

Date:	6th/7th July 2024 <i>Fourteenth 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	Neil Kirby	Cheryl Kirby	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Vicky Walker	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	STA Ladies Fellowship			

Date:	13th/14th July 2024 <i>Fifteenth 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	Tanya Baldwin	Tamsyn Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Loida Derbyshire	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Matt Aldous	Peta Sparkes	Streeters

KID'S CORNER



How can Jesus do all of this?

Complete Jesus' teaching by using the words below.

_____ are

 everywhere _____
 in their _____.

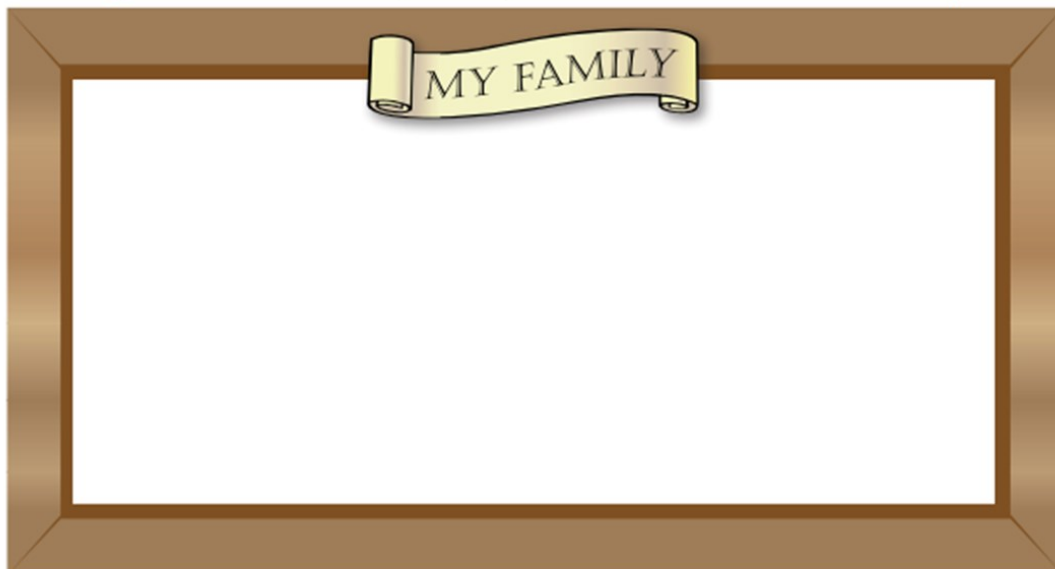


except hometown honoured prophets

Gospel
 Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Draw a picture of each member of your family and write a word that best describes that person.



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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.

The Deadly Sin of Pride



When teaching scripture at Merrylands High School in 2014 I recall an occasion when a student questioned the severity of Adam and Eve's eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil: 'How can eating an apple cause so much evil in the world?' At first glance the student's question is reasonable; from Adam and Eve's actions, death and destruction entered the world - the once perfect world is thrust into chaos causing near irreparable harm to future generations. A simple action with a severe consequence... it seems somewhat unjust. What makes their action so severe? Adam and Eve did not simply eat of the tree, their action is indicative of their desire to usurp God as the moral and cosmic authority in the world. They reject God's instructions and eat of the tree; they have chosen what is 'good' for them rather than follow the very author of goodness. At the core of their action is sin of Pride. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes prides as 'One of the seven capital sins. Pride is undue self-esteem or self-love, which seeks attention and honour and sets oneself in competition with God.' Adam and Eve allowed the temptation of the devil to manifest itself in Pride which placed them at odds with God - the result: a fractured relationship and concupiscence in future generations.

Why speak about the sin of pride? This Sunday's readings draw a comparison between two groups: stiff necked Israelites in the time of the prophets, and the townfolk of Nazareth in the days of Jesus. Ezekiel is prophesying during the beginning of the Babylonian exile - the people of Israel have drifted significantly from their relationship with God that destruction is literally at their doorstep. Despite this he is sent to draw them from their sinful ways and return to God. Unfortunately, Israel has developed a sense of entitlement... the nation is safe from foreign powers as they are the chosen people of God; regardless of their rejection of the Law of Moses the people are safe from harm. In our Gospel Jesus seeks to preach the Good News in his hometown of Nazareth. Unlike the other places who generally accept Jesus and his works, Our Lord is immediately rejected: 'They said, "Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?" And they would not accept him.' They are familiar with Our Lord and cannot see beyond his appearance despite the many miracles worked in other towns; to them he is nothing more than the carpenter's Son. Furthermore, what could a local boy teach them? They know him through and through, so how could he be any different then as he is now? They are overly familiar with Jesus and expect nothing from him - their lack of faith is unfortunate as they miss the experience of the Power of God.

