

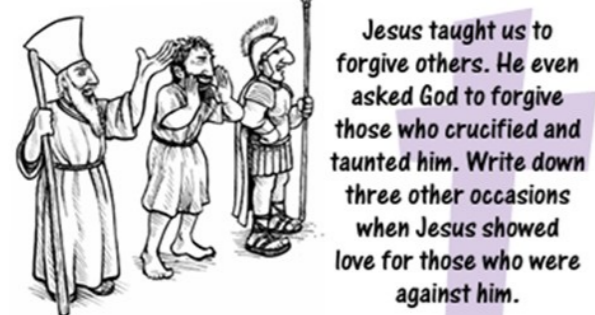
Date:	22nd Feb/23rd Feb 2025			Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music	
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Chris Wilson	
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Mary Morris	Georgia Cook		
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Matt Aldous	Peta Sparkes	Streeters	
Date:	1st Mar/2nd Mar 2025			Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music	
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson	
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Jim Gresser	Vicky Walker		
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson	
Morning Tea:	Catechist / St Vincent de Paul				

KID'S CORNER



How can we love our enemies? Tick the best answers in the boxes below.

<p>If someone slaps you on the cheek, do you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Slap them back</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: Forgive them</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: Call the police</p>	<p>If someone teases you and calls you names, do you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Throw a tantrum</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: Find nice things to say about them</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: Ask God to punish them</p>	<p>If someone wants to share your favourite toy, do you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Tell them to go away</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: Let them play with it, but only for 5 minutes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: Let them have it for as long as they like</p>	<p>If someone is cruel and mistreats you, do you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Ask God to bless them</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: Tell everyone how bad that person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: Get even with them</p>
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Jesus taught us to forgive others. He even asked God to forgive those who crucified and taunted him. Write down three other occasions when Jesus showed love for those who were against him.

Complete the Text Maze:
 "Forgive others and God will forgive you."
 START

F	E	P	I	T	Y	H	A
O	E	N	E	M	I	E	S
R	G	I	S	R	M	K	P
S	E	V	P	I	L	B	R
R	O	V	R	S	A	N	A
E	T	H	E	U	G	D	I
W	Q	R	Y	D	O	B	S
A	I	E	I	W	C	I	E
R	O	R	L	O	T	L	Y
D	G	T	L	F	G	I	N
S	R	L	O	O	R	V	I
R	M	F	O	J	I	E	T
L	A	S	X	V	K	Y	O
J	U	D	G	E	E	Z	U

FINISH

*CAN YOU FIND THE SIX HIDDEN WORDS FROM THIS WEEKS GOSPEL READING?

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!
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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.

Compassionate Love (by Fr Martin Ganeri O.P.)

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.'

In the Latin Bible of the Catholic Church the word translated by compassionate in the Gospel is *misericordes*. In the Latin Bible this word and the related noun, *miser cordia*, are used in places when the Bible sets out the covenantal love of God for his people, the loving kindness of God, something that involves a readiness to forgive and show mercy. The word, *miser cordia*, is often just translated as 'mercy,' but a better way of expressing the relationship it conveys would be 'compassionate or merciful love.' The compassionate or merciful love of God for humanity and hence the compassionate or merciful love that men and women should have for each other.

St Thomas Aquinas says of this 'compassionate merciful love:

A person is said to have compassionate, merciful love when he has sorrow in his heart, being affected by sorrow at the misery of another, as though it were his own. Hence it follows that he endeavours to dispel the misery of the other person, as if it were his own, and this is the effect of this love. (ST 1.21.3)

'...Being affected by sorrow at the misery of another, as though it were his own.' This, then, is compassion in the basic meaning of the word, 'to suffer with.' But, in the form of compassionate or merciful love, such compassion does not just stop at the feeling of sorrow or pity for another. Rather, it moves on to 'dispel the misery of the other.' Compassion, then, in the form of merciful love, is a powerful force that acts to relieve the misfortunes of others, to dispel the things that compromise their welfare, and to bring about their full flourishing as human beings.

The supreme manifestation of this kind of divine compassion for humanity is found in the life and especially the Passion of Jesus Christ. Christ bears the weakness of our human flesh, he bears with the misunderstandings, the opposition, the rejection and insults of others, endures the agony of his Passion and Crucifixion, out of compassionate love for us, so that we can be saved, be liberated from the ways of thinking and the behaviour that compromise the lives God wants us to have.

Christ himself who is the one who exemplifies the teaching which we find in St Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount, in which the perfection of Christian living is set forth. In St Matthew's version we are called upon to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect, while in St Luke, we are called upon to be compassionate as our heavenly Father is compassionate. In Christ these two things complement each other. Christ manifests the perfection of the Father by manifesting the unconditional compassionate love of the Father for us.

