

Date: 25th/26th May 2024 <i>The Most Holy Trinity</i>				
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Anne Maureen Scarf	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Katherine Mahns	Streeters
Date: 1st/2nd June 2024 <i>The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ</i>				
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Neil Kirby	Cheryl Kirby	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Vicky Walker	Cecilia Hunt	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Anne Edwards	Peta Sparkes	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea: East Timor				

KID'S CORNER

Gospel

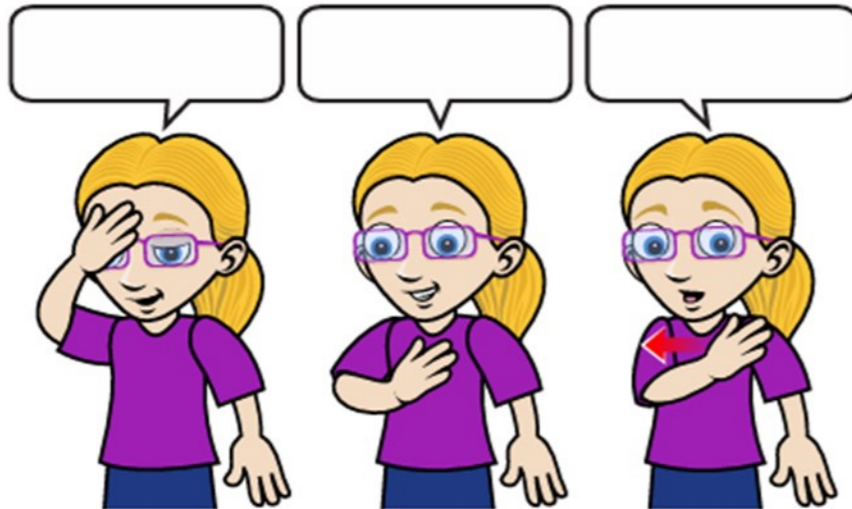
Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up to and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

There is a simple prayer that we say almost every day, which reminds us of the Trinity. That prayer is the Sign of the Cross.

How do I make the Sign of the Cross?

1. Using your right hand, touch your forehead and say... (fill in the 1st speech balloon)
2. Touch your chest near your heart and say... (fill in the 2nd speech balloon)
3. Touch your left shoulder, then your right shoulder and say... (fill in the 3rd speech balloon)



Colour in the Trinity stained glass windows.

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

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.

The Most Holy Trinity: The Preacher's Nightmare



There is no solemnity that strikes fear into the priest than that which we celebrate today. Following the incredible celebration of Pentecost the Church enters Ordinary Time with back-to-back-to back festivities; Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, and The Sacred Heart of Jesus. Apprehension to preach on this day dates back to the early church where bishops and priests would argue over the authentic understanding of the Trinity (at times resulting in bloodshed). After two thousand years of teachings the Church at present has a firm grasp on the Godhead (One God, three persons) however it still maintains that the mystery of the Trinity cannot be fully understood: In answer to the question of understanding the Trinity through human reason alone the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: 'God has left some traces of his trinitarian being in creation and in the Old Testament but his inmost being as the Holy Trinity is a mystery which is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel's faith before the Incarnation of the Son of God and the sending of the Holy Spirit. This mystery was revealed by Jesus Christ and it is the source of all other mysteries.' This reflection, therefore, is not one seeking to fully comprehend the Trinity (an impossible feat), but one to aid our understanding of God as a Trinity of Persons; in short how does one understand our God as three persons?

The above extract from the Compendium mentioned the revelation of the Trinity through Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Godhead. Our search therefore begins with Jesus: what did he say about the Trinity? Throughout the Gospels Jesus reveals the nature of the Trinity as that of love: God is one who loves creation with all his being as evident through the Paschal Mystery of Christ. In revealing the loving nature of God he also identifies the First Person of the Trinity: The Father. Using logic one can deduce that the Father only holds that title insofar as he has a Son. A man or woman cannot be a parent without first having a child. With the First Person being the Father we ask who is the Son? In the Baptism of Jesus, St. Mark notes the words from the voice from Heaven: 'This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased.' The Son is no other than the same Jesus who revealed the Father. With two persons revealed we now search for the Third Person. At his Farewell Discourse Jesus states: '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.' This short description of the Holy Spirit reveals His relationship with both the Father and Son; He issues from the Father but is sent by Jesus. The Holy Spirit is not another Son, nor is he subordinate to Jesus as he continues Our Lord's work; The Holy Spirit is the shared love between the Father and the Son. This reality equates to the Trinitarian character of God: One God, Three Persons. As evident, a simple understanding of terminology and the words of Christ fosters our understanding of God as a Trinity of Persons. Please know this isn't an exhaustive method to understand God; God is truly a mystery beyond comprehension - only when we come face to face with him will we understand God Almighty.

Dear friends, as we celebrate the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity we are reminded that each of us, beloved children of God, are called into the love of the Trinity. God initiated creation to share his love - that love was fully revealed in Jesus Christ. May we take up this invitation and radiate God's love into the world all the days of our lives.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Chris



Entrance Antiphon

Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son of God,
and also the Holy Spirit,
for he has shown us his merciful love.

First Reading [Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40](#)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The Lord himself is God in heaven above and on earth below: there is no other.

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors – all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?

'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 32:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22, R. v. 12](#)

(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
2. By his word the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all the stars. He spoke; and they came to be. He commanded; they sprang into being. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
4. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading [Romans 8:14-17](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You have received the Spirit that makes you God's own children, and in that Spirit we call God: Father, our Father!

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

Gospel Acclamation [See Revelation 1:8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Communion Antiphon [Galatians 4:6](#)

Since you are children of God,
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.



Sick: Andy Hutvagner, Precious Tamayo, 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? 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.

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



RAFFLE: Thank you to our wonderful parish community for your support in the raffle we had advertised last week. The

affle was to raise money to replace the artwork over the existing school sign, positioned at the entrance to our car park. It will direct visitors to our church along with our Mass times. We have great pleasure of informing you that the winner is Steve Bishop, Black Ticket C73.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING is going to be held this coming Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 5:30pm. Anyone who wishes to include any items to the agenda may send this to: springwoodparishpc@gmail.com

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

BLUE MOUNTAINS REGION SRE CATECHIST MASS 2024:

Please join us to celebrate Mass for the SRE Catechist ministry in our region on Tues 11th June 2024 at 11:30am at STA Parish, Springwood. Certificates for SRE Catechist training (Levels 1&2) and awards for 5 & 10 years will be presented.



ST COLUMBA'S SCHOOL CANTEEN:

Full or part-time staff required for a busy school canteen. The hours are 8am to 3pm. Mon - Fri during school term. General knowledge of food preparation, packing school lunches and serving the students. Successful applicant will be required to obtain a working with children's check.

Please email your interest to: admin@totalcanteensolutions.com.au

DIOCESAN THINK TANK SESSIONS:

Diocesan Think Tank sessions, focusing on one of the six Synod themes to ensure comprehensive community input are on during May and June. The next one is on Wednesday 29th May from 6.30-9.00pm. Theme 5: A Church that Reaches to its Margins. Venue: St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith.

2024 Sacrament of Confirmation



46 children began the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday evening with the first of the parent sessions. Please join us in a prayer for the Confirmation Candidates:

*God our Father,
We thank you for our young people who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
You call each one of them by name and promise that whatever happens in their lives, you will be with them always.
We pray that this journey to Confirmation will be an opportunity for them to deepen their faith and renew their hope in you so that your love may shine through them to the world.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*