

Date:	18th Jan/19th Jan 2025		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	Anne Maureen Scarff	Felix Kobus	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Jim Gresser	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Matt Aldous	Peta Sparkes	Chris Wilson
Date:	25th Jan/26th Jan 2025		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		Chis Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Mary Morris	Vicky Walker	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Katherine Mahns	Steve Bishop	Streeters

KID'S CORNER



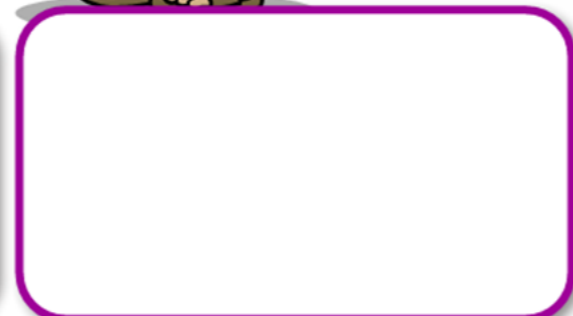
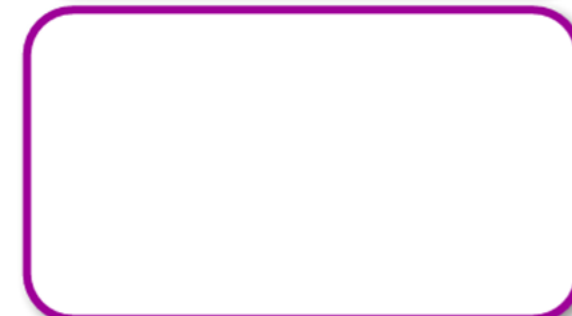
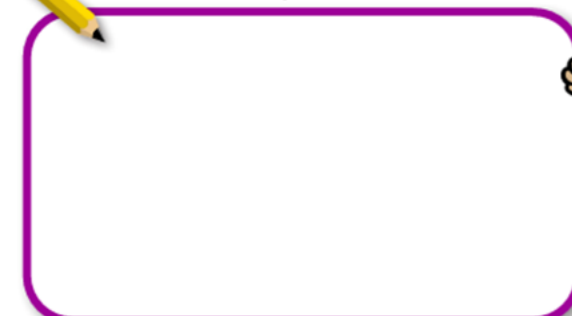
When the wine ran out at a wedding at Cana, Jesus performed his first miracle by turning the water in six stone jars into wine. After seeing this, Jesus' disciples put all their faith in him. Write down some of the ways that you show your faith in God.



Find the stream of water that turns into wine.



After the wedding at Cana, Jesus performed many more miracles. Draw Jesus performing three other miracles.



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.

Gospel Reflection by Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel of today's liturgy recounts the episode of the wedding at Cana, where Jesus transformed water into wine for the joy of the newlyweds. And the Gospel ends: "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him" (Jn 2:11). We notice that the evangelist John does not speak of a miracle, that is, of a powerful and extraordinary deed that causes wonder. He writes that a *sign* took place at Cana, that sparked the faith of his disciples. We can, then, ask ourselves: What is a "sign" according to the Gospel?

A sign is a clue that reveals God's love, that does not call attention to the power of the action, but to the love that caused it. It teaches us something about God's love that is always near, tender and compassionate. The first sign took place when a couple faced a difficulty on the most important day of their lives. Right in the middle of the feast, an essential element was missing, the wine, and their joy ran the risk of being dampened among the criticism and dissatisfaction of the guests. Just imagine how a wedding feast could continue only with water! It is terrible! What a bad impression the newlyweds would make.

It is Our Lady who became aware of the problem and discretely brought it to Jesus' attention. And he intervened without fanfare, almost without being noticed. Everything took place with discretion, everything took place "behind the scenes" — Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water, which became wine. This is how God acts: with closeness and with discretion. Jesus' disciples understood this: they saw that, thanks to him, the wedding banquet became even more beautiful. And they also saw the way Jesus acted — the way he served in hiddenness. This is how Jesus is — he helps us, he serves us in hiddenness, in that moment, so much so that it was the bridegroom who was complimented for the good wine. No one noticed, only the servants. This is how the seed of faith began to develop within them — that is, they believed that God, God's love, was present in Jesus.

It is beautiful to think that the first sign Jesus accomplished was not an extraordinary healing or a miracle in the temple of Jerusalem, but a gesture that responded to a simple and concrete need of common people, a domestic gesture. Let us put it this way — a miracle done on "tip toes", discretely, silently. He is ready to help us, to lift us up again. And then, if we are attentive to these "signs", we will be conquered by his love and we will become his disciples.

