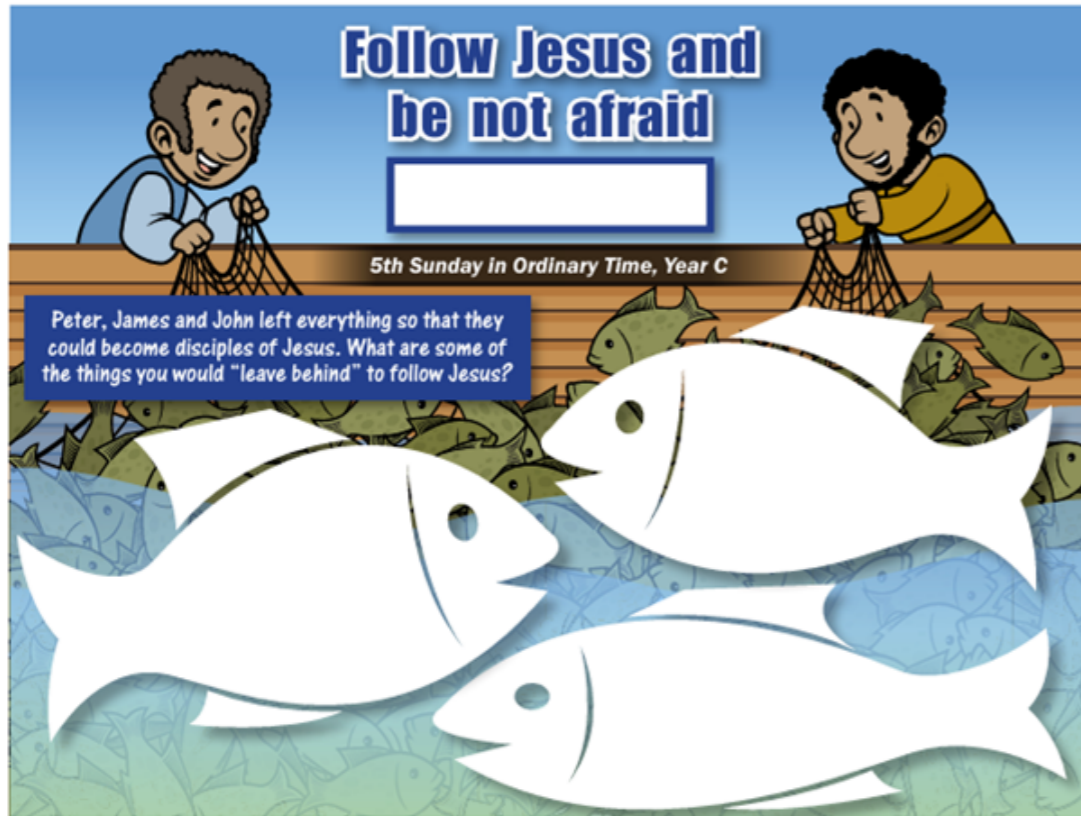


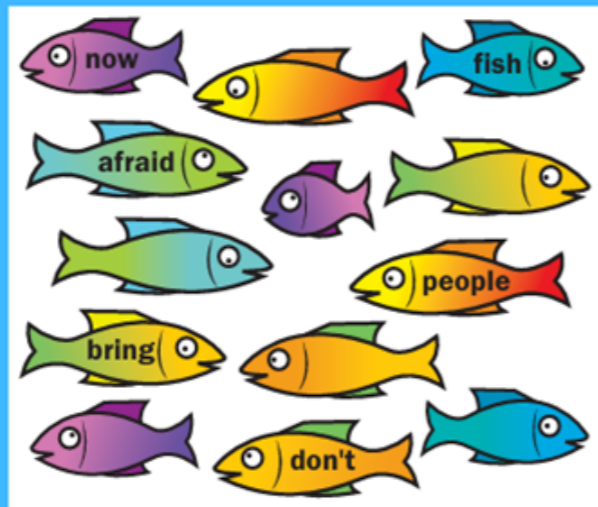
Date:	8th Feb/9th Feb 2025		Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tom Horsfall	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Domhnall MacCormac	Streeters
Date:	15th Feb/16th Feb 2025		Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Felix Kobus	Wilhelmina de Raadt	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Kim Crawford	Mary Morris	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Katherine Mahns	Margaret Hickey	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Parish Pastoral Council			

KID'S CORNER



Write down the names of four people you know who belong Jesus. For each person give a reason why they belong.

Use the words in the fish to complete the sentence below....



_____ be _____! From _____ on you
will _____ in _____ instead of _____.

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

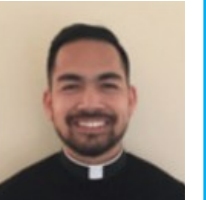
Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am
Weekday Mass: Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
Adoration: Monday - Saturday from 8:15 am - 9:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Every first Friday of the month 7:00 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Vigil 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.

You did not choose me but I chose you



Entering the seminary to discern a vocation to the Priesthood is a leap of faith. I recall knocking on the door of Holy Spirit Seminary Parramatta, my luggage clutched in both hands, unsure of the journey ahead. Sure, I knew that God had called me to serve as a Priest however my nineteen year old self still couldn't fathom how and why. How and why would God call me serve as his Priest? Doesn't he know that I'm not worthy to follow in his footsteps, especially as a Priest, due to my sins and transgressions? He requires perfection, I'm not perfect... maybe I've made a mistake. These questions and many more filled my mind as I entered the seminary. It wasn't until my second week following a conversation with the rector that peace filled my mind: 'the seminary forms men for the Priesthood. You are not a Priest now, but through prayer, discipline and sacrifice God will mold you into the Priest he called you to be. You may have doubts but Our Lord forms our resolve to follow Him.'

