

Date:	12th Oct/13th Oct 2024 <i>Twenty-Eight 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	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Anne Ellis	Domhnall MacCormac	Streeters

Date:	19th Oct/20th Oct 2024 <i>Twenty-Ninth 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	Colleen Baker	Felix Kobus	No One
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tanya Graham	Tom Horsfall	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Matt Aldous	Peta Sparkes	Chris Wilson

KID'S CORNER

Follow the Lord

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

A man met Jesus on the road and asked him how we can have eternal life. Some of the things Jesus says we can do are written on the sign posts below. Fill in the missing words and pictures.

DO NOT

DO NOT TELL ABOUT OTHERS

GIVE MONEY TO THE POOR

RESPECT YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER

God tells us there are more important things in life than being rich or owning lots of possessions. Write or draw some things that are important in your life.

Complete the crossword - it uses picture as clues instead of words!

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



Support us!
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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: 10 October 2021: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Buongiorno! Today's Liturgy offers us the encounter between Jesus and a man who "had great possessions" (Mk 10:22), and who went down in history as "the rich young man" (cf. Mt 19:20-22). We do not know his name. The Gospel of Mark actually speaks of him as "a man", without mentioning his age or name, suggesting that we can all see ourselves in this man, as though in a mirror. His encounter with Jesus, in fact, allows us to test our faith. Reading this, I test myself on my faith.

The man begins with a question: "What must I do, to have eternal life?" (v. 17). Notice the verbs he uses: "must do" — "to have". Here is his religiosity: a duty, a doing so as to obtain; "I do something to get what I need". But this is a commercial relationship with God, a quid pro quo. Faith, on the other hand, is not a cold, mechanical ritual, a "must-do-obtain". It is a question of freedom and love. Faith is a question of freedom, it is a question of love. Here is a first test: what is faith for me? If it is mainly a duty or a bargaining chip, we are off track, because salvation is a gift and not a duty, it is free and cannot be bought. The first thing to do is to free ourselves of a commercial and mechanical faith, which insinuates the false image of an accountant God, a controlling God, not a father. And very often in life we experience this "commercial" relationship of faith: I do this, so that God will give me that.

Jesus, in the second step, helps this man by offering him the true face of God. Indeed, the text says, "Jesus looking upon him loved him" (v. 21): this is God! This is where faith is born and reborn: not from a duty, not from something that is to be done or paid, but from a gaze of love to be welcomed. In this way Christian life becomes beautiful, if it is not based on our abilities and our plans, but rather based on God's gaze. Is your faith, is my faith tired? Do you want to reinvigorate it? Look for God's gaze: sit in adoration, allow yourself to be forgiven in Confession, stand before the Crucified One. In short, let yourself be loved by him. This is the starting point of faith: letting oneself be loved by him, by he who is father.

After the question and the gaze there is — the third and final step — an invitation from Jesus, who says: "You lack one thing". What was that rich man lacking? Giving, gratuitousness. "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor" (v. 21). It is perhaps what we are missing too. We often do the bare minimum, whereas Jesus invites us to do the maximum possible. How many times are we satisfied with doing our duties — the precepts, a few prayers, and many things like that — whereas God, who gives us life, asks us for leaps of life! In today's Gospel we can see this passage from duty to giving, clearly; Jesus begins by recalling the Commandments: "Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal...", and so on (v. 19) and arrives at a positive proposal: "Go, sell, give, follow me!" (cf. v. 21). Faith cannot be limited to [a series of] "no", because Christian life is a "yes" a "yes" of love.

Dear brothers and sisters, a faith without giving, a faith without gratuitousness is an incomplete faith. It is a weak faith, a faith that is ill. We could compare it to rich and nourishing food that nonetheless lacks flavour, or a more or less well-played game, but without a goal: no, it isn't good, it lacks "salt". A faith without giving, without gratuitousness, without works of charity, makes us sad in the end: just like that man who returned home "sorrowful" with a fallen countenance, even though he had been looked upon with love by Jesus in person. Today we can ask ourselves: "At what point is my faith? Do I experience it as something mechanical, like a relationship of duty or interest with God? Do I remember to nourish it by letting myself be looked at and loved by Jesus"? Letting oneself be gazed at and loved by Jesus; letting Jesus look at us, love us. "And, attracted by him, do I respond freely, with generosity, with all my heart?"

May the Virgin Mary, who said a total "yes" to God, a "yes" without "but" — it is not easy to say "yes" without "but": Our Lady did just that, a "yes" without a "but" — let us savour the beauty of making life a gift.



