


Date:	1st Feb/2nd Feb 2025		The Presentation of the Lord	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Anne Maureen Scarff	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Georgia Cook	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	STA Ladies Fellowship			

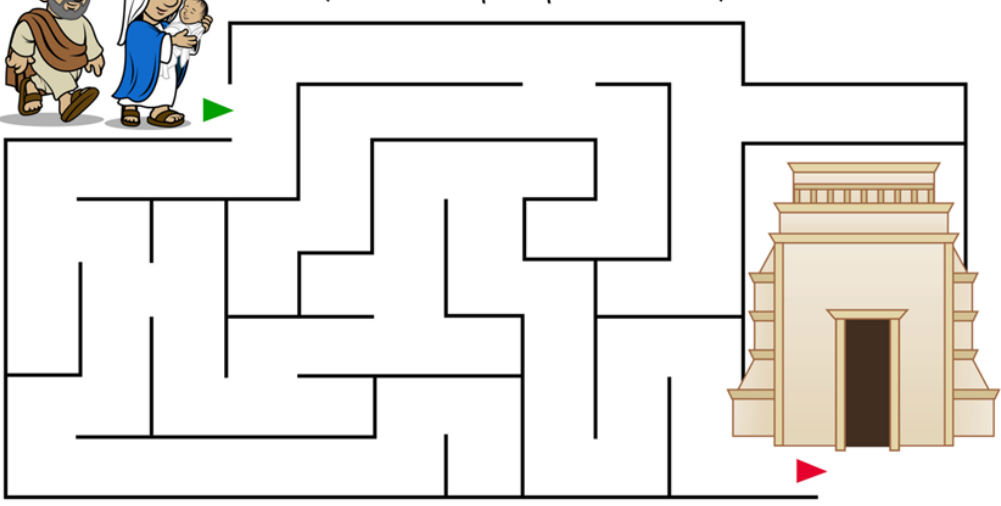
Date:	8th Feb/9th Feb 2025		Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tom Horsfall	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Domhnall MacCormac	Streeters

KID'S CORNER

What are some of the things families do after they have a baby?



Mary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Jerusalem to take baby Jesus to the temple. Help them find their way.



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.

Sunday's Gospel Reflection by Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Good Morning,

Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord: when the infant Jesus was presented in the Temple by the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph. Today is also World Day of Consecrated Life which recalls the great treasure in the Church of those who follow the Lord assiduously, by professing the evangelical counsels.

The Gospel (cf. Lk 2:22-40) narrates that 40 days after his birth, Jesus' parents took their child to Jerusalem to consecrate him to God, as prescribed by Jewish Law. And as it describes a rite prescribed by tradition, this event brings to our attention the behaviour of some of the protagonists. They are caught at the very moment they experience the encounter with the Lord in the place where he makes himself present and close to mankind. They are Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna who are examples of welcome and offering as they offered their own lives to God. These four were not the same. They were all different but they all sought God and allowed themselves to be guided by the Lord.

The evangelist Luke describes all four of them in a twofold attitude: the attitude of movement and the attitude of wonder.

The first attitude is movement. Mary and Joseph head towards Jerusalem: meanwhile, moved by the Spirit, Simeon goes to the Temple, while Anna tirelessly serves God day and night. In this way the four protagonists of the Gospel passage show us that Christian life requires dynamism, and it requires a willingness to walk, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide one. Immobility suits neither Christian witness nor the Church's mission. The world needs Christians who allow themselves to be moved, who do not tire of walking on life's streets, to bring the comforting Word of Jesus to everyone. Every baptised person has received the vocation to proclaim — to proclaim something, to proclaim Jesus — the vocation and mission to evangelise: to proclaim Jesus! Parishes and various ecclesial communities are called to foster the commitment of young people, families and the elderly so that everyone can have a Christian experience, living the Church's life and mission as protagonists.

The second attitude with which Saint Luke presents the four protagonists in the narrative is wonder. Mary and Joseph: "marvelled at what was said about him" (v. 33). Wonder is also an explicit reaction of the aged Simeon, who sees with his own eyes in the Child Jesus the redemption of God for his people: that redemption which he had awaited for years. And the same is true of Anna who "gave thanks to God" (v. 38) and went about pointing Jesus out to the people. She was a saintly chatterbox. She talked well, she talked of good, not bad things. She spoke, she announced: a saint who went from one woman to the next, making them see Jesus. These figures of believers were wrapped in wonder because they allowed themselves to be captivated by and involved in the events that occurred right before their eyes. The ability to be amazed at things around us promotes religious experience and makes the encounter with the Lord more fruitful. On the contrary, the inability to marvel makes us indifferent and widens the gap between the journey of faith and daily life.

