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| Date: | 24th/25th August 2024 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time | | | |
| Mass Time: | Acolyte | First Reading & Responsorial Psalm | Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful | Music |
| Vigil: 5:00 PM | Ian Miles | Neil Kirby | Cheryl Kirby | Chris Wilson |
| 8:00 AM | Randall Noney | Ros Comfort | Tom Horsfall | |
| 9:30 AM | Phillip Saville | Anne Ellis | Domhnall MacCormac | Streeters |
| Date: | 31st Aug/1st Sept 2024 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time | | | |
| 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 | | | |

KID'S CORNER

Lord, your words give everlasting life

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



By listening to Jesus, we too can have everlasting life. What are some things Jesus is telling us? Draw the missing pictures, then circle the correct answers.

Love one another Do anything you want

Always be the winner Help others

Be stronger than others Pray to God

Gospel

John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

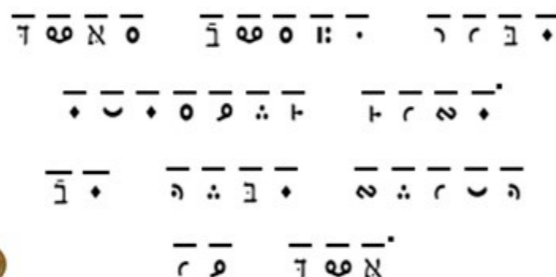
'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Jesus spoke to his disciples about the bread of life. It was hard to understand, but those who had faith continued to follow him. Crack the code to find out what Simon Peter said to Jesus.



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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 Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: The Concluding Rites



Following the Liturgy of the Eucharist the Mass draws to its conclusion; after a brief announcement (if any) the Priest blesses and dismisses the congregation saying 'Ite Missa eat. (Go forth, the Mass is ended). The dismissal doesn't just signal the end of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, it is also a commission from Christ to live out what we have received, namely a virtuous and holy life through the grace of the Eucharist; we are seeking to be transformed by and through Our Lord.

In truth there isn't much else to express with regards to the fourth part of the Mass so I think it would be wise to highlight one element from our Gospel with the sixth chapter of John's Gospel also drawing to a close. In the thirteenth chapter of the book of the Apocalypse St. John prophesies the beast who is given authority by the dragon to have dominion over the earth - those who submit to him are marked with his name: 'Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name... its number is six hundred and sixty-six.' (Rev 13:16-18). Around the sixteenth century the classification for dividing the books of Sacred Scripture was introduced; chapters and verses became more distinct allowing all to better navigate the canon of the bible. Interestingly, when John's Gospel was categorised; Jesus' Eucharistic Discourse encompassed the entirety of the sixth chapter. In our Gospel for today we have, in my opinion, one of the most tragic moments in the ministry of Jesus; "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, "This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him." After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.' After several revelations from Jesus stating that he is the true bread from Heaven many of his disciples, unable to comprehend the magnanimity of his confession therefore rejecting his offer for Eternal Life, stop following Jesus. The numerical classification for this verse, 'after this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him,' is John 6:66. Whilst some would argue 'mere coincidence' when classifying this particular verse, I believe it highlights an undeniable truth: to profess Jesus Christ as Lord one must also assent to the reality of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist; the Eucharist is truly, really and substantially Our Lord. To reject this would be to fall into the trap of the Devil who seeks to influence others away from Jesus Christ. This is not farfetched to assert as Christ, in our Gospel, also challenges the remaining disciples on their belief: Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' For the Christian belief in the Eucharist is non-negotiable; the Church in its wisdom states it as the source and summit of the Christian faith - Christ professed this reality two thousand years ago. A question for reflection: are we willing to accept this reality? To do so would be to follow Christ and, with his mercy and grace, inherit eternal life.

Dear friends, I hope and pray the last few weeks have edified your understanding and appreciation of Mass. May the Holy Spirit enlighten our hearts and minds to love the Mass, to recognise Christ's perfect sacrifice, and be drawn to live out the Christian life through the graces received.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Chris



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-3, 16-23, R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

- I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
- The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
- They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)
- Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)
- Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

Second Reading Ephesians 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation See John 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.



Sick: 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.

Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless but because they are priceless! We welcome anyone who would like to be helpers of our SRE Teachers. Come join our team. We could always use more people to join this wonderful ministry which inspires young people in the faith while enriching your own faith. Please contact Wilhelmina de Raadt on 4751 3319. Our Catechists would also greatly appreciate your prayers for our work of sharing the good news in public schools.

NEW CLEANING ROSTER: The new cleaning roster is now available for collection at the back of the church. And to all our volunteers, we cannot thank you enough!



NEW DATES FOR HOLY COMMUNION - TERM 4
2024 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program



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, Saturday 23rd November 2024, St Thomas Aquinas Church

DIOCESAN SEASON OF CREATION MASS - 1 SEPT 2024: The Diocese of Parramatta's Laudato Si' Action Team and Sacred Heart Parish Blackheath invite you to Mass with Bishop Vincent Long to launch the Season of Creation 2024 (1September—4October) on Sunday 1 September at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath, at 9:30am. Morning tea will be served after Mass. Let us join in praise and celebrate the gifts and wonders that God bestows on us.



ANNOUNCEMENTS On Tuesday, 3rd September 2024: Fr Chris will join our Year 6 STA Students in their pilgrimage to St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

From Monday to Friday, 9th-13th September 2024: Fr Chris will be on retreat. There will be no Mass nor Adoration on these dates but Communion Service is available at STA Church 9:30am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation



Pope Francis reminds us that "The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of healing. When we go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal your soul, to heal your heart and to be healed of some wrongdoing."

We hope and pray that amidst the busyness of our lives we all continue to work together to support these children grow in faith, hope and love, especially through our support of them during this Sacramental program.

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.

Children and Parent Information Sessions:
3rd Meeting: Sat 24th Aug at 11am, STA Church
4th Meeting: Sat 31st Aug at 11am, STA Church
Reconciliation will take place on Wed 4th Sep at 7pm, STA Church



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

*Ned Lindsay Blow
Aurora Anne Instance*

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. If you can make a donation of any items listed below, it would be greatly appreciated.

Requested Food Items: Canned tuna in oil, Cooking oil, Tea & coffee, Sweet biscuits, Honey, Jam, Basmati rice, Crushed tomatoes with ring pull, Cereal, Raw lentils, Salt, pepper & spices, Instant noodles (chicken flavour), Sweet corn kernels, Tinned fruit, Flour, Sugar.

Requested Household items: Deodorant, Cleaning products, Sanitary pads (not tampons), Body soap, Body wash, Toothpaste/toothbrush, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toilet rolls, Dish clothes, Toilet cleaner; Dishwashing liquid, Laundry powder, Nappies (Large sizes 5/6).

PS: Please no soup, baked beans or tinned spaghetti
For enquiries, email: foodbank@jrs.org.au & school@jrs.org.au
Please see our Notice Board for more information.