But there is another distinctive characteristic about the sign at Cana. Generally, the wine provided at the end of the feast was the one that was less good — this is still done today. At that point, people do not distinguish as well whether it is good wine or wine that has been watered down a little. Jesus, instead, makes sure that the feast ends with *the best wine*. Symbolically, this tells us that God wants what is better for us, he wants us to be happy. He does not set limits and he does not ask us for interest. There is no place for ulterior motives or demands placed on the newlyweds, in Jesus' sign. No, the joy Jesus brought to their hearts was complete and disinterested joy. It was not "watered down joy"!

I suggest an exercise that can be very good for us. Today, let us try to rummage through our memories, looking for *signs* that the Lord accomplished in my life. Let each of us say: what are the signs the Lord accomplished in my life? What are the hints of his presence, the signs that he did to show us that he loves us? Let us think about that difficult moment in which God let me experience his love... And let us ask ourselves: with which discrete and loving signs did he let me feel his tenderness? When did I feel the Lord nearer? When did I feel his tenderness and his compassion? Every one of us has these moments in our personal history. Let us go in search of these signs, let us remember them. How did I discover his closeness? How did great joy remain in my heart? Let us relive the moments in which we experienced his presence and Mary's intercession. May she, the Mother who is always attentive as at Cana, help us treasure the signs of God's presence in our lives.



Entrance Antiphon [Psalm 65:4](#)

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading [Isaiah 62:1-5](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,

a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 95:1-3, 7-10, R. v.3](#)

(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

One and the same Spirit distributes different gifts as he chooses.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

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 [John 2:1-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 22:5](#)

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



Sick: Colleen Baker, 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.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS FEAST FUNDRAISING EVENT:

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is excited to announce our upcoming Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas & Australia Day Fundraising Event, taking place on **Sunday, 26th of January**. This special day will feature fun activities for children and families alike.



To help celebrate the occasion, we invite all to a Parish BBQ after the 9:30am Mass. Enjoy Sausage Combo Treat for \$4 only or if it is just a Sausage Sandwich \$2.50 and drinks for \$1.50 each.

Raffle tickets will also be available on the day for purchase so get your spare gold coins ready! We take this opportunity to thank our generous parishioners for contributing prizes for our raffle.



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family

Sylvia Lillian Day

who was recently baptised here

HELP REQUIRED: The leaves are beginning to gather up in our carpark around the concrete edges, which causes blockages in our drains and also slippery pathways. The parish office is beginning to sweep, gather and place into our bins but if anyone has time on their hands, please take on a corner and sweep the leaves up. These can be placed into the garden beds or our parish bins. Any help would be sincerely appreciated. Thank you.



MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN: is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Secretary to join the parish team on a part time basis, working from the Parish Offices at St Patrick's Church, 51-19 Allawah Street, Blacktown. This position is for 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday, with working hours from 9am to 4pm. This role offers a unique opportunity to support the mission of the Church in Western Sydney. For job description and details, please email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

FR CHRIS' ANNUAL LEAVE: Fr Chris will be away on leave from **Monday 20th January up to Sunday 2nd February**. He will be back for Mass on **Monday 3rd February 2025**.

Please see our Parish Notice Board or STA Parish Website for Mass schedule during this period.

FEAST DAY OF ST THOMAS AQUINAS: On the **26th of January** we will celebrate the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas and Australia Day. Details of the celebration are to follow.

DIOCESAN DISCERNMENT PLAN MEETINGS: As we continue to be involved in the Pastoral Plan, Discernment Plan Meetings are scheduled on the following dates: 1.) **1st February 2025, Saturday at 6pm** and 2.) **9th February 2025, Sunday at 10:30am**. Estimated run time: 1.5 hours. All are invited to attend either one of the above-mentioned dates.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS / Acolytes, Readers, Musicians: on **Saturday 8 February 2025 from 10.15am**. EVERYONE who did their Safeguarding training two years ago is required to renew these modules. Please contact the parish office via email to confirm your attendance. If you do not attend this training you will NOT BE ABLE to volunteer in the parish as per the Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding requirements.

SCRAP METAL FREE: We have a dismantled metal shed next to the parish office to give away. Please drive up to the parish office and take away (as soon as possible would be great).



St Thomas Aquinas Parish

2025 Confirmation Sacramental Program

Parent ONLY Sessions:

Wednesday, 30th April at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Wednesday 7th May at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Children and Parent Sessions:

Saturday 17th May at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday 24th May at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church (and practice)

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 28th May at 6:30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church



TO ALL STA CHURCH CLEANERS: Cleaning Schedule is now available for pick up at the back of the church. We are beyond grateful for the tremendous time and hard work you always offer in keeping our church clean. God bless you and your families.

KEEP THEM COMING: It is never too late! PPC still accepts your generous donation for our Parish Raffle. Donations of any non-perishable items would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

SAPIENTIA RETREAT: Single adults, ages 18-30, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW, from 7-9 February 2025. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fun and fellowship. Fee: \$300 per person. Please complete the google form (<https://forms.gle/hHyBFDjN3A5pexXJA>) to register your intention. Registrations close 31 January.