

Date: 31st Aug/1st Sept 2024 <i>Twenty-Second 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	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Tanya Graham	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Earth Care			

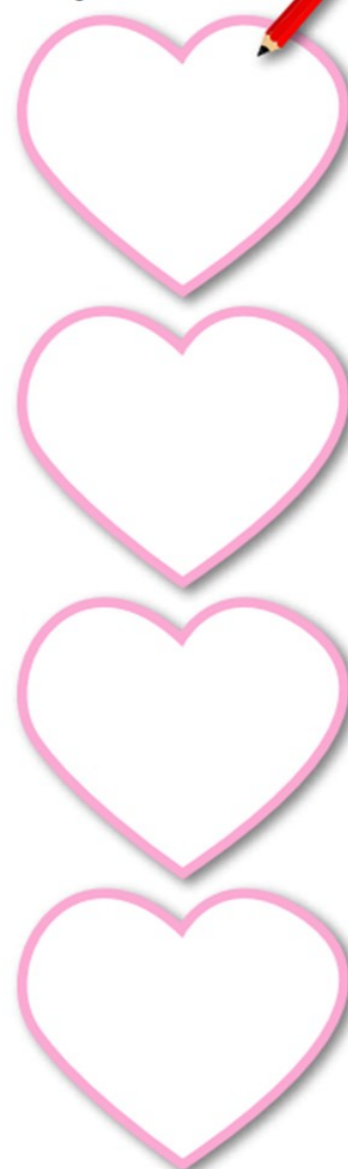
Date: 7th Sept/8th Sept 2024 <i>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>				
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tanya Baldwin	Tamsyn Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Loida Derbyshire	Ros Comfort	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Ellis	Domhnall MacCormac	Streeters

KID'S CORNER

Keep a clean heart so that you may worship God

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

In each heart draw a picture of someone you know who has a good and clean heart.



While it's good to keep ourselves clean and healthy, Jesus says it's more important to keep our hearts clean by being good people. For example - it is better to be kind than to be nasty. Try and match the opposites in the two lists below.



Those with clean hearts are....

- wise
- kind
- sharing
- polite
- honest

Those with unclean hearts are....

- untruthful
- greedy
- foolish
- nasty
- rude

The way to Jesus is by trying to be a good person and keep a clean heart. Help the children find their way past the obstacles to Jesus.



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.

Pope Francis Angelus Address: 29 August 2021: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Buongiorno! The Gospel for today's liturgy shows a few scribes and Pharisees amazed by Jesus' attitude. They are scandalised because his disciples pick up food without first performing the traditional ritual ablutions. They think among themselves: "This way of doing things is contrary to the religious practice" (cf. Mk 7:2-5).

We too could ask ourselves: why do Jesus and his disciples disregard these traditions? After all, they are not bad things, but good ritual habits, simple cleansing before eating. Why is Jesus not concerned with this? Because for him it is important to bring faith back to its centre. We see it repeatedly in the Gospel: this bringing faith back to the centre. And to avoid a risk, which applies to those scribes as well as to us: to observe outward formalities, putting the heart and faith in the background. Many times we too "put makeup" on our soul. Outward formality and not the heart of faith: this is a risk. It is the risk of a religiosity of appearances: looking good on the outside, while neglecting to purify the heart. There is always the temptation to "deal with God" with some outward devotion, but Jesus does not settle for this worship. Jesus does not want outward appearances, he wants a faith that touches the heart.

In fact, immediately afterwards, he calls the people back to speak a great truth: "there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him" (v. 15). Rather, it is "from within, out of the heart" (v. 21) that evil things are born. These words are revolutionary, because in the mindset of the time, it was thought that certain foods or external contacts would make one impure. Jesus reverses the perspective: it is not what comes from the outside that is harmful, but rather, what is born from within.

Dear brothers and sisters, this also pertains to us. We often think that evil comes mainly from the outside: from other people's conduct, from those who think badly of us, from society. How often we blame others, society, the world, for everything that happens to us! It is always the fault of "others": it is the fault of people, of those who govern, of misfortune, and so on. It seems that problems always come from the outside. And we spend time assigning blame; but spending time blaming others is wasting time. We become angry, bitter and keep God away from our heart. Like those people in the Gospel, who complain, who are scandalised, who cause controversy and do not welcome Jesus. One cannot be truly religious while complaining: complaining poisons, it leads you to anger, to resentment and to sadness, that of the heart, which closes the door to God. Let us ask the Lord today to free us from blaming others — like children: "No, it wasn't me! It's the other one, the other one...". Let us ask in prayer for the grace not to waste time polluting the world with complaints, because this is not Christian. Jesus instead invites us to look at life and the world starting from our heart. If we look inside ourselves, we will find almost all that we despise outside. And if, with sincerity, we will ask God to purify our heart, then indeed we will be starting to make the world cleaner. Because there is an infallible way to defeat evil: by starting to conquer it within yourself. The first Fathers of the Church, the monks, when they were asked: "What is the path of holiness, how should I begin"? The first step, they used to say, was to blame oneself: blame yourself. Blaming ourselves. How many of us, during the day, in a moment of the day or a moment in the week, are able to blame ourselves within? "Yes, this one did this to me, the other one ... that one, a barbarity...". But me? Do I do the same thing, or do I do it this way.... It is wisdom: learning to blame yourself. Try to do it, it will do you good. It does me good, when I manage to do so, but it is good for us, it is good for everyone.

