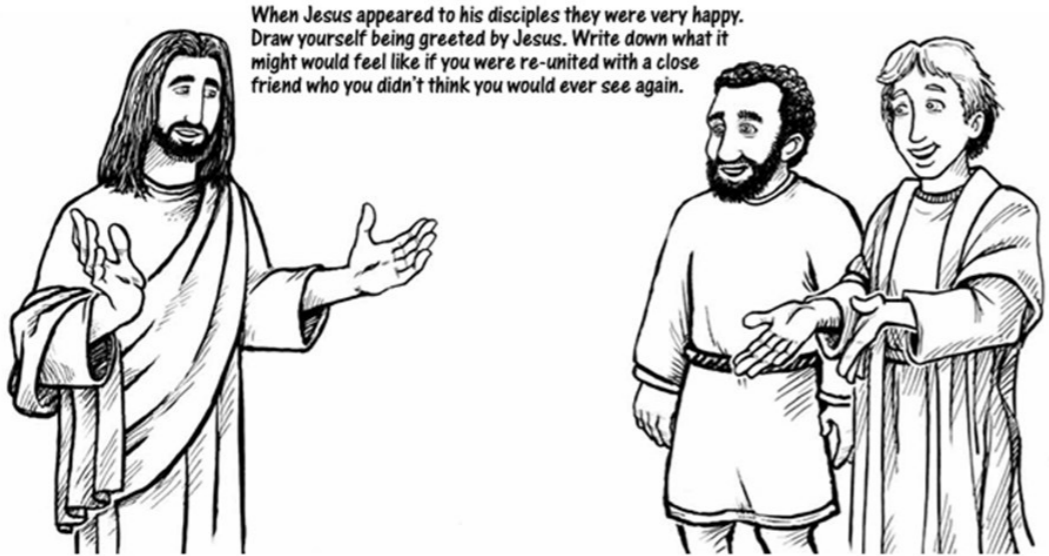
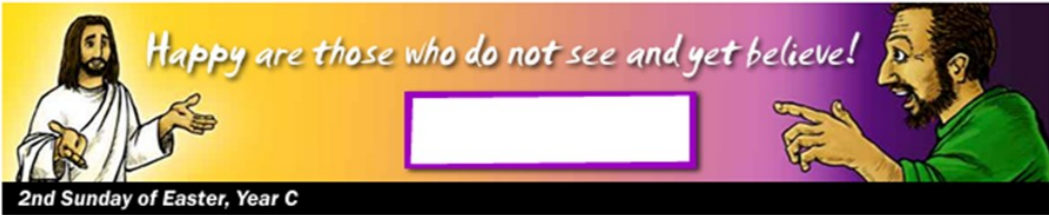


Date:	26th Apr/27th Apr 2025		Second Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Margaret Smith	Felix Kobus	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Georgia Cook	Tanya Graham	-
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	The Streeters
Date:	3rd May/4th May 2025		Third Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Domhnall MacCormac	Vicky Walker	-
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Lisa Vaughan	Anne Ellis	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea: Communion to the Sick / Earthcare				

KID’S CORNER



There are many things present in our lives that we don't see with our eyes. Circle the words which represent things we do not see.

BIBLE

LOVE

JOY

ALTAR

BREATH

CHALICE

CRUCIFIX

FORGIVENESS

PEACE

FLOWERS

CANDLE

HOPE

Complete the Text maze:
"You are my Lord and my God!"

W B O I G E T R

S R O L T C A U O

L D G Y M E R C W

D A N S

R C D E

Q Y M P

U G O

START Y

FINISH D

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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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



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.

Gospel Reflection by Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters, Buongiorno!

Today, the last day of the Octave of Easter, the Gospel recounts the first and second apparition of the Risen One to the disciples. Jesus comes at Passover, while the Apostles are shut in the Upper Room, out of fear, but since Thomas, one of the Twelve, is not present, Jesus returns eight days later (cf. Jn 20:19-29). Let's focus on the two main characters, Thomas and Jesus, looking first at the disciple, and then at the Master. There is a good dialogue between these two.

The Apostle Thomas, first of all. He represents all of us, who were not present in the Upper Room when the Lord appeared, and did not have other physical signs or apparitions from him. We too struggle at times like that disciple: how can we believe that Jesus is risen, that he accompanies us and is the Lord of our life without having seen him, without having touched him? How can one believe in this? Why does the Lord not give us some clearer sign of his presence and love? Some sign that I can see better... Here, we too are like Thomas, with the same doubts, the same reasoning.

But we do not need to be ashamed of this. By telling us the story of Thomas, in fact, the Gospel tells us that the Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. I tell you: I am afraid when I see a Christian, some associations of Christians who believe themselves to be perfect. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right. No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? It knows times of comfort, zeal and enthusiasm, but also of weariness, confusion, doubt and darkness. The Gospel shows us Thomas' "crisis" to tell us that we should not fear the crises of life and faith. Crises are not sins, they are part of the journey, we should not fear them. Many times, they make us humble because they strip us of the idea that we are fine, that we are better than others. Crises help us to recognise that we are needy: they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord, to touch his wounds, to experience his love anew as if it were the first time. Dear brothers and sisters, it is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!

