

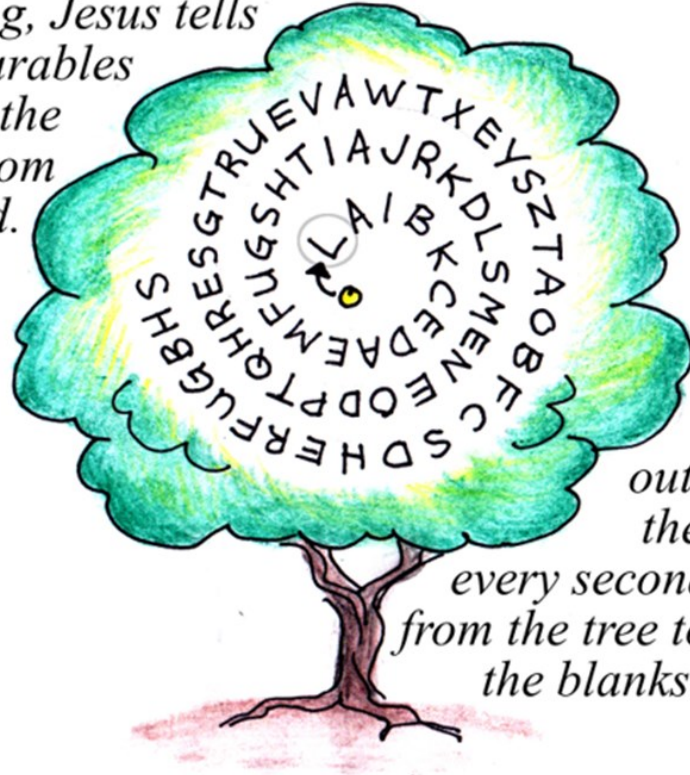
Date:	15th/16th June 2024 <i>Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>			
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Anne Maureen Scarff	Felix Kobus	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Georgia Cook	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Brian Edwards	Kim Crawford	Chris Wilson
Offertory:	Margaret & Cliff Smith			
Morning Tea:	Church Cleaners & St Vincent de Paul			

Date:	22nd/23rd June 2024 <i>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>			
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Margaret Smith	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tanya Graham	Vicky Walker	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Matt Aldous	Peta Sparkes	Streeters

KID'S CORNER

**11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 16th, 2024**

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells two parables about the Kingdom of God.

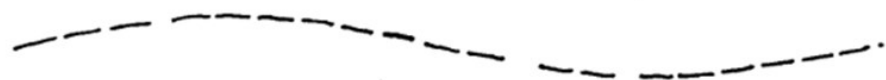


To find out one of them, use every second letter from the tree to fill in the blanks below.

The Kingdom of Heaven is



When it grows up it becomes



St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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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!
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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.

Pope Benedict XVI Angelus Address: 17 June 2012 - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today's liturgy presents to us two short parables of Jesus: the parable of the seed that grows of its own accord and the parable of the mustard seed (cf. Mk 4:26-34). With images taken from the farming world the Lord presents the mystery of the Word and of the Kingdom of God, and points out the reasons for our hope and our dedication.

In the first parable the focus is on the dynamism of the sowing: the seed that was scattered on the land sprouts and grows by itself, whether the peasant is awake or asleep. The man sows with the trust that his work will not be fruitless. What supports the farmer in his daily efforts is specific trust in the power of the seed and in the goodness of the soil. This parable recalls the mysteries of the creation and redemption, of God's fertile work in history. It is he who is the Lord of the Kingdom, man is his humble collaborator who contemplates and rejoices in the divine creative action and patiently awaits its fruits. The final harvest makes us think of God's conclusive intervention at the end of time, when he will fully establish his Kingdom. The present is the time of sowing, and the growth of the seed is assured by the Lord. Every Christian therefore knows well that he must do all he can, but that the final result depends on God: this awareness sustains him in his daily efforts, especially in difficult situations. St Ignatius of Loyola wrote in this regard: "Act as though everything depended on you, but in the knowledge that really everything depends on God" (cf. Pedro de Ribadeneira, Vita di S. Ignazio di Loyola, Milan, 1998).

The second parable also uses the image of the seed. Here, however, it is a specific seed, the mustard seed, considered the smallest of all seeds. Yet even though it is so tiny, it is full of life; it breaks open to give life to a sprout that can break through the ground, coming out into the sunlight and growing until it becomes "the greatest of all shrubs" (Mk 4:32): the seed's weakness is its strength, its breaking open is its power. Thus, the Kingdom of God is like this: a humanly small reality, made up of those who are poor in heart, of those who do not rely on their own power but on that of the love of God, on those who are not important in the world's eyes; and yet it is through them that Christ's power bursts in and transforms what is seemingly insignificant. The image of the seed is especially dear to Jesus, because it clearly expresses the mystery of the Kingdom of God. In today's two parables it represents "growth" and "contrast": the growth that occurs thanks to an innate dynamism within the seed itself and the contrast that exists between the minuscule size of the seed and the greatness of what it produces.

