

Date:	5th Apr/6th Apr 2025		Fifth Sunday of Lent		
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		Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Georgia Cook	Tanya Graham		-
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards		Chris Wilson
Morning Tea: Mothers Prayers					
Date:	12th Apr/13th Apr 2025		Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Readers of the Passion of our Lord	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	N: Felix Kobus O & C: Anne Maureen Scarff	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Loida Debyshire	Ros Comfort	N: Kim Crawford O & C: Vicky Walker	-
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Ellis	Matt Aldous	N: Peta Sparkes O & C: Katherine Mahns	Streeters
Date:	17th Apr 2025		Holy Thursday		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful		Music
7:00 PM	1. Marek Grus 2. Phil Saville	Kim Crawford	Domhnall MacCormac		Chris Wilson & STA Choir
Date:	18th Apr 2025		Good Friday, Stations of the Cross		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Readers of the Passion of our Lord	Music
10:00 AM	Ian Miles	-	-	-	-
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading	Readers of the Passion of our Lord	Music
3:00 PM	1. Marek Grus 2. Ed Junis	Ros Comfort	Phil Saville	N: Deacon Alan Skofic O: Tanya Baldwin C: Timothy Baldwin	Andrew Wilson & Chris Wilson
The Solemn Intercessions: Deacon Alan Skofic					
Date:	19th Apr 2025		Easter Vigil		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Obligatory Readings	Music
7:00 PM	1. Randall Noney 2. Bernard Ellis	a) Margaret Smith	b) Domhnall MacCormac	c) Wilhelmina de Raadt d) Ros Comfort	Chris Wilson & STA Choir
Epistle Reading: e) Anne Maureen Scarff					
Date:	20th Apr 2025		Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful		Music
8:00 AM	Ian Miles	Mary Morris	Vicky Walker		-
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Lisa Vaughn	Margaret Hickey		The Streeters
Morning Tea: Passionist Family Group					
N: Narrator					
O: Other Single Speaker					
C: Crowd or more than one other Speaker					

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE:  
15th April, Holy Tuesday 6:00 pm—8:00 pm and 18th April, Good Friday 11:00 am—12:00 pm  
Helper: Minnie Harb  
Thank you to all who volunteer to be a part of our Holy Week Liturgical Celebration!

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 5:30 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

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.



Support us!  
Scan to donate

Gospel Reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

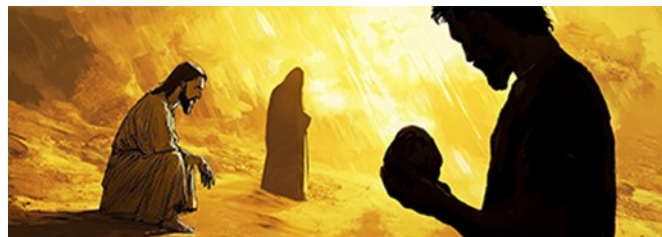
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have reached the Fifth Sunday of Lent in which the Liturgy this year presents to us the Gospel episode of Jesus who saves an adulterous woman condemned to death (Jn 8: 1-11). While he is teaching at the Temple the Scribes and Pharisees bring Jesus a woman caught in the act of adultery for which Mosaic law prescribed stoning. Those men ask Jesus to judge the sinful woman in order "to test him" and impel him to take a false step. The scene is full with drama: the life of that person and also his own life depend on Jesus. Indeed, the hypocritical accusers pretend to entrust the judgement to him whereas it is actually he himself whom they wish to accuse and judge. Jesus, on the other hand, is "full of grace and truth" (Jn 1: 14): he can read every human heart, he wants to condemn the sin but save the sinner, and unmask hypocrisy. St John the Evangelist highlights one detail: while his accusers are insistently interrogating him, Jesus bends down and starts writing with his finger on the ground. St Augustine notes that this gesture portrays Christ as the divine legislator: in fact, God wrote the law with his finger on tablets of stone (cf. *Commentary on John's Gospel*, 33,5). Thus Jesus is the Legislator, he is Justice in person. And what is his sentence? "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her". These words are full of the disarming power of truth that pulls down the wall of hypocrisy and opens consciences to a greater justice, that of love, in which consists the fulfilment of every precept (cf. Rom 13: 8-10). This is the justice that also saved Saul of Tarsus, transforming him into St Paul (cf. Phil 3: 8-14).

When his accusers "went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest", Jesus, absolving the woman of her sin, ushers her into a new life oriented to good. "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again". It is the same grace that was to make the Apostle say: "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3: 13-14). God wants only goodness and life for us; he provides for the health of our soul through his ministers, delivering us from evil with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that no one may be lost but all may have the opportunity to convert. In this Year for Priests I would like to urge Pastors to imitate the holy Curé d'Ars in the ministry of sacramental pardon so that the faithful may discover its meaning and beauty and be healed by the merciful love of God, who "even forces himself to forget the future so that he can grant us his forgiveness!" (*Letter to Priests for the Inauguration of the Year for Priests*, 16 June 2009).

Dear friends, let us learn from the Lord Jesus not to judge and not to condemn our neighbour. Let us learn to be intransigent with sin starting with our own! and indulgent with people. May the holy Mother of God, free from all sin, who is the mediatrix of grace for every repentant sinner, help us in this.





## Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

## First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

Thus says the Lord,  
who made a way through the sea,  
a path in the great waters;  
who put chariots and horse in the field  
and a powerful army,  
which lay there never to rise again,  
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about what was done before.  
See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?  
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in the wilderness  
(rivers in the wild)  
to give my chosen people drink.  
The people I have formed for myself  
will sing my praises.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

## Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order  
to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the  
supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For  
him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on  
everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ  
and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for  
perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes  
from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes  
through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith.  
All I want is to know Christ and the power of his  
resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the  
pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my  
place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have  
become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still  
running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus  
captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from  
thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I  
forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I  
am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us  
upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel Acclamation Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## Gospel John 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he  
appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came  
to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who  
had been caught committing adultery; and making her  
stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus,  
'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of  
committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law  
to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What  
have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking  
for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down  
and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they  
persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If  
there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first  
to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on  
the ground again. When they heard this they went away  
one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left  
alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He  
looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one  
condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I  
condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any  
more.'

## Communion Antiphon John 8:10-11

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.  
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.



**Recently Deceased:** Tara Lee; Rhonda Haynes, Valentine Shchepotkin

**Sick:** Ishbel MacArthur, Michelle Thomas, Colleen Baker, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson **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.

**WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM:** For all the latest information and updates about our parish, please follow our page @stthomasaquinas\_springwoodnsw



**BE A PILGRIM OF HOPE FOR PEOPLE SUFFERING IN OUR PRISONS AND HOSPITALS**

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal

**DONATE NOW**

**Caritas AUSTRALIA**

**PROJECT COMPASSION**

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground. Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.

**Please donate today.**  
You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.  
**Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)  
**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413 413.

**FROM JRS:** Thank you for the generosity of the people of STA Parish. Donated food and toiletries and supermarket vouchers were delivered to JRS Parramatta. At the last count, the total of vouchers donated was over \$2,200. As the items were delivered, there were also donations being unloaded from Liverpool and Castle Hill Parishes. The team at JRS were thrilled with the donations from STA. These contributions will definitely enable them to assist many families in the coming weeks..



**LIVE-IN CARER OPPORTUNITY** Our beautiful 96 year old father lives at home. He is of Anglo-Indian decent, speaks English and is still mobile. We are looking for a special person to help home care for him in either a full-time or part-time capacity. He lives in The Hills area and has family support next door. The job would suit a nursing student or someone that is good with people. If you would like more information, please contact Jason on [jason@jjmail.me](mailto:jason@jjmail.me) or 0414 987 206.



Stations of the Cross is on Friday **11th April 2025 at 5pm**  
Everybody is welcome to attend!

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish 2025 Confirmation Sacramental Program

Have you registered your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation? Registration closes on **30th April 2025**. All parents with children in Year 5 and older in 2025, who have not yet received Confirmation but have received Reconciliation and Holy Communion are asked to register their children for the Sacrament of Confirmation in May 2024. Register your child by filling in the form available at the back of the church, parish office and our website. This must be return to the parish office prior to the first Parent Information Meeting 30th April. For more information, visit our website: [www.stchurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stchurchspringwood.org.au)

# HOLY WEEK

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish Springwood

<u>Monday 14th April:</u> 8:15am - Adoration 9:30am - Mass	<u>Tuesday 15th April:</u> 8:15am - Adoration 9:30am - Mass 6:00pm - Confessions
<u>Wednesday 16th April:</u> 8:15am - Adoration 9:30am - Mass	<u>Thursday 17th April:</u> 7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper Church will remain open till 12.00am - Altar of Repose
<u>Friday 18th April:</u> 10:00am - Stations of the Cross 11:00am - Confessions 3:00pm - Good Friday Service	<u>Saturday 19th April:</u> 7:00pm Easter Vigil
<u>Sunday 20th April</u> 8:00am Easter Sunday Mass 9:30am Easter Sunday Mass	

**SPRINGWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH** would love to welcome anyone between 18 and 35 yrs of age to come to our Young Adults group from **5-7 pm on a Sunday evening**. It is on every week and is a wonderful opportunity to meet other young Catholics, share about the faith and enjoy a community of prayer. Anyone interested please contact Noah Tabone on 0493 490 960.



**PPC MEETING:** The next STA PPC meeting is on Tuesday 8th April 2025. Any item you wish to include in the agenda, please email to: [springwoodparishpc@gmail.com](mailto:springwoodparishpc@gmail.com)

### ST COLUMBUS COLLEGE CANTEEN ASSISTANTS POSITION VACANT:

Monday to Friday or job share or part time; 7.30am to 2.30pm  
During School Term (permanent part time role)

Duties: Food prep, cooking, receiving and unpacking stock, serving students and staff

Requirements: Working With Children Check

Please contact: [admin@totalcanteensolutions.com.au](mailto:admin@totalcanteensolutions.com.au)

**LOST PROPERTY:** We have a range of lost items that have been left behind in the church. Please see office staff to check if any items belong to you. If items are unclaimed by Tuesday, 8th April we will be donating them to St Vinnies.