

|                |   |                                    |   |              |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Date:          | 21st Sept/22nd Sept 2024 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time |                                    |   |              |
| Mass Time:     | Acolyte   | First Reading & Responsorial Psalm | Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful | Music        |
| Vigil: 5:00 PM | Ian Miles   | Margaret Smith                     | Wilhelmina de Raadt                     | Chris Wilson |
| 8:00 AM        | Randall Noney   | Ros Comfort                        | Vicky Walker                            |              |
| 9:30 AM        | Richard Merchant  | Katherine Mahns                    | Phil Saville                            | Streeters    |

|                |   |                                    |   |        |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Date:          | 28th Sept/29th Sept 2024 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time |                                    |   |        |
| Mass Time:     | Acolyte   | First Reading & Responsorial Psalm | Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful | Music  |
| Vigil: 5:00 PM | Ed Junis  | Colleen Baker                      | Felix Kobus                             | No One |
| 8:00 AM        | Marek Grus  | Tanya Graham                       | Tom Horsfall                            |        |
| 9:30 AM        | Phillip Saville   | Steve Bishop                       | Anne Ellis                              | No One |

KID’S CORNER

### Those who serve others are greatest

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The disciples travelled to Jesus' home and they argued along the way. Help them get to Jesus so that he can help them settle their argument.

CAPERNAUM

The disciples argued about which of them was the greatest. Jesus told them they should concentrate on serving others and that would make them great. Tick the things that help to make someone a good person.

- ☒ SHARING
- ☐ TELLING LIES
- ☐ BEING NASTY
- ☐ BEING KIND
- ☐ TRYING YOUR BEST
- ☐ LAUGHING AT OTHERS
- ☐ HELPING OTHERS
- ☐ BEING HONEST
- ☐ BEING SELFISH

How can you be of service to others? Complete the following statements with words or pictures.

I can serve members of my family by...

I can serve my friends by...

I can serve people in my community by...

### St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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Phone: 02 4754 1052; Emergency ONLY: 0474 631 168

**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

*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.*

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Pay Attention By Fr Benjamin Earl OP

Today’s gospel passage describes two distinct moments in which Jesus speaks to his disciples. In the first part, they are making their way through Galilee, presumably on foot; in the second part they are sitting down in a house in Capernaum. It is interesting to see how the dynamic between Jesus and the disciples changes as the scene shifts.

When there is a group of people walking together it’s very difficult to have just one conversation. These days tour groups with guides have radio mics and earphone receivers, but not so in the first century. The disciples probably couldn’t hear Jesus too well as they walked through Galilee – which perhaps explains a certain perplexity I have.

Here’s the perplexity: today, Jesus is talking about his death. In other places in the gospels he talks about his death in a rather oblique way: for example, about the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies in order to produce much fruit (cf. John 12:24). This symbolic language might well be hard to understand. But today Jesus does not use symbolic language; rather he is talking very literally: ‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.’ It’s very clear. Perhaps it is difficult to *believe*, and it is certainly an alarming prospect. But the text of the gospel says that the disciples didn’t even understand what he said.

Maybe it is precisely because the disciples were on a hike. Maybe some of them had fallen a little behind and couldn’t hear very well. Others, we will discover, were chatting among themselves about which of them was the greatest, and weren’t really listening to Jesus. Maybe some thought they must have misheard, because what they thought he had said was somewhat strange.

And then we arrive at the second moment in the gospel. Jesus and the disciples have arrived at Capernaum and are in the house. Now the disciples can hear fine: they aren’t chatting like tourists, but they are like attentive students in a classroom paying attention to their teacher. There’s just one conversation, without distractions. The disciples’ earlier inattention becomes clear – even if they are too embarrassed to admit it. And Jesus’ words become clearer: the Son of Man, the firstborn of the Father, will ‘make himself last of all and servant of all’.

We too call ourselves disciples of Jesus, so what of us? We have to recognise that our Christian life is a journey. Even if the Lord speaks to us with clear words, we sometimes don’t hear him well, or we don’t listen to him well, or we are occupied with our own chatter as we plod along. Yes, we know that the Lord is calling us, but, given all the distractions, all too often we don’t understand exactly what it is he means. And instead of welcoming one of these little ones – the child, the poor, the sick, the refugee, the prisoner – we debate how great we are.

The day will come, though, when we must enter into the Lord’s presence, a place where it is no longer possible to indulge in idle chatter; our chatter, our injustices, our cruelty, and all our other sins of the past will be exposed, notwithstanding our embarrassment and our fear. Our shortcomings in responding to the divine call will become clear.

We don’t need to wait until the end of our lives to meet the Lord in his house. The Church – and indeed even the church building – is the Lord’s house and classroom. Here we can take a break from the journey of life. However great or reverend we might *think* we are, here it should be clear that we are simply sinners on a journey. Here we can – and we must – stop to confess our sins to the Lord, to listen to *his* words, and to receive *from him* the food for our journey.

