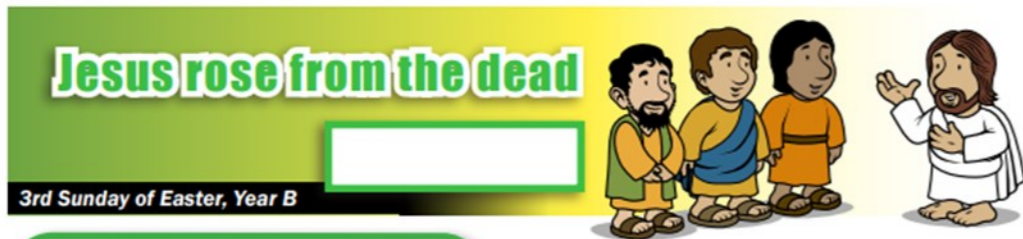


Date:	13th/14th April 2024		Third Sunday of Easter		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Felix Kobus	Tanya Baldwin	Colleen Baker	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Debbie Breytenbach	Vicky Walker	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Domhnall MacCormac	Margaret Hickey	Katherine Mahns	Streeters
Date:	20th/21st April 2024		Fourth Sunday of Easter		
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	No One
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	Tom Horsfall	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Domhnall MacCormac	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Children's Liturgy / Polish Group				

Kid's Corner



Gospel Lk 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

Jesus asked that the Good News be spread from Jerusalem to every nation. Unscramble the following words about the Good News.

esJus vases = _ _ _ _ _ s _ _ _ _

elvo = _ _ _ e

doGo sewN = _ _ _ _ _ w _

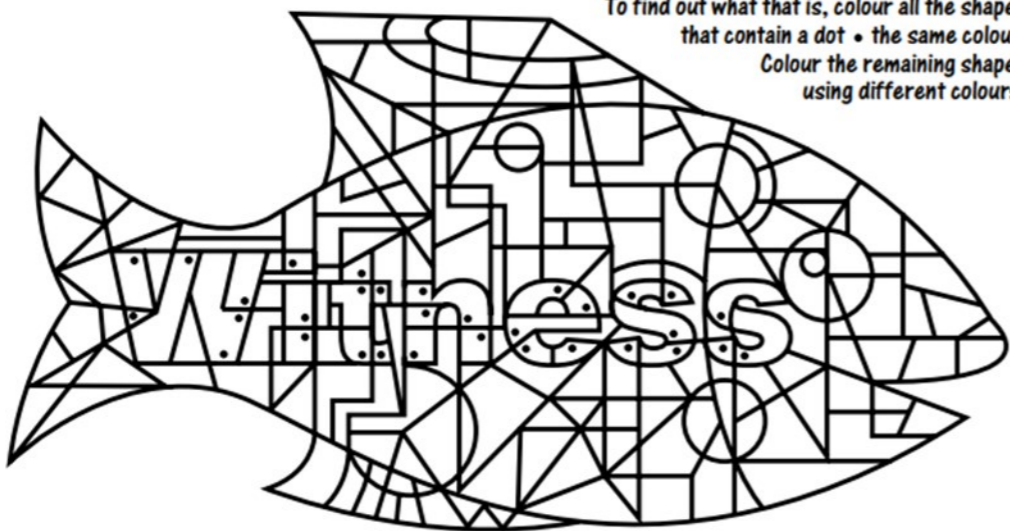
gvforie niss = f _ _ _ _ _ n _

reefdom = r _ _ _ o _

naltree flei = e _ _ _ a _ _ f

gealhin = h _ _ _ _ _

There is something that Jesus asks us to do for him. To find out what that is, colour all the shapes that contain a dot • the same colour. Colour the remaining shapes using different colours.



The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Langman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

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

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.

Ite, Missa est

Since arriving here as Parish Administrator I've noticed a steady increase of new parishioners to our humble parish; it's wonderful to see new faces come to our Church to encounter Our Lord through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Amongst our new parishioners a significant portion of them are families with young children. I must say it brings me great joy to see so many children at Mass as it is here they foster their love for God: a lesson taught by their parents. As these families with young children enter the Church I am reminded of my earliest memories as a child attending Mass with my own family. As a family of nine children both my parents did their best to ensure each of us paid as much attention to the priest and the parts of the Mass; some days were more successful than others but I know they did their best. I'm very grateful to all parents who bring their children and do their best to pray and help them focus during Mass. As an energetic child I struggled early on to pay attention during Mass, as such it is no surprise that my favourite part of Mass was its conclusion. After hearing the words 'Go forth, the Mass is ended' I would joyfully exclaim 'Thanks be to God' as I knew I had completed, albeit impatiently, my Sunday obligation. What I didn't know was the mission I, alongside all the faithful, had just been called to.