Second Reading [Hebrews 4:12-13](#)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 5:3](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 10:17-30](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 33:11](#)

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Entrance Antiphon [Psalm 129:3-4](#)

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

First Reading [Wisdom 7:7-11](#)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 89:12-17. R. v.14](#)

(R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!

1. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger forever? Show pity to your servants. (R.)
2. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune. (R.)
3. Show forth your work to your servants; let your glory shine on their children. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. (R.)



Recently Deceased: Mario Charles Mifsud, Odette Harb

Sick: John Fisher, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, 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
A reminder that the First Parent Information Session starts this coming Wednesday 16th October at 7.00pm, STA Parish
And the second session is on Tues 5th Nov at 7.00pm, STA Parish
Children and Parent Sessions:



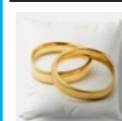
Saturday 9th November at 11.00am, STA Parish
Saturday 16th November at 11.00am, STA Parish
(and practice)

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.

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.

WINBOURNE THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS REFLECTION DAY: 19 OCTOBER

The Winbourne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, is holding a reflection day on 'The Spirituality of *The Lord of the Rings*' on Sat 19 October from 9.30am to 3pm. JRR Tolkien's deep Catholic spirituality is evident throughout the trilogy, although neither God nor Church are mentioned. Cost is \$30 per person. BYO lunch. For more information or to book, contact (02) 4773 5555 or email info@winbourne.org

ROUSE HILL PARISH CAR BOOT SALE: 19 OCTOBER

Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, is having a Car Boot Sale on Saturday, 19 October between 10am to 3pm on the church grounds. All are welcome to join in with our Parish community, sell items that you no longer want, or you may even pick up a bargain! Spaces to hire are limited. Cost is \$100 for a double car space. If you wish to reserve a space, please email parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au



GREAT SAINTS OF ITALY 2024 OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE

with Fr Chris del Rosario starts on the 21st Oct 2024.

Please help us welcome Fr Jack Elkazzi, Fr Paul Roberts, Fr Jobi Payyappilly and Fr Sheldon Burke, who will celebrate the Masses.

Mass Schedule is available on the Parish Notice Board.

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 this Sunday the 13th October 2024 at 9:30 am. During the Mass, you will receive a blessing along with a small gift.

Prayer for Our Students Taking HSC Exams

Almighty Father, as our students embark on their HSC exams, grant them wisdom to understand, retain, and recall the knowledge they have acquired. May Your light guide them through the challenges they face.

Bless these students with calm minds and focused hearts. Help them approach their exams with confidence, knowing that with Your strength, all things are possible.

Instil in these students a spirit of perseverance and resilience. May they overcome any anxiety or fear, trusting in Your plan for their success.

We ask these through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

UPCOMING MASSES in our CHURCH

"May Perpetual light shine upon them."

Mass Schedules: All Saints' Day, 1st November Friday 9:30am
All Souls' Day, 2nd November Saturday 9:30am

November is a time where the Church remembers all those who have died, specifically those souls in Purgatory, waiting for the day when they will be joyfully welcomed into eternal bliss with God and all the Saints.

November 1 is All Saints Day, a tribute to all saints, while November 2 is All Souls Day, dedicated to praying for those who have died. During this time, we continue to pray for those who have gone before us in faith and that they will be embraced by God.

If you would like to place the name of your loved one into the **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**, please print their name clearly on to an envelope and place into the collection box at the back of the church.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We invite children aged 4-12 to attend our children's liturgy next Sunday 20th Oct at 9:30am Mass. They are called forward & sent with a blessing over to our parish room for a Gospel lesson. The children will return to their families in church after the Creed.



VOTIVE CANDLES are candles that we light in the intercession usually for a particular intention. The idea of the votive candle is that we as human beings in the world, cannot stay in the church and pray all day long even though we may want to. And so we do light a votive candle as a kind of statement and offering and saying, "Lord I cannot offer my time because I have other duties but what I can do is offer this candle and may it burn in Your presence as a symbol of how I desire to be in Your presence praying and being with You."



CATHOLIC CARE ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION - 15 October:

Are you concerned about online scams and cyber threats? Join us to learn how to safeguard your personal information. Our experts will share essential tips and effective strategies to help you navigate the digital world safely. Enjoy complimentary morning tea and lunch while you learn! Registrations are essential, contact Rita Hakkoum on 0477 952 024.