What can we learn from our readings today? Both readings highlight the unfortunate reality of the sin of pride: it blinds us to God's transformative power and providence. If the Israelites would have repented of their ways they would have been spared of the destruction; God promised the people through Joshua that observance of his law equated to prosperity. Similarly, the locals of Nazareth would have experienced the breadth and depth of Christ's power had they opened their hearts to Christ's words; their pride impeded Christ's work as they would not show any faith. Dear friends, may we heed the lessons from the Word of God and be wary of the sin of pride. May we recognise our divine filiation coupled with our dependence on Our Lord so that pride does not overtake our lives.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Chris



Second Reading [2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#)

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

I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation [See Luke 4:18](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 6:1-6](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 33:9](#)

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

or

[Matthew 11:28](#)

Come to me, all who labour and are burdened,
and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

Entrance Antiphon [Cf Psalm 47:10-11](#)

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading [Ezekiel 2:2-5](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The people are rebellious; they shall know there will be a prophet in their midst.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 122. R. v.2](#)

(R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.

- To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords. (R.)
- Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he shows us his mercy. (R.)
- Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain. (R.)



Sick: John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, Liz Miles, 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.



STA PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Monday 8th July to Friday 19th July except on Thursdays 11th and 18th July. For any enquiries please call 02 4754 1052 or send an email to: springwood@parracatholic.org

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



2024 Reconciliation Sacramental Program

We invite you and your child (Year 3 or older who have not yet received Reconciliation) to be part of our 2024 Reconciliation Sacramental Program.

This sacrament will take place through a parish-based process. This means that you will do the preparation with your child, but we help you through a process of guided reflection on a weekly basis by meetings in the church.

Parent Information Sessions:

- 1ST MEETING: Tues 6th Aug at 7.00pm, STA Church
- 2ND MEETING: Tues 13th Aug at 7.00pm, STA Church
- Children and Parent Information Sessions:**
- 3RD MEETING: Sat 24th Aug at 11.00am, STA Church
- 4TH MEETING: Sat 31st Aug at 11.00am, STA Church (and practice)

Reconciliation will take place on Wed 4th Sept at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Reconciliation enrolment forms are available on our website, parish office and back of the church.

2024 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

On Sunday 30th June, our final candidates celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. We congratulate them on their preparation and especially thank their parents, sponsors and families for their guidance and support. "May you be blessed with the knowledge that you are never alone in life and that God will always be there to watch over and guide you."



WHAT ARE MASS INTENTIONS? When a priest celebrates Mass each day, he offers each celebration of the Eucharist for a particular person, or intention. By doing so he applies special graces from God upon that person or intention. Similar to how we are able to intercede for others by our personal prayers, **the Church is able to intercede for us through the celebration of the Mass.**

However, since the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life" the Mass possess a power that our personal prayers do not. Pope Paul VI said, "**The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!**" It has immense power and countless miracles and conversions have occurred throughout the centuries by offering Masses for a specific intention or person. Intentions like for quick recovery of our loved ones who are ill, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died, for the intentions of another person such as on a birthday or thanksgiving. Mass intentions are a great treasure of the Church and have a spiritual weight that is incalculable.

The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works. **Mass Offering Envelopes are available at the back of the church which can be used to express your ongoing generosity and support to our church. Thank you.**

Congratulations to Alex Trivarelli and Abby Instance who recently married here...

we pray for this lovely couple and wish them a lifetime of happiness and love!



NAIDOC WEEK: Naidoc Week commences this weekend with a morning tea after 9.30am Mass where you will have an opportunity to taste some bush tucker. After morning tea take a stroll down to the Springwood Hub as from midday there is an official launch of Naidoc Week. On Sunday 14th July the Community Garden will open for a special morning tea from 10.30am where you have the opportunity to meet Mr Evan Yanna Muru, indigenous leader and gardener.

BIG THANK YOU: Last weekend we had a working bee in our parish grounds and the end result is absolutely beautiful. Our sincerest thanks to the wonderful volunteers who spent their Saturday working on our church gardens. We are beyond grateful.