Our Gospel for this Sunday comes towards the end of St. Luke's Gospel. Like Divine Mercy Sunday we hear of the disciples grouped together unaware of the Risen Lord - Jesus appears in their midst and dispels all fears and anxieties - he is no ghost but the same person who died on the cross and, through the power of God, has risen from the dead. It then follows that the disciples are commissioned by Jesus to proclaim the Good News 'to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.' At first glance Our Lord's commissioning is not evident like that in Matthew's Gospel (28:19-20) however, the final words of the passage are key: 'You are witnesses to this.' The apostles have been witnesses to the public ministry, death and resurrection of Christ: they have experienced a rollercoaster of emotions as they've journeyed with Jesus during his time on earth: they now stand before him in all his glory as he has risen from the dead. In short who else is more qualified to preach the Good News than they? Who else has the resolve to carry out such a mission than those who have experienced the Risen Lord? Our Lord does not just appear to them, he calls them to mission.

Fast forward two thousand years and the call to mission is still present. As the priest says Go forth, the Mass is ended each of the faithful are tasked to proclaim the risen Lord. Prior to the implementation of the Novus Ordo (New Rite of the Mass) the dismissal was Ite, Missa est. This, translated, is our current dismissal, however, transliterated it is 'Go, it is sent.' 'It' refers to the Church which in turn refers to the individual who has just received the graces necessary at Mass to proclaim the Risen Lord. While the dismissal does signal an end to Mass at a deeper level Christ is calling each person to preach the Good News. In Christ we each have a chance to inherit, through God's mercy, eternal life - isn't this worth preaching? May we be given the courage to always proclaim the Gospel throughout our lives knowing, like the apostles, that Our Lord dispels our fears and anxieties, and journeys with us at all times.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,

Fr. Chris



Second Reading [1 John 2:1-5](#)

A reading from the first letter of St John

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

Entrance Antiphon [Cf Psalm 65:1-2](#)

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading [Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

You have killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7](#)

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation [See Luke 24:32](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us;
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Luke 24:35-48](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

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Communion Antiphon [Luke 24:46-47](#)

The Christ had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead;
in his name repentance and remission of sins
must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.



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.

BISHOP VINCENT IS COMING TO STA PARISH: Please join us in welcoming Bishop Vincent as he concelebrates the Holy Eucharist with Fr Chris at the 9:30 am Sunday Mass, 14th April 2024.

We also would like to invite everyone to be a part of a joyful expression of our community's hospitality by coming together for the morning tea after Mass. Your presence and participation will greatly enrich this occasion. Thank you to all who contributed supplies and the gift of time for making this a great event.

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

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 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

PERTHVILLE AND SURROUNDS PILGRIMAGE 2024: Anyone interested in Australian Church history, particularly the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, are invited to journey back in time (1872 – 1876) to experience what life was like for the early sisters of Josephite Foundation in NSW at Perthville, in the Bathurst Diocese. This begins with lunch on Tues 14th May and concludes on Fri 17th May 2024. Accommodation is within the St Joseph's Convent Heritage & Conference Center Perthville. The cost for the Pilgrimage is single room \$540 pp or \$660 for a couple sharing a double room. For enquiries contact Sr Mary Murphy at perthville.coordinator@sosj.org.au or 02 6337 2946 Mon to Fri.



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.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION: Thank you for supporting the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection. Through this collection, our parish joined with Catholics all around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Our donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region, and of course the recent pandemic. We are proud to announce that we deposited the amount of \$1,800.55 into the Holy Land Commissariat account on behalf of our parish with a note of support and ongoing prayers.

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



STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP: The next meeting of the STA Ladies Fellowship is on FRIDAY 19th April after 9:30 Mass in the Parish Centre. All welcome. Many thanks to John Szymanski for his informative and entertaining talk last meeting in which he shared his life experiences as a refugee from Poland to New Zealand (via Persia) and eventually Australia.

BECOME A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TO THE SICK:

We are looking for kind souls to join our lovely team of Eucharistic Ministers. We encourage past and current volunteers to spread love & warmth of faith to those who can't make it to the church. Interested parties may call 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org