

<b>Date:</b>	8th/9th June 2024		Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil: 5:00 PM</b>	Ed Junis	Tanya Baldwin	Tamsyn Baldwin	Chris Wilson
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Randall Noney	Loida Derbyshire	Tom Horsfall	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Phil Saville	Margaret Hickey	Katherine Mahns	Streeters
<b>Date:</b>	15th/16th June 2024		Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil: 5:00 PM</b>	Ian Miles	Anne Maureen Scarff	Felix Kobus	No One
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Marek Grus	Georgia Cook	Jim Gresser	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Phil Saville	Brian Edwards	Kim Crawford	Chris Wilson
<b>Offertory:</b>	Margaret & Cliff Smith			
<b>Morning Tea:</b>	Church Cleaners			

KID'S CORNER

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Those who obey God are my brother or sister or mother

Mk 3:20-26. 31-35

My name is

When Jesus spoke to the crowd of followers, he referred to them as his own family because they were following the will of God. Draw a picture of yourself surrounded by some people you know who also follow God's will.



COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

"Who is my mother and who are my brothers?"



START

W G Q S X C Y M A W S  
 H H N B U K O Q T M O  
 O I S M T D R E M Y D  
 O L K Y W H A V F B W  
 N T O M A V O Z O R U  
 B H A Q C O H Y T I L  
 W E R A N D W L H G N  
 G N L E U A V G E R X  
 U F M B A D R L U S ?

FINISH

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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**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.

Should I Fear the Devil?



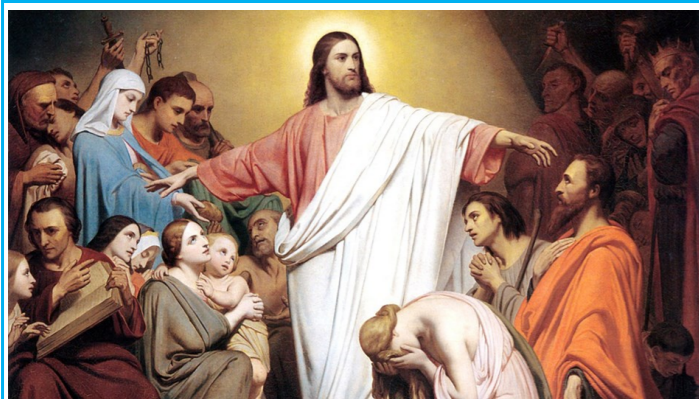
I recall a priest once describing the celebration of Baptism as beautiful chaos. The priest elaborated that baptisms are beautiful as a person is washed clean from Original Sin and formally adopted into God's family spanning the entirety of human history. The beauty of the sacrament is coupled with ongoing chaos as the behaviour of children, especially newborns, are unpredictable during the celebration; at one point they are calm, the next moment they are completely unsettled. Beautiful chaos: an accurate description. Despite the marriage of contrasting terms, joy is the overwhelming sentiment in Baptisms - all present are excited to see the child baptised. There is however, one moment during the baptismal liturgy that causes those present to feel uncomfortable: the prayer of exorcism. Upon hearing it one is naturally drawn to Hollywood depictions of the devil and demonic possession - powers one can manipulate or over the top gore (see 'The Pope's Exorcist'). The existence of the Devil however mustn't be misunderstood or denied; he is very real and desires our destruction. As such this reflection will explore the reality of the Devil and his prowess; is he and all demons to be feared?

