

Date:	27th/28th July 2024 <i>Seventeenth 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	Felix Kobus	Anne Maureen Scarff	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Ros Comfort	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Ellis	Domhnall MacCormac	Streeters
Date:	3rd/4th August 2024 <i>Eighteenth 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	Jim Gresser	Vicky Walker	
9:30 AM	Phillip Saville	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Catechist/St Vincent de Paul			

KID'S CORNER



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

What do you think these people would have said when they saw Jesus feed the large crowd with just five loaves and two fish?

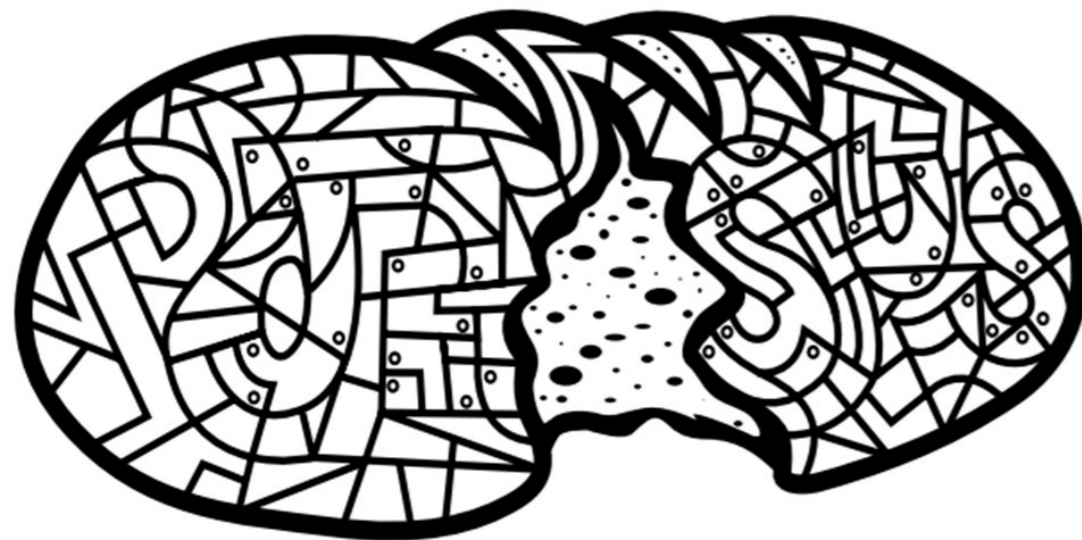
Four speech bubbles with small circular icons of people's faces next to them, intended for writing responses.



Jesus asked his disciples to help feed the hungry people. Likewise, Jesus wants us to share what we have with people in need. Draw a picture of yourself sharing with others.

A large rectangular box with a yellow border, intended for drawing a picture of sharing.

Colour in all the shapes that contain a dot to reveal a word that feeds our hunger.



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



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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 Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: Introductory Rites



Over the next five weeks our Gospel will be read from the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. This particular chapter is known by scripture scholars as the Jesus' Eucharistic Discourse; following the feeding of the five thousand Our Lord reveals to the crowd that he is bread come down from Heaven - He is the Bread of Life. Whilst it would be a happy privilege to preach on the Eucharist for the next few weeks I recall in my first year as a priest wanting to dedicate some time to catechesis on the Holy Mass. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is an essential element to our Catholic identity; however, our familiarity to the Mass can, at times, lessen our appreciation of the divine liturgy. As such I will devote the bulletin reflection for the next five weeks to catechesis on the sacred liturgy with the hope each of us can rekindle our love, devotion and appreciation for the gift of the Mass.

The structure of the Mass, as described in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, is the People of God together with a priest presiding and acting in the person of Christ called together to celebrate the memorial of the Lord, the Eucharistic Sacrifice. This is the greatest moment in human history as Our Lord, through the incarnation, both frees humanity from its debt and leaves his very self as a perpetual memorial. This reality is truly present in every Mass celebrated throughout the world. The Introductory Rites of the Mass, the first of four parts, promote adequate preparation for the Eucharistic Sacrifice. The introductory rites consist of the Entrance, Greeting, Act of Penitence, Kyrie, Gloria, and Collect. As stated in the GIRM its purpose is to ensure that the faithful, who come together as one, establish communion and dispose themselves to listen properly to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily. Two aspects worth highlighting are the Sign of the Cross and the Penitential Act. The former is a reminder of our divine filiation to the Godhead - by virtue of our baptism we are united to God supernaturally; we are made adopted sons and daughters of God through the dying and rising of the sacrament of Baptism. Through Baptism we are able to partake in the divine liturgy, receiving all the graces necessary to know, love and serve the Lord. Following the Sign of the Cross we humble ourselves through the Penitential Act. King David, following his sin of adultery, composed one of the most humbling Psalms in the scriptures. In it he laments his actions and desires to be purged from his transgressions: "A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you." In the penitential act we too seek the mercy of God as through the Mass we encounter Him in a real and tangible way. As will be explained in the coming weeks Christ is present both in the Word and the Eucharist - in the penitential act we freely humble ourselves before God, recognising that we have failed in countless ways and desire his forgiveness and mercy. Without Our Lord it is impossible to live a virtuous life - through the penitential act we seek his mercy so to participate worthily in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In summary the Introductory Rites, spanning from the Entrance to the Collect, is a time of preparation for reception of the Lord in the Word and Eucharist. This preparation is necessary to properly dispose us for the remaining parts of the Mass. Next week's reflection will explore the essential elements and significance of the Liturgy of the Word.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Chris



