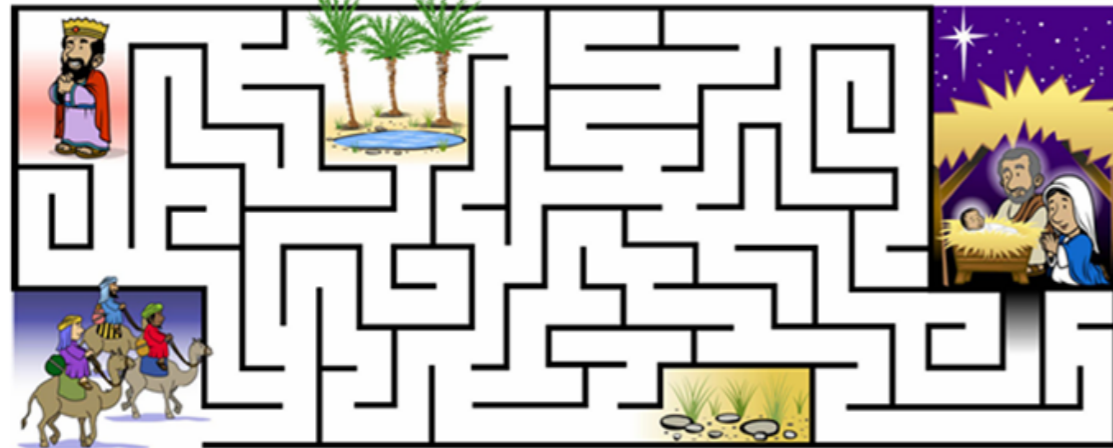


Date:	4th Jan/5th Jan 2025		<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Margaret Smith	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Tanya Graham	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Date:	11th Jan/12th Jan 2025		<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tamsyn Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tom Horsfall	Ros Comfort	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Ellis	Peta Sparkes	Streeters

KID'S CORNER



Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!



The wise men had to search for Jesus. Where are some of the places we can find Jesus in our world today?



St Thomas Aquinas Parish

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777
 PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777
 Phone: 02 4754 1052; *Emergency ONLY:* 0474 631 168



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!
Scan to donate

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.

The Epiphany Blessing

Introduction:
 The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk is first blessed in the parish church at Masses for Epiphany and then people are incited to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door.

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names of the Three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this Abode)

House Blessing:
 The Leader says:
 Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here.
 R Amen.

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11:
 The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage.

The Gospel of the Lord.
 R Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Leader says:
 The Three Wise Men Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar followed the light of the star to find Jesus, the Son of God, who came to live among us two thousand and twenty five years ago. May Christ bless our home today and remain with us throughout the year.
The lintel of the front door is then marked:

20 C+M+B 25

All say:
 Let us pray. God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome. May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. Through Christ our Lord.
 R Amen.

Leader says:
 Let us bless the Lord.
 R Thanks be to God.
 In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
 R Amen.

At the Vigil Mass**Entrance Antiphon** Cf Baruch 5:5

Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East
and see your children gathered from the rising to the
setting of the sun.

At the Mass during the Day**Entrance Antiphon** Cf Malachi 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see

v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

- O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
- In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
- For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same
inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by
God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a
revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery.
This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit
to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any
men in past generations; it means that pagans now share
the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body,
and that the same promise has been made to them, in
Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the King.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during
the reign of King Herod, some wise men came
to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the
Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have
come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he
was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He
called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the
people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be
born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is
what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders
of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately.
He asked them the exact date on which the star had
appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find
out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found
him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him
homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they
set out. And there in front of them was the star they had
seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place
where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with
delight, and going into the house they saw the child with
his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him
homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him
gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were
warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned
to their own country by a different way.

At the Vigil Mass**Communion Antiphon** Cf Revelation 21:23

The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem,
and the nations will walk by its light.

At the Mass during the Day**Communion Antiphon** Cf Matthew 2:2

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



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.



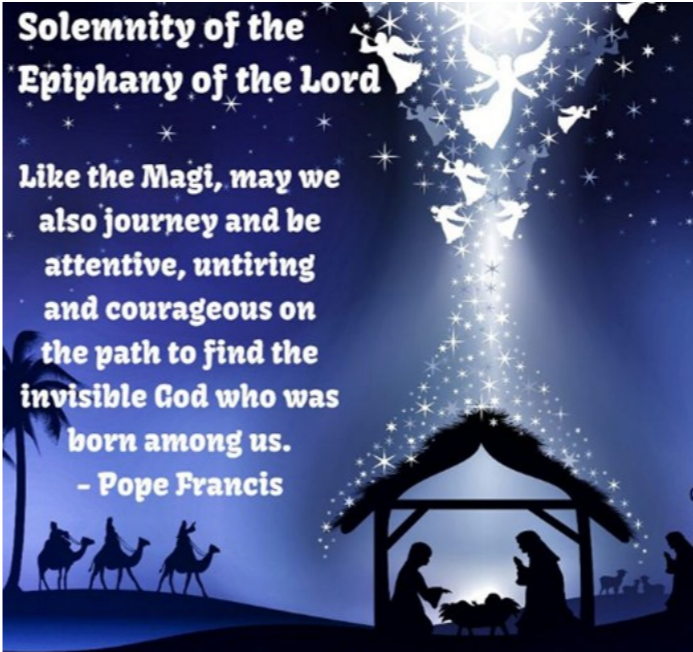
To make the event a success, we kindly ask for your support in
contributing prizes for our raffle. Donations of any non-perishable
items would be greatly appreciated.

If you're able to help, please drop off your donation at the Parish
Office, or let any members of PPC know after mass. Thank you in
advance for your generosity, and warm regards from the PPC!

Our next PPC Meeting will be held on Wed 12th Feb 2025 at 7pm.
Please email to springwoodparishpc@gmail.com any item you may
wish to include in the agenda. Our current members are Fr Chris del
Rosario, Brandon Wilson-Scott (Chairman), Maria de Leon
(Secretary), Marek Grus, Roger Comfort, Philip Saville, Andrew
Wilson, Anne Edwards and Chris Howard (BM Deanery
Representative).

**Solemnity of the
Epiphany of the Lord**

**Like the Magi, may we
also journey and be
attentive, untiring
and courageous on
the path to find the
invisible God who was
born among us.
- Pope Francis**



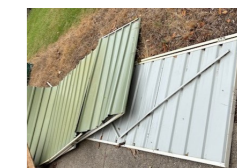
PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE: STA Parish Office will be
closed for the holidays from **Wednesday 25th December 2024** and
will reopen on **Tuesday 14th January 2025**. Masses and Confessions
will continue as normal during this period.

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 after
the 5pm Mass and 2.) 9th February 2025, Sunday after the 9:30 am
Mass. Estimated run time: 1.5 hours. All are invited to attend.

**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).

**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**

2025 Reconciliation Sacramental Program**Parent Information Sessions:**

Tuesday 5th August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Tuesday 12th August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Children and Parent Information Sessions:

Saturday 23rd Aug at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday 30th Aug at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church (**and practice**)
**Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 3rd September at
6.30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church**

2025 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program**Parent Information Sessions:**

Tuesday 21st October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Tuesday 28th October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Children and Parent Sessions:

Saturday 8th Nov at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Saturday 15th Nov at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish (**and practice**)
**First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday,
5pm Vigil Mass, Saturday 22nd November 2025,
St Thomas Aquinas Church**

Prayer by St Thomas Aquinas

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance
in waiting for you, and a hope of finally
embracing you. Amen.