Our readings for this Sunday speak of the genesis of the Priestly vocation; Priests don't appear from thin air rather they are called and chosen from the faithful. Consider the calling of St. Paul: he was a zealous Jew who oversaw the persecution of the early church going so far as to murder St. Stephen. With his background is he an ideal candidate to preach the Gospel of Christ to the known world? What of Sts. Peter, Andrew, James and John? They were humble uneducated fishermen from Galilee. They didn't receive formation like the scribes and pharisees; they didn't comprehend the law of Moses and its traditions. What could they offer to the proclamation of the Kingdom? Despite all this the reality is clear: God chose them for Holy Orders. The apostles were not chosen based on their character and merits (the Gospels highlight how flawed each of them were) but through God's choosing, Our Lord's Divine Will. Consequently, each man called to Holy Orders has been chosen by God since the beginning of time for that particular vocation. The calling of the prophet Jeremiah highlights this: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' (Jer 1:5) Our omnipotent and omniscient God knows each person thoroughly; he knows where they will find true beatitude. Our individual vocation, when faithfully lived, directs us to happiness for it accord with God's Plan of Salvation.

Dear friends, it's not often I speak or write about the Priesthood but I implore you to please pray for more vocations to Holy Orders. There is clear lack of priestly vocations around the world; an issue that is not regularly mentioned. Without the Priest who will administer the Sacraments? Who can offer the forgiveness of sins? Who can consecrate the bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Christ? We need the Sacraments for our salvation, we need the Priest to shepherd us. Today let us ask our Lord to send more men to answer the call to be Priests, let us also pray they be given the faith and courage to respond to Our Lord.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Chris



Second Reading [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

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

I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 4:19](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Luke 5:1-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They left everything and followed him.

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 106:8-9](#)

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Entrance Antiphon [Psalm 94:6-7](#)

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading [Isaiah 6:1-8](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here am I! Send me.

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out to one another in this way,

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,
your sin is taken away,
your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1](#)

(R.) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways;
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' **(R.)**
4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**



Recently Deceased: Roger Mounde, Cheryl Kirby, Patricia Groarke

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.

HELP WANTED: SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

Focus Country: The Cook Islands
Join your local one-hour prayer service:
Location of service: Springwood Baptist Church
Date & time: **Friday 7th March 2025 at 11am**
Contact: Colleen Kime 0407 125 427
Morning tea: 10:30am



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



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

MEN AT THE SHRINE is a monthly hour of adoration at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, held on the **second Wednesday of each month.** The hour begins with a brief reflection before a time of silent prayer. Confessions are available. The evening finishes with a light supper. All men are welcome. No RSVP is necessary. Find the event on Facebook, or for questions, contact Bernard, 0416 106 871.

SECOND DIOCESAN DISCERNMENT PLAN MEETING is on **Sunday 9th February at 10:30 am.** Kindly go to our website or use this link to express your interest:
<https://forms.gle/QPqyvpiViqyJaPCC8>

OFFICE CLOSURE: Our Parish office will be closed on **Wednesday 12th February.** Parish staff is attending a compulsory event: Insurance Update for Parishes in 2025 which is organised by the Diocese of Parramatta to be held at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown.

PPC MEETING: Next PPC meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th February at 7pm.** If you have an agenda to include in the meeting, please email springwoodparishpc@gmail.com

ADORATION AND HOLY MASS in the morning of **Thursday 13th February** are cancelled. Parishioners are invited to attend Mass at St Finbar's Church, Glenbrook. Mass starts at 9:15am.



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.**

The service will also be live streamed. Please use the link below to watch the service online:

<https://www.FuneralVideo.com.au/CherylKirby>

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

Enrolment form is available at the back of the church, parish office and our website. For more information, visit our website:
www.stchurchspringwood.org.au



You have an opportunity to join in the 35th annual CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA day activity on **MARCH 2nd.** SIMPLY come along to the **STA EARTHCARE GROUP** gazebo after Mass. This was a successful activity last year – you can do as much or as little as you choose. Big and little people welcome!

Wear closed-in shoes and bring a hat, gloves and water bottle. Extra gloves and collection bags are available. You will be able to help clean up the larger church environment.

ALSO this year the **STA EARTHCARE GROUP is focussing on RECYCLING.** So once again if you have some **unwanted spectacles and glasses frames**, you can donate them at the EARTH-CARE gazebo.

Any enquiries call Dennis Farrar 0425 209 840

MOUNT SCHOENSTATT WOMEN'S RETREAT 'GRACE & SILENCE 2025' COMMENCING 8 MARCH

This four-part single-day retreat series is for single young women aged 20-35 discerning their vocation. Attendance on all four days is highly recommended. Spaces are limited, and registration is essential. The retreats take place on Saturdays: **8 February, 8 March, 12 April, and 10 May, from 9:30am to 4:30pm,** at "Bethany," 301 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. The cost is \$25 per day, including lunch. For more information or to register, contact Hannah on 0433 443 384.

