Son who is his Word and 'self-expression' – 'speaks' both himself, and his creative plan. Each of us is creatively known, before all ages, by the Father, in his Word; each of us is creatively loved, before all ages, by the Father and his Word, in the Holy Spirit, the Personal Love who flows from them. To complete his creative work, the Father sent his Son to take flesh, to be, as man, what he is as God: the Father's 'self-expression.' The Father creatively knows, and creatively loves, his Son's human nature, so that Jesus's exemplary holiness may overflow to us, and his journey through death to the life of glory may be our Way. Above all, Jesus's Martyrdom is God's ultimate gesture of loyalty and mercy, with power to shock us, power to attract us.

In the heights of his human mind, Jesus knew his Father; gazing into his Father he knew each sheep by name. He saw, and out of the love his Father poured into his human heart, he loved, each of the sheep his Father gave him. That love reached out from the Cross to embrace all those for whom he laid down his life; through that love, God's power made contact with each human being. It's because Jesus has lovingly known us, that we are able lovingly to know him.

Jesus could see who resisted his love; he made his Sacrifice a prayer for their forgiveness – after all, the Divine Shepherd, with compassion, seeks out the lost sheep. We may hope, hence we must pray, that his Sacrifice draw everyone to respond, even if it's in the final second of the eleventh hour. We cannot now comprehend the full scope of the cosmic redemption Jesus won; we can look forward to sharing his delight in all those he has gathered into his fold.



**Second Reading** [1 John 3:1-2](#)

A reading from the first letter of St John

*We shall see God as he is.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

**Gospel Acclamation** [John 10:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** [John 10:11-18](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.*

Jesus said:  
'I am the good shepherd:  
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.  
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.  
I am the good shepherd;  
I know my own  
and my own know me,  
just as the Father knows me  
and I know the Father;  
and I lay down my life for my sheep.  
And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold,  
and these I have to lead as well.  
They too will listen to my voice,  
and there will be only one flock  
and one shepherd.  
The Father loves me,  
because I lay down my life  
in order to take it up again.  
No one takes it from me;  
I lay it down of my own free will,  
and as it is in my power to lay it down,  
so it is in my power to take it up again;  
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

**Communion Antiphon** :

The Good Shepherd has risen,  
who laid down his life for his sheep  
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf [Psalm 32:5-6](#)

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;  
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**First Reading** [Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*This is the only name by which we can be saved.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the key-stone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

**Responsorial Psalm** [Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22](#)

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in men:  
it is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes. (R.)
2. I will thank you for you have given answer  
and you are my saviour.  
The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)
3. Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
I will thank you for you have given answer  
and you are my saviour.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
for his love has no end. (R.)



**Sick:** Precious Tamayo, 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.

**SRE THANK YOU:** Due to the generous donations either directly or via fundraising with our parish BBQ's, we have been able to pay for the yearly cost of books required for students at our public schools who benefit greatly by the SRE teachers coming in and sharing their mission. The wonderful SRE volunteers provide these children with a framework to help them make choices that recognise the value and importance of our relationship with God, others and our world.



**BECOME A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TO THE SICK:**

We warmly invite individuals to join the compassionate team of Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick, a role that offers more than just delivering communion—an opportunity to bring love, joy & the presence of our faith to those unable to attend church due to health issues. Interested parties may call 02 4754 1052 or email: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)

**2024 Sacrament of CONFIRMATION**

We invite you and your child to be part of our 2024 Sacrament of Confirmation program. Children in Year 5 or older in 2024, who have not yet received Confirmation, but have received Reconciliation and Holy Communion, are invited to participate. The Sacrament of Confirmation is a parish-based process. This means that you will do the preparation with your child, but we will help you through a process of guided reflection on a weekly basis by meetings in the church. The enrolment form, payment schedule and other sacramental program information is available on the front page of our website to download: [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au) Please send your completed application form to the parish office as soon as possible. Application copies are also available at the back of the church.

**2024 Confirmation Sacramental Program Parent Information Sessions:**

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



**FR CHRIS IS AWAY ON ANNUAL LEAVE FROM 15TH - 30TH APRIL:**

Please see the Parish Noticeboard, Facebook page or STA website for the schedule of Masses.

**BISHOP VINCENT AND HIS VISIT AT STA PARISH:**

We were honoured to have Bishop Vincent concelebrate Mass at our 9.30am Sunday morning service. It was a truly beautiful Mass. A very big thank you to our talented musicians for their uplifting music, the young members of our parish community who assisted Fr Chris and Bishop Vincent on the altar and to those delightful parishioners who set up and provided a wonderful morning tea. We are a very blessed parish!



**BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL**

**20-21 APRIL:** This weekend we invite our parish to support the Good Shepherd Appeal by raising funds to support the formation of Holy Spirit Seminarians who are committed to meeting the spiritual & pastoral needs of our community. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal via the envelopes positioned around the church, at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR Code. Thank you.



**GREAT SAINTS OF ITALY:**

Join Fr Christopher Del Rosario on a breathtaking pilgrimage on the footsteps of some of Italy's most well-known saints. Follow their paths etched into our faith heritage, from the great Christian centre of Rome to sacred towns made famous by Padre Pio, St Francis, St Clare, St Catherine, and St Anthony. This is an amazing opportunity to deepen our faith and explore the rich tapestry of culture, art, and history that Italy has to offer. Pilgrimage commences 21 October 2024. For more details scan the code or visit [harvestjourneys.com/Italy](http://harvestjourneys.com/Italy)



**GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND UPDATE:**

The Franciscan Provincial Head Office has replied to our correspondence and would like to express their "thanks to the parishioners of St Thomas Aquinas Springwood for their generous donation to the collection". We also have an update of our final total - \$1,850.55 which was forwarded to the Franciscans Good Friday Holy Land Collection. Absolutely amazing!