Imagine being in the Garden of Eden: God has finished creation and placed both man and woman at the centre of it; they are created by God to have dominion over creation; to rule it with love. Peace and Joy flood the world - all things are ordered towards God; sin, sorrow, pain, famine do not exist. Everything is perfect... until the Devil enters the fray. He feeds the woman lies, tempting her to believe God is holding out on her - all she has received from God is not enough; she is better than God. She freely rejects God, then tempts the man, who also freely rejects God. Thus sin and death enter the world... a direct result of man submitting to temptation. The Fall of Man is not an isolated incident - throughout history man has continued to grapple with good and evil, a reality until the end of time. Yes we freely choose to sin, we are certainly culpable for our actions, however it is the Devil and his demons that continue to tempt us, drawing us away from God like our first parents. He is certainly powerful as evident in man's continued defiance of God, he works tirelessly for our destruction working in a variety of ways to create division within God's Family. With the above description it seems that he is powerful like Our Lord - yet it is very clear that God is infinitely greater than the Devil. Throughout the Gospel Our Lord on occasion encounters those possessed by demons; the disciples and, at times, the Pharisees attempt to exorcise those possessed but are unsuccessful. Our Lord comes and, with a few words, liberates the possessed from the demon; in fact, the demons shudder when they hear the Lord approaching. St. Paul sums it up when he says: 'Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.' God is infinitely greater than the Devil and his demons.

Dear friends, in answer to the introductory question we should not fear the devil and his demons. They certainly exist and seek our destruction but we are blessed to have Our Lord as our shield and armour. Through him we are the victors in this battle. May we be reminded of Our Lord's unyielding love and devotion towards us and cling to him in times of trial. We are the Beloved Children of God - he will never abandon us when we ask with faith.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Chris



## Second Reading [2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1](#)

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

*We believe, and therefore we speak.*

As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – I believed and therefore I spoke - we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

## Gospel Acclamation [John 12:31. 32](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The prince of this world will now be cast out, and when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all to myself, says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel [Mark 3:20-35](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*It is the end of Satan.*

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him,' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either - it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.'

His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

## Communion Antiphon [Psalm 17:3](#)

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer;

## Entrance Antiphon [Cf Psalm 26:1-2](#)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread?

When those who do evil draw near, they stumble and fall.

## First Reading [Genesis 3:9-15](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

*I will make you enemies of each other: your offspring and her offspring.*

The Lord God called to the man after he had eaten of the tree. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden,' he replied 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.'

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this,

'Be accursed beyond all cattle,  
all wild beasts.

You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust  
every day of your life.

I will make you enemies of each other:  
you and the woman,  
your offspring and her offspring.  
It will crush your head  
and you will strike its heel.'

## Responsorial Psalm [Ps 129. R. v.7](#)

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. (R.)

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak. (R.)

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy,  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. (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](mailto: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 30 June for 9:30am Mass. Please join us after Mass for a picnic at Buttenshaw Park. For more information, please contact Laura Burton on [laura@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:laura@stbernadette.org.au)



### REFUGEE WEEK IS 17-23<sup>RD</sup> 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.

### 2024 Sacrament of Confirmation



We pray for our dear children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

Dear God,

*Strengthen these children with your gifts of grace, to love and serve as a disciple of Christ.*

*Grant that they may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ.*

*Fill them with joy of your presence.*

*Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness.*

Amen.

**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!

### BLUE MOUNTAINS REGION SRE CATECHIST MASS 2024:

You are warmly invited to join us to celebrate Mass for the SRE Catechist ministry in our region on **Tues 11th June 2024 at 1pm at STA Parish**. Certificates for SRE Catechist training (Lev 1 & 2) and awards for 5 & 10 years will be presented. A light lunch will follow. Friends, family are also welcome. RSVP please to Melissa McDonald; M:0408 693 042  
E: [melissa.mcdonald@parracatholic.org](mailto:melissa.mcdonald@parracatholic.org)

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

**2024:** July 2024 sees the St Thomas Aquinas Springwood Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society reach the 86<sup>th</sup> year of its service to the needy in our community. So far this year, we have assisted an average of six families and individuals every week. Again, at a time when financial stress is straining so many, we invite our generous parishioners to contribute to the 2024 Winter Appeal. It will start on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and conclude with Vinnies members collecting cash or card donations (eftpos machine available) at the end of all masses on the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 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 at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan this code. Thank you.