The message is clear: even though the Kingdom of God demands our collaboration, it is first and foremost a gift of the Lord, a grace that precedes man and his works. If our own small strength, apparently powerless in the face of the world's problems, is inserted in that of God it fears no obstacles because the Lord's victory is guaranteed. It is the miracle of the love of God who causes every seed of good that is scattered on the ground to germinate. And the experience of this miracle of love makes us optimists, in spite of the difficulty, suffering and evil that we encounter. The seed sprouts and grows because God's love makes it grow. May the Virgin Mary, who, like "good soil", accepted the seed of the divine Word, strengthen within us this faith and this hope.



Second Reading [2 Corinthians 5:6-10](#)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 4:26-34](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 26:4](#)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

or
[John 17:11](#)

Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me,
that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.



Entrance Antiphon [Cf Psalm 26:7,9](#)

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

First Reading [Ezekiel 17:22-24](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I have made the small tree great.

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 91:2-3, 13-16. R. see v.2](#)

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)



Sick: James Connor, Richard Ford, Odette Harb, 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: Please support our Parish and its projects.



- **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.

FIRST COLLECTION: This goes to the Board of Management. 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. Thank you.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) NOMINATION



Why a Parish Pastoral Council? The Parish Pastoral Council serves as a vital part of our parish's life, providing counsel to the pastor and leadership team on matters concerning the pastoral mission of our parish.

We invite and encourage every parishioner to consider nominating themselves or someone they believe has a vision, commitment and love for our parish to be a member of the Parish Council. This is a time of discernment, to listen and respond to God's call to serve. Nomination forms are available in the Church foyer. You may leave the nomination form in the box provided or at the Parish Office. All forms must be returned by 21st June 2024. Forms can be submitted in person, by mail or email to springwood@parracatholic.org.

YOUTH MASS 'ROUND THE DIOCESE: 30 JUNE: Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood, on Sunday 30th June for 9:30am Mass. Please join us after Mass for a picnic at Buttenshaw Park. For more info, please contact Laura Burton on laura@stbernadette.org.au



REFUGEE WEEK IS 17-23RD JUNE: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is conducting a Blanket drive this week. If you would like to *donate* a new or used but clean BLANKET, please leave it at the Parish office for collection. **STA Earthcare** is co-ordinating this activity.

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP: The monthly meeting of the STA Ladies Fellowship will be held on FRIDAY 21st June after morning Mass. Guest speakers will be Parishioners, VIC and LIZ O'Callaghan who have extensive experience in Catholic education in the Diocese and in Restorative Justice practices across Australia. All welcome.



2024 Sacrament of Confirmation

Please remember our Confirmation Children in your prayers as they are confirmed this coming Wednesday 19th June at 7pm by Very Rev Peter Williams AM VG. Each child, with their parents' guidance, have prepared for this sacrament over the last 4 weeks of spiritual reflection and prayer.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS COMMISSIONING MASS:

A Commissioning Mass was held at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta last Thursday 13th June 2024. Our very own Phil Saville and Anna Mulligan had partaken in the Office for Worship's course to become Ministers at the Altar. They were among the Liturgical ministers Bishop Vincent commissioned to go out to live out this ministry and bring glory to God. May Our Lord continue to bless and strengthen them both and all the other participants.

GREAT SAINTS OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE: Join Fr Chris del Rosario on a breathtaking pilgrimage on the footsteps of some of Italy's well-known saints. This is an amazing opportunity to deepen our faith and explore the rich culture and history of Italy. Pilgrimage starts on 21st Oct 2024. For more details scan the code or visit: harvestjourneys.com/Italy



PARISH WORKING BEE: We are asking for as many volunteers as possible to join us for a parish grounds working bee on Saturday 29th June from 10.00am until 3.00pm. Bring along your gloves, spades, trowels, secateurs, pruning shears, garden fork, HATS, sunscreen lotion and water! The BBQ will be sparked up for a re-fuel around lunch time. If you have any ground covers you would like to donate, please also bring them along!

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL 2024:

We invite our generous parishioners to contribute to the 2024 Winter Appeal starting on Sunday 9th June 2024 and concludes with Vinnies members collecting cash or card donations (eftpos machine available) at the end of all masses on the weekend of 15th and 16th June. Cash or envelope donations (please enclose CC details) can also be made at any time to the wooden Poor Box at the rear of the church. Tax receipts available on request. Thank you for your continuing generosity.



BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S PROJECT ELIZABETH:

Will you strengthen the dignity of struggling mums? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will provide struggling mums with the practical and emotional support they need to overcome adversity and build a better future for themselves and their families. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal by using envelopes provided at church pews, by visiting: parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this code. Thank you.