Christ who is the one who embodies this and who enables us to do have it ourselves. So, when we are called to be compassionate as our heavenly Father we are not being told to get on with being as good as God, but without the power of God's divinity, but, rather, we are invited to open ourselves to the presence and power of Christ so that we can manifest what he manifests. If we are open to Christ's Spirit, we can show the compassionate love of the Father in our world.

The perfect life of compassionate love that we are called to manifest contains the same freedom and power that is found in Christ's life. Christ freely chose to forbear the frailty and wrongs of others so that he could save them. He could have done otherwise, but he chose not to out of love for them. We are called upon, helped by Christ's Spirit, to exercise this same freedom, a freedom not to exchange insult for insult, or wrong for wrong, but to act in whatever way manifests compassionate love.

The twofold definition of compassionate love given by St Aquinas is very important here. As he tells us, such compassionate love does feel the sufferings of others as our own, but it also works to alleviate those sufferings. Compassionate love always acts to alleviate the sufferings of others, to bring out their good and their salvation. So, we might accept the insult or wrong of others when we know that to do so we can bring about a better situation. I am sure that every parent, every sibling, every friend, has bitten their lip and accepted hurtful words, because they know that this is the best way to respond out of compassionate love, knowing that just to respond in kind would only make things worse.

God calls on us then to live a life that expresses His perfect freedom, as well His perfect love. We can only do this in imitation of Christ, if we let Christ himself work through his Spirit in us.



Entrance Antiphon Psalm 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13, R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

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

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Psalm 9:2-3

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.



Sick: Michelle Thomas, 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.



Ash Wednesday is on the **5th of March 2025**. STA Mass times are 9:30am and 7pm.

Readers wanted for our Lenten services. Anyone interested please contact the office on 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org

SCRIPTURE TEACHERS URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR FAULCONBRIDGE AND SPRINGWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON THURSDAYS: Please contact Wilhelmina de Raadt (SRE Coordinator) 0407 084 983.

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**
Morning tea: 10:30am; Contact: Colleen Kime 0407 125 427

CHILDREN'S LITURGY WORKSHOP: This evening will be for all those currently involved with children's liturgy in the parishes and invites those who are new to the ministry. The Diocesan Guidelines will be covered as well as any questions you may have. **Fri 28th Feb at 7-8:30pm**, Holy Family church, 32 Willowdene Ave, Luddenham
RSVP by 24th Feb: ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 765



Unite Against Poverty
this Lent

Lent is a special time of year, a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As individuals we can help others, but when we come together through Project Compassion, our good becomes great. Our combined kindness grows. And when we unite with each other, we can create BIG, lasting change. So, how will you unite against poverty this Lent?

LONG WALK FOR WATER: Take on The long Walk for Water: Walk 30 minutes every day during Lent and walk in solidarity with the millions who walk daily for clean water. Scan the QR Code and sign up today!



YOUNG ADULT FAITH FORMATION ON ST THERESE OF LISIEUX: 2 MARCH

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions commence on **Sunday 2 March 2025** at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, South Mt Druitt (9 Ropes Creek Rd Mt Druitt) at 7pm. The speaker is Simon Carrington who will talk about and lead discussion on St Therese of Lisieux. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza, and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call Mark on 0477 004 678.



St Thomas Aquinas Parish 2025 Confirmation Sacramental Program

Children in Year 5 and older in 2025, who have not yet received Confirmation but have received Reconciliation and Holy Communion are invited to attend.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place through a parish-based process. This means that you will do the preparation with your child, but we help you through a process of guided reflection on a weekly basis by meetings in the church.

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. This must be returned to the parish office prior to the first Parent Information Meeting. 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

SPRINGWOOD EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP (SETSG) will be

conducting its Summer fund raising **CAKE STALL** on **Saturday 8th March** at Springwood Town Square. Any Parishioner who wishes to assist in this event by donating cakes and goodies to sell, please bring them on that day from 8:30am. All must have the ingredients showing. Any funds raised will support Health and Educational projects in Timor Leste. Also, the annual TRIVIA Night will be held on **Saturday 14th JUNE**. Any enquiries to Dennis Farrar 0425209840.

MEN AT THE SHRINE is a monthly hour for men at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, held on the **second Wednesday of the month from 8-9pm**. The hour includes a brief reflection, silent personal prayer and the opportunity for confession. This is one of the 3 locations in the diocese to gain the Jubilee Indulgence.

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.

