

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	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Katherine Mahns	Margaret Hickey	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Parish Pastoral Council			

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	Margaret Smith	Anne Maureen Scarff	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Mary Morris	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Matt Aldous	Peta Sparkes	Streeters

KID'S CORNER

Trust in the Lord
Cross-Word



- | | |
|----------|------|
| beings | it |
| distress | tree |
| stream | is |
| human | but |
| trusts | who |
| cursed | he |
| beside | in |
| roots | his |
| barren | bush |
| green | Lord |
| heat | that |
| year | from |

Here is today's first reading, from Jeremiah.
Fill in the blanks using the words from the list and fit them into the puzzle.

Thus says the Lord:

8a is the one who trusts in 7d 17a,
3a seeks 4d strength 18d flesh,
 whose heart turns away 16d the Lord.
12d is like a 13a 17d in the desert
11a enjoys no change of season,
14a stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth.
 Blessed is the one who 5a in the Lord,
 whose hope is the 15d.
 He 2d like a 11d planted 14d the waters that
 stretches out its 19a to the 6d;
 it fears not the 21a when 20d comes; its leaves stay 1d;
 in the 10a of drought it shows no 9d,
 but still bears fruit.

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.

The Great Reversal (by Fr Bede Mullens O.P.)

Fr Bede Mullens shows how the life of the beatitudes is a lot more than merely human wisdom.

Early Christian moral teaching was often presented in terms of 'the two ways': the way that leads to life, and the way that leads to death. There is plenty of Scriptural warrant for this manner of speaking. Moses, towards the conclusion of *Deuteronomy*, presents to the people 'life and blessing' as the reward of obedience to God's law, 'death and curse' as the punishment of disobedience. Today's Psalm and the prophecy of Jeremiah both compare the righteous to a well-watered tree, while the unjust are likened to dry scrub or chaff. Christ himself uses a range of equivalent parables: the broad way and the narrow way, the house built on sand and the house built on rock, the good tree which bears good fruit and the bad tree bearing bad.

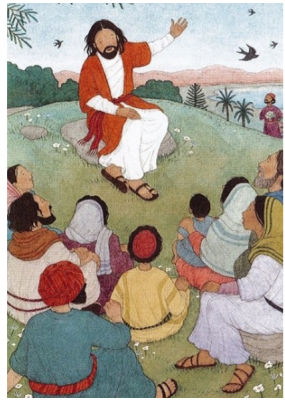
The point of this teaching is that God's law is not an arbitrary imposition – it is good for us! And that makes a certain amount of natural sense. The wisdom of many cultures has arrived at the conclusion that virtue, while it may be difficult to acquire, makes us better human beings: better at coping in adversity, better at building and sustaining good relationships, better at dealing with wayward emotions and desires. Evil, by contrast, may be superficially seductive, and self-indulgence is certainly easier than self-denial. But the satisfaction of our impulses to greed, violence, lust, meanness, domination, and other forms of wickedness corrodes the communities in which we live and, in the end, does not really leave us satisfied – instead, we find ourselves going back for more and more.

All well and good – but did we really need a revelation from heaven to teach us this? The pagans knew as much; listen closely enough to Yoda, and you might distil similar advice from *Star Wars*. In fact, today's Gospel shows that Christian teaching on the two ways is rather more scandalous. The narrow way is far narrower than we would ever have expected, and the broad way far broader. 'Alas for you who are rich...Alas for you who have your fill now...Alas for you who laugh now...Alas for you when the world speaks well of you!'

Jesus came announcing a great reversal. 'The first will be last, and the last first.' The Kingdom would turn the world as we know it upside down. That is just the point of the woes and beatitudes. By them, Jesus exhorts us to start living as subjects of the Kingdom of God, no longer of the kingdoms of this world.

It's true that one way that Jesus draws the distinction between those kingdoms is in terms of present and future suffering and satisfaction: go hungry now, he seems to be saying, so that you may later be satisfied. That might lead us to think that here we have just an exaggerated statement of the familiar sober calculation promoting delayed gratification in the pursuit of virtue. Another, more fundamental way Jesus distinguishes the kingdoms is in terms of the source of the satisfaction they provide. The woes are directed at those who contrive their own wealth and satisfaction and joy and respect. Like Jeremiah, the woes curse the one 'who puts his trust in man and relies on things of flesh'. Blessed rather are they who receive from the Lord, who make the Lord their hope.

Who for us Christians is this Lord, but Jesus himself? The beatitudes are a call not to prudent and respectable living, but to unwavering discipleship. A key to their significance is found in the culminating declaration, 'blessed are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you on account of the Son of Man'. Poverty, hunger, grief, and persecution are not and cannot be made good in themselves. Suffered for the sake of the Gospel, however, in union with Jesus, these are the means of holiness and the promise of a glorious future. As St Paul says, if Christ is not raised from the dead, then we Christians labour pitifully and in vain. But Christ has been raised from the dead. There is the great reversal: death has given way to life. And that is the curious, narrow way we are called to travel.



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

- Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. (R.)
- He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. (R.)
- Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

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

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached,
how can some of you be saying that there is no
resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised,
Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been
raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious,
all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in
Christ has been for this life only, we are the most
unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-
fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece
of level ground where there was a large gathering of his
disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of
Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region
of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be
cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the
kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be
satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out,
abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account
of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and
dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven.
This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your
consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go
hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and
weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was
the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.



Recently Deceased: Roger Mounde, Cheryl Kirby

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.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 9:30am MASS: Children aged 4-12 are invited to join our Children's Liturgy. They will be called forward and sent with a blessing over to our Parish rooms for a Gospel lesson and will return to their families in church after the Creed.

SCRIPTURE TEACHERS URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR FAULCONBRIDGE AND SPRINGWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON THURSDAYS:

If no one comes forward, we will have to cancel the Year 5 and 6 Classes at these schools. We do thank Tanya Baldwin and Matthew Shone for coming forward and start teaching on Wednesdays. 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

POPE FRANCIS'

Prayer Intention for February



For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

"Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life."



Thank you to all parishioners who attended the Diocesan Discernment Plan Meetings and for those who were not present on both occasions or unable to finish the meeting, we would still love to hear from you. You may express your thoughts / suggestions by completing the forms provided at the back of the church.

We would also like to express our appreciation for all the volunteers who participated in the Mandatory Safeguarding Training last Saturday 8th February.

Anyone who was not able to attend this session can still complete the course by going online:

<https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/>

A big thank you, too to Alison Ray and Maria Kervin from the Diocese of Parramatta for their effort in helping us out in organising and conducting the meetings. Their expertise were invaluable.

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

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.



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.