And so, once the Mass is ended, we go forth in peace, with the wisdom that comes down from above, welcoming all the ‘little ones’ in love, and in welcoming them, welcoming Christ himself.





## Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

## First Reading [Wisdom 2:12, 17-20](#)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.*

The godless say to themselves,

'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us  
and opposes our way of life,  
reproaches us for our breaches of the law  
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.  
Let us see if what he says is true,  
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.  
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part  
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.  
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,  
and thus explore this gentleness of his  
and put his endurance to the proof.  
Let us condemn him to a shameful death  
since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm [Ps 53:3-6, 8. R. v.6](#)

(R.) The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayers;  
listen to the words of my mouth. (R.)
2. For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God. (R.)
3. But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good. (R.)

## Second Reading [James 3:16 – 4:3](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

*Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation [See 2 Thessalonians 2:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel [Mark 9:30-37](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Communion Antiphon [Psalm 118:4-5](#)

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



**Recently Deceased:** Russell Smith, Benjamin Smith and Ann Marie Keating

**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 which can be used to express your ongoing generosity and support. Thank you.



### STA PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:

Tuesday 1st October to Thursday 10th October except Friday 4th October and Friday 11th October. For any enquiries please call 0474 631 168 or send an email to: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)

**ORDERS FOR DAILY MASS BOOKS AND ORDO'S ARE BEING TAKEN NOW FOR 2025:** Payment **must be received** when ordering via credit card or direct transfer to our account. Final day to order is on Wednesday, 25th September 2024.

2025 Daily Mass Book - contains all texts for Sunday & weekday Mass at \$28.60 each

Ordo 2025 - a reference for liturgy planning at \$18.15 each

**GIVING ENVELOPES:** These are available for collection at the back of the church by the parents' room. They have been placed in alphabetical order so it is easier for you to find your new envelopes. If you would like to be part of the parish envelope giving, please speak to the office. Thank you and God bless.

**BISHOP VINCENT & FR PETER WILLIAMS:** On Sunday 6th Oct at 9.30am we are honoured to have Bishop Vincent and Fr Peter Williams VG celebrate Mass at our parish to bless our new Cross and Sanctuary and also to bless our HSC students. Please join us by making Bishop Vincent and Fr Peter Williams VG welcome to our parish.

**CALLING ALL YEAR 12 STUDENTS!** The annual HSC exams are just around the corner! We invite you to attend STA HSC Mass, where you'll join countless other students from across the Diocese in prayer for those undertaking their final exams. Mass will be held on the 6th Oct 2024 at 9:30 am. During the Mass, you will receive a blessing along with a small gift. Keep an eye on our parish bulletin in the coming weeks for more details.

**BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL:** Thank you for caring for our retired priests who have always cared for us. Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal raised \$940.00 to care for our retired priests and clergy in ill-health. Your generosity enables our Clergy Support Foundation to nurture our retired priests' physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing, and provide for daily living essentials and medical expenses for our ageing priests. Thank you.

**JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE FOOD DRIVE:** 21st/22nd Sept is STA Parish's Food Drive Week aiming to support refugees and asylum seekers in Western Sydney through the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). Kindly leave your donations at the back of the church. Thank you.

### BEWARE OF SNAKES

Snakes have been sighted in our gardens. Please take extra caution.

### DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA'S PASTORAL PLAN FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH 2024 – 2028:

The STA Parish Pastoral Council recently met and initiated a working document on how to involve our parish in the new Pastoral Plan. We would like for as many parishioners as possible to read this document. It is available to download on: [Behold-I-Am-With-You-Always-Pastoral-Plan-for-a-Synodal-Church-2024-2028-WEBv.pdf \(parracatholic.org\)](#). We have limited copies available at the back of the church. Our initial plan is to gather as much information as possible from you, our parish community on how we can grow our faith community in prayer, mission and formation. Therefore, the PPC would appreciate your feedback from this document so we can work together and prioritise what items have been identified as significant to Springwood Parish.



**GENTLE REMINDER:** Families who took **Sunflower seeds** to nurture are asked to look after it until **Sept 28th** when it can be planted near the triangular garden just outside the Church. This date will mark the conclusion of our formal acknowledgement of the Season of Creation this year.



**THE SEASON OF CREATION:** We can make a difference this week by refusing to buy fruit and vegetables which are pre-wrapped in plastic.

### FOOD ITEMS:

- Basmati Rice (1kg & 5kg)
- Cooking Oil
- Long Life milk
- Tinned Tuna in Oil (185g & 425g)
- Canned Red Kidney Beans (400g)
- Lentils (400g)
- Canned Coconut Milk & Condensed Milk (400ml)
- Biscuits & Muesli Bars
- Dry Chickpeas, Red & Yellow Split Lentils (1kg & 375g)

### ESSENTIALS:

- Nappies (large sizes)
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Sanitary Pads & Napkins
- Razors & Shaving Foam
- Deodorant (Male & Female)
- Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Dishwashing Detergent



Gift Vouchers also enable families to choose the items they need most.