

Date:	9th Nov/10th Nov 2024		Thirty-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	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Felix Kobus	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Kim Crawford	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Matt Aldous	Peta Sparkes	Streeters

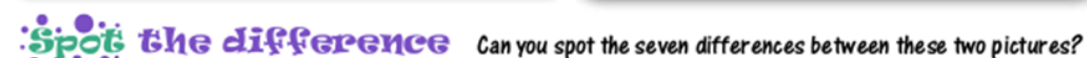
Date:	16th Nov/17th Nov 2024		Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Margaret Smith	Anne Maureen Scarff	No One
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tom Horsfall	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Moring Tea:	Parish Choir			

KID'S CORNER



Jesus praised the widow for her generosity because she gave everything she had even though she was poor. What are some ways we can be generous like the poor widow?

Jesus could see past the outward appearance of people and into their hearts. He could see the good inside people who were shunned and despised in his society. Draw a picture of another occasion when Jesus helped or acknowledged someone who was considered a lesser person.



Mk 12:41-44

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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.

Pope Benedict XVI Angelus Address: 11 November 2012: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Dear Brothers and Sisters,


The Liturgy of the Word this Sunday gives us two widows as models of faith. They are presented in parallel: one in the First Book of Kings (17:10-16) and the other in the Gospel of Mark (12:41-44). Both these women are very poor and it is precisely this condition that speaks of their great faith in God. The first appears in the series of narratives about the Prophet Elijah. In a time of famine, he receives an order from the Lord to go to pagan territory near Sidon, outside Israel. There he meets a widow and asks her for water to drink and a little bread. The woman replies that there is only a handful of flour and a drop of oil, but, since the Prophet insists and promises her that, if she listens to him, flour and oil will not be wanting; she listens and is rewarded.

The second widow in the Gospel is noticed by Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, to be precise at the treasury, where men and women are giving alms. Jesus sees this woman throwing two coins into the treasury; he then calls his disciples and explains that her contribution is greater than that of the rich, because, while they gave of their plenty, the widow put in "everything she had, her whole living" (Mk 12:44).

From these two biblical passages, wisely juxtaposed, one can learn a valuable lesson about the faith. It appears as an interior attitude of he who bases his life on God, on the Word, and trusts totally in him. Being a widow in antiquity was in itself a condition of grave need. This is why in the Bible widows and orphans were people whom God cared for in a special way: they have lost their earthly support but God remains their Spouse, their Parent.

Yet, Scripture says that the objective state of need, in this case being a widow, does not suffice: God always asks for our free adherence to faith, that it is expressed in love for him and for our neighbour. No one is so poor that he cannot give something. And, in fact, both of these widows from today demonstrate their faith by carrying out an act of charity: one for the Prophet and the other by almsgiving. Thus they attest to the inseparable unity between faith and love, as between love of God and love of one's neighbour — as the Gospel of last Sunday reminded us. Pope St Leo the Great, whose memory we celebrated yesterday, affirmed this: "On the scales of divine justice the quantity of gifts is not weighed, but the weight of hearts. The widow deposited in the Temple treasury two small coins and by doing so surpassed the gifts of all the rich. No gesture of goodness is meaningless before God, no mercy is left barren" (Sermo de jejuniis dec. mens., 90, 3).

The Virgin Mary is the perfect example of someone who gives her whole self by trusting in God; with this faith she proclaims her fiat to the Angel and accepts the Will of Lord. May Mary help each one of us too, during this Year of Faith, to strengthen our faith in God and in his Word.



Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 87:3

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading

1 Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, ‘Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.’ She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. ‘Please’ he said, ‘bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.’ ‘As the Lord your God lives’, she replied, ‘I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.’ But Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

“Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth.”

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2

(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. It is 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.)

Second Reading

Hebrews 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

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 12:38-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, ‘Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.’

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.’


The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 22:1-2

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.



Sick: Colleen Baker, John Fisher, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, 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.





Come and join us on **Sunday 1st December after the 9:30am Mass** for our Parish Community Meeting. Fr Chris will update us on our current financial status along with other matters regarding our parish. Everyone is welcome!

Delicious BBQ follows!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE RENEWAL CYCLE 2 MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2025:

To our valuable volunteers and members of different ministries who had already taken up the Initial Cycle 1 (Modules 1-3) Training and are due for renewal next year, please remember this date. The Cycle 2 training will include Modules 4-5 and will run for 3 hours plus 1 hour break.

NOVEMBER—REMEMBERING THE DEAD:

November is the month that we remember family and friends that have gone before us in faith. If you would like to place a name into the **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**, please use the November Mass Offering envelopes situated at the back of the church.

Remembrance Day is one of the most important days in our commemorative calendar. It is a day when we acknowledge those who died while serving in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Remembrance Day is held on the **11 November** each year. This is the anniversary of the Armistice that ended fighting with Germany in World War I. People in Australia and many other countries observe one minute’s silence at the **11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month** because that is when the Armistice came into effect. It is a time to honour our service personnel who died in service of Australia.

Catholic Women’s League Deceased Members Annual Mass: The STA Ladies Fellowship (previously Catholic’s Women’s League) will be holding a Mass for the Catholic Women’s League Deceased Members on **Friday 15th November 9.30am**. Everyone is welcome.

Annual Mass for Deceased Clergy: 19 November: The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to the annual Mass for our Deceased Clergy on Tuesday **19 November** at 9.00am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in St Marys Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY:

We invite children aged 4-12 to attend our children’s liturgy next **Sunday 17th Nov** 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 after the Creed.

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP’S FINAL MEETING

for the year will be on Friday **15th November** at the Parish Centre after the morning Mass.

Members of the Springwood St. Vincent de Paul conference will be inviting parishioners to contribute to their Christmas Hamper Appeal, by offering to supply either a hamper or cash so we can purchase fruit and vegetable or fresh food vouchers, at all Masses on the weekends of **9th /10th and 16th /17th November**. Donations towards this appeal will be accepted by conference members on the weekend of **14th /15th December**. All cash donations placed in the Poor Box, near the Sacred Heart of Jesus’ statue, from 9th November will go towards supporting the 45 local families we are supplying with hampers this Christmas.

The Parish Choir will present on **Sunday 22nd December at 4:30pm** a ‘Christmas Evening’ with carols, readings and reflections. Families are invited to attend and children are welcome to dress up as angels or shepherds from the nativity scene. At the conclusion of this wonderful community gathering, we will have a BBQ set up along with tea/coffee/ drinks available for purchase. We are hoping to make this an annual event.

STA CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

Sun 22 Dec:	4.30pm Christmas Evening (Carols/Readings/Reflections/BBQ)
Mon 23 Dec:	9.30am Mass
Tues 24 Dec:	9.30am Mass 5.00pm Children’s Mass 12.00am Midnight Mass
Wed 25 Dec:	8.00am Christmas Morning Mass 9.30am Christmas Morning Mass
Thurs 26 Dec:	9.30am Mass
Fri 27 Dec:	9.30am Mass
Sat 28 Dec:	9.30am Mass 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 29 Dec:	8.00am and 9.30am