

Date:	7th Sept/8th Sept 2024			Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
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
Date:	14th Sept/15th Sept 2024			Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Felix Kobus	Anne Maureen Scarff	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Jim Gresser	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	Phillip Saville	Peta Sparkes	Matt Aldous	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Children's Liturgy / Polish Group			

KID'S CORNER

Jesus cures a man who cannot hear or speak



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Finish the story of Jesus healing the deaf man by adding the missing words and pictures.

Jesus travelled to the land of Decapolis.

Draw Jesus walking along the road

A crowd of people \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus to heal a man who was \_\_\_\_\_ and could not speak properly.

Draw the deaf man

Jesus touched the man's \_\_\_\_\_ and tongue and said, 'Effatha!', meaning '\_\_\_\_\_ up'.

The man was very happy because now he could hear and talk! The people praised Jesus.

Draw the people celebrating and praising Jesus

Jesus did many good things, such as healing people and helping those in need. What are some good things you can do for others?

Follow the path into the ear to find out what Jesus said to the deaf man. Write down each letter in sequence as you pass them.

START → E T F H A A F FINISH !

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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**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



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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 Benedict XVI Angelus Address: 9 September 2012:  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At the centre of today's Gospel (Mk 7:31-37), there is a small but very important word. A word that — in its deepest sense — sums up Christ's whole message and all his work. The Evangelist Mark records this word in the very language of Jesus in which Jesus spoke it so that we may hear it even more vividly. The word is "Ephphatha", which means "be opened". Let us look at the context in which it is used. Jesus was crossing the region known as Decapolis, between the coast of Tyre and Sidon and Galilee, hence an area that was not Jewish. They brought him a deaf-mute to be healed — evidently Jesus' fame had spread that far. Jesus took him aside and touched his ears and his tongue and then, looking up to heaven, said with a deep sigh: "Ephphatha" which means "be opened". Then the man immediately began to hear and to speak plainly (cf. Mk 7:35).

This, therefore is the historical and literal meaning of this word: thanks to Jesus' intervention, the deaf-mute "was opened"; previously he had been closed, isolated, it had been very difficult for him to communicate. For him healing meant an "opening" to others and to the world, an opening which, starting with the organs of hearing and speech, involved his whole self and his life: he could at last communicate and thus relate in a new way.

However, we all know that a person's closure and isolation do not only depend on the sense organs. There is an inner closure that affects the person's inmost self, which the Bible calls the "heart". It is this that Jesus came to "open", to liberate, so as to enable us to live to the full our relationship with God and with others. This is why I said that this small word, "ephphatha — be opened", sums up in itself Christ's entire mission. He was made man so that man, rendered inwardly deaf and mute by sin, might be able to hear God's voice, the voice of Love that speaks to his heart, and thus in his turn learn to speak the language of love, to communicate with God and with others. For this reason the word and the action of the "ephphatha" have been integrated into the Rite of Baptism as one of the signs that explain its meaning: the priest, touching the mouth and ears of the newly baptized person says: "ephphatha", praying that he or she may soon hear the word of God and profess the faith. Through Baptism, the human person begins, so to speak, to breathe the Holy Spirit whom Jesus invoked from the Father with that deep sigh in order to heal the deaf-mute.

Let us now turn in prayer to Mary Most Holy, whose Nativity we celebrated yesterday. Because of her unique relationship with the Incarnate Word Mary was fully "open" to the Lord's love, in her heart she was constantly listening to his word. May her maternal intercession obtain that every day, in faith, we experience the miracle of the "ephphatha", to live in communion with God and with our brothers and sisters.



## Second Reading [James 2:1-5](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation [cf Matthew 4:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel [Mark 7:31-37](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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

## Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 41:2-3](#)

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

## Entrance Antiphon [Psalm 118:137, 124](#)

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

## First Reading [Isaiah 35:4-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.*

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm [Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1](#)

**(R.)** Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R.)**
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(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 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.

#### Parent Information Sessions:

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

#### Children and Parent Sessions:

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

*First Holy Communion will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### THE DIOCESAN HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES COMMUNITY

warmly invite you to the formation session: Loving your Neighbour in the Sick and Dying at St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood on the 21st Sept 2024 from 11am-1pm, followed by lunch. RSVP met@parracatholic.org by 09.09.2024. Enquiries to Michael.tan@parracatholic.org



**BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL:** 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 if we use household products, such as toilet paper made from recycled materials.

### DIOCESAN SEASON OF CREATION GATHERING: 14TH

**SEPTEMBER:** You are invited to a Diocesan Season of Creation gathering on Sat 14 Sept from 10am-4pm at Winbourne Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. Cost is \$50 for the Diocesan gathering only, or \$100 for the full Convocation (with days 1 and 2 online). Please visit tinyurl.com/soc-gathering24 for details or register for the Convocation by 10 September at caritas.org.au/soc-convocation.

**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

### 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 Wed, 25th Sept.

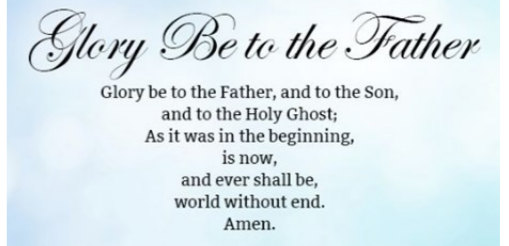


2025 Daily Mass Book - contains all texts for Sunday & weekday Mass \$28.60 each



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

Over the course of the last three days, 43 children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We congratulate these children and continue to pray for them as they continue on their journey of faith.



**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.

**STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP:** Annual Lunch at Springwood Golf club is on Fri 20th Sept at 12pm. For bookings contact Colleen Kime 0407 125 427 / Jo McKenzie on 0412 185 210 at least one week prior to the date. All parishioners are welcome. Members are reminded of the usual meeting beforehand after Mass in the Parish Centre.

**ST PADRE PIO FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS:** Everyone is invited to join Glenmore Park Parish for the parochial feast of St Padre Pio. The parish will be celebrating a 3 day Triduum: Thurs 19th Sept – 7pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass  
Fri 20th Sept – 7pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass  
Sat 21st Sept – 5.30pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Vigil Mass  
With the feast day celebrations on Sun 22nd Sept from 10am with a solemn procession with the relic, Mass, veneration and blessing by the relic. For enquiries, contact the parish office on (02) 4789 2232.



**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.