Brothers and sisters, always be on the move and open to wonder!

May the Virgin Mary help us to contemplate every day in Jesus, God's gift to us, and to allow ourselves to be engaged by him in the movement of the gift with joyful wonder so that our whole life may become a praise to God in the service to our brothers and sisters.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 47:10-11

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10

(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

- O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
- Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. (R.)
- O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
- Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. (R.)

Second Reading Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He had to be made like us in all things.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

My eyes have seen your saving power.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Luke 2:30-31

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.



Recently Deceased: Cheryl Kirby, Patricia Groarke, Jean Munn

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.



Everyone's participation in the Diocesan Plan is of paramount importance. Now that the scheduled meetings are coming soon (**1st Feb Saturday 6pm and 9th Feb Sunday 10:30am**), kindly use the link below to express your interest.

<https://forms.gle/QPqyvpiViqyJaPCC8>

We need to know the number of attendees. Please note you only need to attend one of the two meetings, which will run for approximately 1.5 hours.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS IN OUR PUBLIC

SCHOOLS A big "THANK YOU" to John O'Carrigan, who so generously has given us 10 years as a scripture teacher. Lately, he taught in 3 primary schools, doing 5/6 classes and Winmalee high school year 7. He is now unable to teach and we ask 3-4 people to come forward, to teach 3/4 and 5/6 at Winmalee public and year 7 at Winmalee high on Wednesdays. Also to teach 5/6 at Faulconbridge and Springwood on Thursdays. We hope to fill these classes, as otherwise we may have to cancel classes.

Teaching material and training will be provided. The new year 7-12 training, which will be conducted initially by the Broken Bay team, will be on **Tues 11 February** at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown. 10-3, morning tea and lunch provided. Please also, keep praying for our SRE (Special Religious Educators). Please contact Wilhelmina de Raadt (SRE Coordinator) on 4751 3319 asap.

TO OUR KINDY STUDENTS AND UP TO THOSE IN YEAR 12 AND

PARENTS: May this school year be a time of learning, growth, and self-improvement. Wishing you a school year filled with new friendships, exciting challenges, and unforgettable experiences. May this school year be your chance to shine, to make a difference, and to leave your mark on the world.



CATENIANS

Nepean Catenian Group (information) takes pleasure in inviting Men of the Blue Mountains Parishes to join us for meeting and dinner at Nepean Rowing Club, **6:45pm, Tuesday 11th February.** Enquiries and RSVP by 6th Feb to Alan Skofic Phone: 0435 139 106

Connect with Catenians

Catholic men's association: faith-based friendships

CELEBRATING WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Mass will be held on **Tuesday 11th February at 11am**, St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown. At the conclusion of Mass, a special blessing will be given for all carers and those who minister to the sick. Refreshments available following Mass. For catering purposes RSVP ofw@parracatholic.org / 0460 037 795

OFFICE CLOSURE: Our Parish office will be closed in the morning only of **Wednesday 5th February**. Parish staff is attending an SOI meeting to be held in Blacktown.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION is on **Friday 7th February at 7pm**. All are welcome to attend.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS /

Acolytes, Readers, Musicians: on **Saturday 8 Feb 2025 from 10.15am**. Everyone who did their Safeguarding training two years ago are required to renew these modules. If you are 18 yrs of age or older and are new to volunteering, Cycle 1 is available. 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.

Family and friends of Cheryl Kirby are invited to attend a Funeral Mass offered at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church on **Tuesday 11th February, 10.30am**.

Gold called your name so softly,
That only you could hear
And no one heard the footsteps,
Of angels drawing near.
The golden gates stood open,
God saw you needed rest
His garden must be beautiful,
He only takes the best.



STA SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025: Please see the parish notice board or website for this year's dates. First sacrament will be Confirmation beginning on **Wednesday 30th April at 7pm**.



ON BEHALF OF THE PPC: On behalf of the organising committee, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the Australia & Saint Thomas Aquinas Day event. Your presence and participation made the day truly special and memorable. We deeply appreciate your support.

A special thank you to our incredible volunteers who made the event even more enjoyable with their face painting skills, delicious BBQ, and exciting raffle. Your hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed and contributed immensely to the success of the event. We look forward to seeing you at future events. Thank you!

Brandon Scott
Chairman, PPC