May the Virgin Mary, who changed history through the purity of her heart, help us to purify our own, by overcoming first and foremost the vice of blaming others and complaining about everything.



Second Reading [James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation [James 1:18](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

You forget the commandments of God to hold on to human tradition.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 30:20](#)

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Entrance Antiphon [Cf Psalm 85:3,5](#)

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading [Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8](#)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 14:2-5, R. v.1](#)

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. (R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)



Sick: Alan Brown, John Fisher, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, Odette Harb, 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.

Mass Offering Envelopes are also available at the back of the church which can be used to express your ongoing generosity and support. Thank you.

2024 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program

We invite your child to be part of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. This Sacrament continues on from First Reconciliation and will begin in term 4. 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.

Information on this Sacrament will follow after we have completed the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Parent Information Sessions:

Wednesday 16th October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Tuesday 5th November at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Children and Parent Sessions:

Saturday 9th November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Saturday 16th November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish (and practice)

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 5pm Vigil Mass, Christ the King, 23rd November 2024, St Thomas Aquinas Church



BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL: This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.

THE SEASON OF CREATION: We can make a difference this week by recycling cardboard containers, such as egg cartons, to plant seeds and marvel at how things grow.

DIOCESAN SEASON OF CREATION GATHERING: 14TH SEPTEMBER: You are invited to a Diocesan Season of Creation gathering on Saturday 14 September from 10am to 4pm at Winbourne Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. This event is part of Catholic Earthcare's national Season of Creation Convocation from 12-14 September. Cost is \$50 for the Diocesan gathering only, or \$100 for the full Convocation (with days 1 and 2 online). For program details, please visit tinyurl.com/soc-gathering24. Register for the Convocation by 10 September at caritas.org.au/soc-convocation.

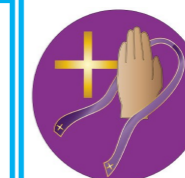
On Tuesday, 3rd Sept: Year 6 STA Students will be joined by Fr Chris in their pilgrimage to St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. There will be no adoration. Communion Service is available at 9:30am.

First Friday, 6th Sept: We invite everyone to join us in our First Friday Adoration at 7pm. All are welcome!

From Monday to Friday, 9th-13th Sept: Fr Chris will be on retreat and while he is away:

1. Monday 9th Sept - No adoration; Communion Service is available at 9:30am
2. Tuesday to Friday, 10th -13th Sept - Adoration is at 8:15am; Holy Mass is celebrated at 9:30am with Fr Sheldon Burke CRS as the Celebrant

Fr Chris' New Appointment: Let us congratulate and pray for Fr Chris. He is recently appointed Administrator of Lawson Parish from 1st Sept - 1st Dec 2024. His current position at STA Parish remains unaffected by the new appointment. We offer our prayers and well wishes, too for Fr Paul Slyney as he enjoys his long service leave!



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Last Children and Parent Information Session:
Sat 31st Aug at 11am, STA Church
Reconciliation Wednesday 4th September at 7pm, STA Church

Dear God, as we prepare for first reconciliation, help us to ask forgiveness when we need to. Help us to forgive others who have wronged us. And let us be peacemakers in our school and in our family. We thank you for the gift of your forgiveness and love. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



BAPTISMS: We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here...

*Iris Sarah Smith
Jude Ralph Smith*



HOLY COMMUNION: We pray for
Pieter Cornelius Jordaan
who recently received the sacrament of Holy Communion.

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP: Annual Lunch at Springwood Golf club is on FRIDAY 20th September at 12 noon. For bookings contact Colleen KIME 0407 125 427 or Jo McKENZIE on 0412 185 210 at least one week prior to the date. This is a has been a popular outing over the years. Hope to see you there! All parishioners are welcome. Members are reminded of the usual meeting beforehand after Mass in the Parish Centre.

JRS JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE FOOD DRIVE: Springwood Parish is having a food drive on the 21st/22nd Sept to support refugees and asylum seekers in Western Sydney through the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). If you are able to donate please deliver to STA Parish Office on or before the weekend of 22nd Sept 2024. For enquiries, email: foodbank@jrs.org.au & school@jrs.org.au Please see our Notice Board for more information.