Second Reading [Ephesians 4:1-6](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

There is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation [Luke 7:16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel [John 6:1-15](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 102:2](#)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

Entrance Antiphon [Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36](#)

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading [2 Kings 4:42-44](#)

A reading from the second book of the Kings

They will eat and have some left over.

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16](#)

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.

- All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**
- The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
- The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**



Recently Deceased: Bishop Kevin Manning, Elizabeth Anne O'Reilly

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: CHURCH CLEANING

Our community greatly values the contributions of dedicated volunteers and help is always needed to keep our church looking clean and welcoming. As we continue to maintain our sacred space, we invite anyone who may be interested to be a part of our church cleaning team. We appreciate any time you can spare, whether it's a few hours a week or once every eight weeks. Benefits: 1) Fulfillment through service, 2) Strengthening our church community and 3) Connecting with fellow parishioners. If you would like to become one of our fantastic group of volunteers, please contact our Parish Office on 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org. Your willingness to serve is a blessing to us all.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2024 KNOWN WOMEN'S DAY

RETREAT: This retreat is open to all women 18+ who want to develop a deeper understanding of their faith and are searching for an authentic relationship with the Lord and with other like minded women. This retreat provides an opportunity for guest speakers, reflective prayer, adoration, confession, the rosary, praise and worship, wonderful sisterhood, catholic merchandise, creative outlet, all meals and Saturday night vigil Mass. You will receive a goodie bag with some special extras to make you feel right at home. Where: St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook NSW; When: Saturday, 17th August, 2024; Time: 8:45am—5:15pm (Vigil Mass at 5:30pm); Speakers: Fr Chris del Rosario, Leonie Nahhas and Jessica Doherty. Praise and worship led by Rachel Kama. Please scan the code to book.



BISHOP KEVIN MANNING FUNERAL DETAILS: The details for Bishop Kevin Manning's funeral are as follows:

- Thursday 1 August, 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral: Reception of the Body and Vespers of the Dead
- Friday 2 August, 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral: Solemn Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial
- Monday 5 August, 11am in Coolah, NSW: Memorial Mass and interment at Coolah cemetery

The Funeral and Vespers will be livestreamed.

We continue to pray for the repose of his soul and give thanks to God for his earthly life. To register your attendance, please visit: parracatholic.org/bishopmanning.

There will be no Adoration nor Holy Mass on the morning of Friday, 2nd August 2024 at STA Parish. A Communion Service will be held instead. Fr Chris will be at Bishop Kevin Manning's funeral at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta.

The First Friday of the month 7pm Adoration at STA Parish is also cancelled. Thank you.

GREAT NEWS! Our church renovation is well underway. The next in line is the inside of our church, which is to start 6th August to mid-September 2024. During this time, our church will be a construction site; hence, this will be closed to the public for safety purposes.

Church renovation can seem like a monumental task. In addition to our typical church operations, we will have to learn new things and take on new responsibilities. But with the right approach, we can make the process easier and more efficient; we can meet our goals and keep our church happy.

Will we have our daily Adoration and Mass? Yes Where? St Thomas Aquinas Parish Centre Time? Same as before – Adoration: Monday to Saturday 8:15am to 9:15am; Weekday Mass: 9:30am

However, Sunday weekend Masses are going to be held at St Columba's College, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood (a 2-minute drive or 13-minute walk from St Thomas Aquinas Church, Springwood).

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your kind understanding. We will be grateful for your support during this time.

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.

YOUNG ADULTS FAITH FORMATION

Join Fr John Rizzo to discuss
THE EUCHARIST
followed by fun, fellowship and pizza



For adults 18-35
The Hustle Unit 4
4-6 Purdy St
Minchinbury

SUNDAY
4th AUGUST
7:00-8:30
Suggested donation: \$5

