

Date: 28th Sept/29th Sept 2024 Twenty-Sixth 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
Date: 5th Oct/6th Oct 2024 Twenty-Seventh 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	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Georgia Cook	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Mothers Prayers			

KID'S CORNER

Whoever is not against us is for us



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

One day the disciples saw a man working miracles in Jesus' name. Because he was not one of them, the disciples told him to stop. Use the words below to find out why Jesus did not want the disciples to stop the man.

No one who does a _____ of _____ in my _____ will say something _____ about me. Whoever is not _____ us is _____ us.



Jesus rewards those who do good things in his name.

I can help others in Jesus' name by...

Jesus rewards my good deeds by...

Jesus performed many miracles. Draw a picture about one of the miracles you have read about in the bible.



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

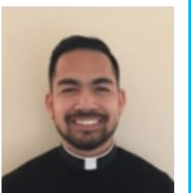
Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am
Weekday Mass: Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
Adoration: Monday - Saturday from 8:15 am - 9:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Every first Friday of the month 7:00 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Vigil 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.

Angelic Creatures



'In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

What do you think Our Lady saw when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her? What did he look like? What did he sound like? While the details of St. Gabriel's appearance and manner pale in comparison to the message of salvation the topic of angels and their function is quite intriguing. Our Christian understanding depicts angels as humanoid beings with wings - sacred scripture supports that with slight variations. Isaiah describes the Seraphim as a creature with six wings: 'with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.' Ezekiel describes the Cherubim as angels with four wings and four faces; and finally the Book of Revelation describes the Thrones as wheels that continue to spin covered in eyes. Regardless of their appearance angels are part and parcel of Christian Tradition. Unfortunately as of late the belief in angels and their significance has been reduced to mere myth; angels are understood as mythical creatures within Christian Tradition or beings we as humans transform to upon death. With this in mind I thought it necessary to give a brief description of angels, most especially Archangels, as September 29 is traditionally celebrated as the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Who are these beings and why are they significant to us?

What are angels? The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes them as 'A spiritual, personal, and immortal creature, with intelligence and free will, who glorifies God without ceasing and who serves God as a messenger of his saving plan.' The word Angel comes from the Greek Angelos which means 'messenger.' Both the Church's understanding and the original Greek highlight an angel's function: they are messengers of God who solely proclaim God's Will. This is evident in the Annunciation of John the Baptist and Our Lord, St. Raphael the Archangel visiting Tobias and his wife, and the angel revealing from Revelation proclaiming to St. John the Second Coming of Christ; angels fulfil God's will to draw humanity to divinity.

What about Archangels? How do they differ other ranks of angels? Our Patron St. Thomas Aquinas speaks of a hierarchy of angelic creatures which has since been adopted by the Church: angels, archangels, principalities, powers, virtues, dominions, thrones, cherubim and seraphim. As noted archangels are a higher rank of angel as, to put it simply, they convey an important message from God. The three archangels celebrated on September 29 all highlight an aspect of God. How? In Hebrew God is translated as 'El' - notice all three archangels end with 'El': Micha-el, Gabri-el, and Rapha-el. Michael is understood as 'He who is like God', Gabriel is 'the strength of God' and Raphael is 'the healing power of God.' When these archangels appear in Sacred Scripture they radiate an aspect of God inherent to their nature.

With all this in mind we ask our final question: why are angels significant to us? Angels are the first creatures created by God - they were given a choice at the beginning of time to either follow or reject God's plan for humanity. Those who remained with God were given the task to praise and worship God, and to assist humanity on their journey towards eternal beatitude. These angelic creatures, who have remained with God, are, as described by a brother priest, professional prayers; they chose God at the beginning of time and continue to assist in His divine plan. Why don't we ask their angelic assistance in life's journey? They were created to assist us towards Heaven. It can't hurt right? Sacred Scripture is littered with accounts of angelic assistance - I think it's time to invoke the incredible power of the angels in our pilgrim journey.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Chris



Second Reading [James 5:1-6](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

Your wealth is rotting.

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation [See John 17:17](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:

make us holy in the truth.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 118:49-50](#)

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope.

This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Entrance Antiphon [Daniel 3:31,29,30,43,42](#)

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading [Numbers 11:25-29](#)

A reading from the book of Numbers

Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9](#)

(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

- The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
- The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)
- So in them your servant finds instruction; great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me. (R.)
- From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin. (R.)



Recently Deceased: Kathryn Vaughan, 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

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.

GIVING ENVELOPES: We have a few boxes left! If you haven't got yours, these are available at the back of the church by the parents' room. If you would like to be part of the parish envelope giving, please speak to the office. Thank you and God bless.

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.

A Student's Prayer by St Thomas Aquinas

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

2024 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:

Wednesday 16th October at 7.00pm, STA Parish

Tuesday 5th November at 7.00pm, STA Parish

Children and Parent Sessions:

Saturday 9th November at 11.00am, STA Parish

Saturday 16th November at 11.00am, STA Parish (and practice)

First Holy Communion will take place on the 23rd Nov 2024,

Saturday, 5pm Vigil Mass at STA Church

Enrolment forms, payment arrangements and other information are available on our website, the back of the church or the parish office.

We warmly invite individuals to join our compassionate team of Eucharistic Ministers to the sick, an opportunity to bring love, joy & the presence of our faith to those unable to attend church due to health issues. Anyone interested pls ring the office 02 4754 1052.



HELP WANTED: SRE TEACHERS AND HELPERS

Volunteers are needed who will become a part of a vital ministry bringing the light of God's Word into diverse educational environments, offering children a foundation in Christian values and teachings. It is a role that requires patience, commitment and love for both teaching and the gospel. Anyone willing to invest their time in teaching public school students our faith please phone Wilhelmina de Raadt (Co-ordinator) on 02 4751 3319 or leave your name at the Parish office 02 4754 1052.

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.



THE SEASON OF CREATION: We can make a difference this week when we reduce our energy consumption by switching off lights, appliances and computers when not in use.

BAPTISM AND SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: We welcome into our Catholic Christian family *Arthur William Wilson*, who was baptised here and

Patrick Gunn, who recently received the Sacraments of Initiation.



HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY:

Your overwhelming support for the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) food drive has been a beacon of hope and solidarity. The essential items and vouchers you generously donated will provide much-needed relief to families and individuals in distress, offering them a glimpse of the Resurrection's promise in their lives. We are deeply grateful for your willingness to reach out and make a tangible difference.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: 27 OCTOBER

The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sun 27 Oct at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent. Please register your name, years of marriage and numbers attending by visiting parracatholic.org/weddingmass or phone 0488 000 211 by 20 October. Family and friends are welcome.

