

Date:	18th/19th May 2024		Pentecost	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Neil Kirby	Felix Kobus	No one
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tom Horsfall	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Steve Bishop	Domhnall MacCormac	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Parish Choir			

Date:	25th/26th May 2024		The Most Holy Trinity	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Anne Maureen Scarff	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Katherine Mahns	Streeters



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

ANNOUNCEMENT: Communion Service is available on Monday 20th May 2024 at 9:30am. There will be no adoration nor celebration of the Holy Mass due to the funeral of Mayor of Blacktown, which Fr Chris is the Master of Ceremonies.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH COMMUNITY MEETING, STA CHURCH: A meeting is scheduled for 11:00 am on Saturday 25th May where Fr Chris will update our parish on our financial situation and current parish projects. Everyone is welcome.



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.

Raffle Fundraiser: We would like to place new artwork over the existing school sign, positioned at the entrance to our car park. It will direct visitors to our church along with our telephone number. To pay for the artwork and installation, we are having a once-off raffle. First and only prize is a basket full of groceries, \$30 movie voucher and a \$40 Bunnings voucher. Tickets are 1 for \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00. Please see the parish office or tickets will be available for sale this Sunday morning after each Mass. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We invite children aged 4-12 to attend our Children's Liturgy. They are called forward and sent with a blessing over to our parish rooms for a Gospel lesson. The children will return to their families in church after the Creed.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: MINISTRY TO THE SICK IN HOSPITALS: Are you interested in bringing Communion to the Sick in the Hospitals of the Diocese? You will receive formation and information necessary for this ministry. Note you will not be required to do this every week but will be placed on a roster. For more information, please contact bernard.ellis@catholiccarewsbm.org.au by 15 Jun2024. "The Eucharist is essential for us: it is Christ who wishes to enter our lives and fill us with his grace." - Pope Francis

ST COLUMBA'S SCHOOL CANTEEN: Full or part-time staff required for the busy school canteen. Please email your interest to: admin@totalcanteensolutions.com.au



St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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 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

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 Holy Spirit

I find the inquisitive mind of a child fascinating. Only recently I visited our Parish School as the students were exploring the Pentecost event and its effects in our lives. Prior to my arrival the students had prepared several questions which I, for the most part, was well prepared for. In essence all their questions were quite straightforward, however one particular query stumped me due to its simplicity; it's a question I too have asked myself over the years: What does the Holy Spirit actually do? In truth I can't recall my response by I know it wasn't adequate. On the occasion of Pentecost I thought it best to offer a response to the above question as it gives us a greater appreciation of the Holy Spirit. This reflection comes, not from me, but from the exceptional St. Basil the Great.



The titles given to the Holy Spirit must surely stir the soul of anyone who hears them, and make him realise that they speak of nothing less than the supreme Being. Is he not called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, the steadfast Spirit, the guiding Spirit? But his principal and most personal title is the Holy Spirit. To the Spirit all creatures turn in their need for sanctification; all living things seek him according to their ability. His breath empowers each to achieve its own natural end. The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and he offers his own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know him by his goodness.

The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but he gives himself only to those who are worthy, acting in each according to the measure of his faith. Simple in himself, the Spirit is manifold in his mighty works. The whole of his being is present to each individual; the whole of his being is present everywhere. Though shared in by many, he remains unchanged; his self giving is no loss to himself. Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him alone, so the Spirit pours forth his grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive him. To all creatures that share in him he gives a delight limited only by their own nature, not by his ability to give.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress. He enlightens those who have been cleansed from every stain of sin and makes them spiritual by communion with himself. As clear, transparent substances become very bright when sunlight falls on them and shines with a new radiance, so also souls in whom the Spirit shines become spiritual themselves and a source of grace for others. From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of Scripture, and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we enter into eternal happiness, and abide in God. Through the Spirit we acquire a likeness to God; indeed, we attain what is beyond our most sublime aspirations - we become God.'

Dear friends, as we celebrate the end of Eastertide may we give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit sent to enlighten our lives. May we listen to his promptings and so strive to live virtuous lives in according to God's Commandments.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Chris

Sacrament of Confirmation

Children in Year 5 and older in 2024, who have not yet received Confirmation but have received Reconciliation and Holy Communion are invited to attend.

FIRST MEETING (Parents Only):
Tuesday 21st May, 7.00pm STA Church

SECOND MEETING (Parents Only):
Tuesday 28th May, 7.00pm STA Church

THIRD MEETING (Children & Parents):
Saturday 8th June, 11.00am STA Church
Long Wknd catch up session Tues 11th June, 6pm

FOURTH MEETING (Children & Parents):
Saturday 15th June, 11.00am STA Church
(plus Confirmation Practice)

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 19th June at 7.00pm

At the Vigil Mass

Entrance Antiphon [Romans 5: 5; cf. 8:11](#)

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

First Reading [Ezek 37:1-14](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

Dry bones of Israel, I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The hand of the Lord was laid on me, and he carried me away by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. He made me walk up and down among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley; and they were quite dried up. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord.' He said, 'Prophecy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says this to these dry bones: I am now going to make the breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am the Lord," 'I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering; and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead; let them live!" 'I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then he said, 'son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone; we are as good as dead." So prophecy. Say to them, "The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall settle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks."

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 103:1-2, 24, 27-30, 35](#)

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe! (R.)
2. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
Bless the Lord, my soul. (R.)
3. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)

Responsorial Psalm (Continued)

4. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

Second Reading [Romans 8:22-27](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. For we must be content to hope that we shall be saved – our salvation is not in sight, we should not have to be hoping for it if it were – but, as I say, we must hope to be saved since we are not saved yet – it is something we must wait for with patience.

The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

Gospel [John 7:37-39](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

From his breast shall flow fountains of living waters.

On the last day and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood there and cried out:

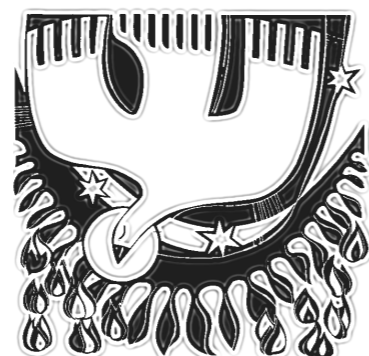
'If any man is thirsty, let him come to me!
Let the man come and drink who believes in me!'

As scripture says: From his breast shall flow fountains of living water.

He was speaking of the Spirit which those who believed in him were to receive; for there was no Spirit as yet because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Communion Antiphon [Jn 7:37](#)

On the last day of the festival, Jesus stood and cried out:
If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink, alleluia.



At the Mass During the Day

Entrance Antiphon [Romans 5: 5; cf. 8:11](#)

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

First Reading [Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34](#)

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading [Galatians 5:16-25](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

The fruit of the Spirit.

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and

Second Reading (continuation)

quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

Sequence

The sequence may be said or sung.

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, from the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor, come with treasures which endure; come, thou light of all that live! Thou, of all consolers best, thou, the soul's delightful guest, dost refreshing peace bestow; thou in toil art comfort sweet; pleasant coolness in the heat; solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine, visit thou these hearts of thine, and our inmost being fill: if thou take thy grace away, nothing pure in man will stay; all his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness pour thy dew; wash the stains of guilt away: bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore thee confess and thee adore, With thy sevenfold gifts descend: give us comfort when we die; give us life with thee on high; give us joys that never end.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

Gospel [John 15:26-27, 16:12-15](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset.

I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come.

He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'

Communion Antiphon [Acts of the Apostles 2:4,11](#)

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.