And, faced with Thomas' absence and his journey, which is often also our own, what does Jesus do? The Gospel says twice that he "came" (vv. 19, 26). First once, then a second time, eight days later. Jesus does not give up, he does not get tired of us, he is not afraid of our crises, our weaknesses. He always comes back: when the doors are closed, he comes back; when we are in doubt, he comes back; when, like Thomas, we need to encounter him and to touch him up close, he comes back. Jesus always comes back, he always knocks on the door, and he does not come back with powerful signs that would make us feel small and inadequate, even ashamed, but with his wounds; he comes back showing us his wounds, signs of his love that has espoused our frailties.

Brothers and sisters, especially when we experience moments of weariness and crisis, the Risen Jesus wishes to return to stay with us. He only waits for us to seek him, to call on him, or even, like Thomas, to protest, bringing him our needs and our unbelief. He always comes back. Why? Because he is patient and merciful. He comes to open the upper rooms of our fears and unbelief because he always wants to give us another chance. Jesus is the Lord of "other chances": he always gives us another one, always. So let us think about the last time – let's try to remember a little – that, during a difficult moment or a period of crisis, we closed in on ourselves, barricading ourselves in our problems and shutting Jesus out of the house. And let us promise ourselves, the next time, in our fatigue, to seek Jesus, to return to him, to his forgiveness – he always forgives, always! – to return to those wounds that have healed us. In this way, we will also become capable of compassion, of approaching the wounds of others without inflexibility and without prejudice.

May Our Lady, Mother of Mercy – I like to think of her as the Mother of Mercy on the Monday after Mercy Sunday – accompany us on the journey of faith and love.

Entrance Antiphon 1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk,
that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4, 22-27, R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)

2. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

3. O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

Second Reading (continuation)

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

Gospel Acclamation John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'


Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Communion Antiphon Cf John 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

 **Recently Deceased:** Pope Francis, Hazel Wood, Michelle Thomas, Argyna Santiago

Sick: Peter Avery, Ishbel MacArthur, 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



 In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonisation of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

Saint Faustina, you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will." Relying on this, we ask your intercession for the graces we need, especially for the intentions just mentioned. Help us, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of our lives. Amen.

COMMISSIONING MASS OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS:
In this Jubilee Year of Hope all liturgical ministers - readers, servers and extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at **7:30pm on 13th May 2025**, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To register your attendance and guests please visit parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/

CHILDREN'S LITURGY WORKSHOP: Are you a part of children's liturgy or looking to get started? Come along to this informative workshop to learn more about the Diocesan guidelines and meet children's liturgy teams from other parishes.

This workshop will be held at Bishop Bede Heather Centre 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown on **Thursday 15 May at 7-8:30pm**. Please RSVP via parracatholic.org/events/OFW by 12 May. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795

3 DIOCESAN RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES The diocese is hosting three retreat opportunities for adults of all ages to engage more with this Jubilee Year of Hope.

Take the to step away from your usual routine to experience a diocesan retreat - a sacred space for prayer, reflection, renewal and encounter with God. For timeframes and details, see the three options of retreats below:

May 24: <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-24-may/>
August 16: <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-16-august/>
November 15: <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-15-november/>



We pray for Pope Francis now as he so often asked us to do. With the burdens of office now behind him, may he find ultimate liberation as he comes face to face with the Risen Christ and that when he awakens into eternity he will be not just surprised but deeply astonished by the vision of God in which the joy of the Gospel comes to its fulness. Eternal rest give to Francis, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

THERE WILL BE NO FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION on the **2nd May 2025**. Parishioners are invited to attend First Friday Adoration at Our Lady of Nativity Church in Lawson at 7pm.


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, STA Church (and practice)

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 28th May at 6:30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

ST THOMAS AQUINAS READING GROUP: Dr. Angus Brook, Scholar of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame Australia is looking to start a reading group exploring the works of our Patron St. Thomas Aquinas. This is a perfect opportunity to explore the incredible works of our patron and to deepen one's formation. Sessions will be held in the Parish Meeting Room on beginning **Sunday 4 May at 3pm**. If you are interested please inform the Parish Office.

 **CARITAS AUSTRALIA** | **PROJECT COMPASSION** **THANK YOU!**

Caritas Australia would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support of Project Compassion this Lent. We received a very generous contribution of **\$3,588.35**. If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return them next week at Mass. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we are creating a better tomorrow, helping vulnerable communities build stronger futures for themselves and empowering them to break free from the cycle of poverty. Thank you for standing with us!

YOUNG ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS continue on **Sunday 4th May 2025** at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, South Mt Druitt (9 Ropes Creek Rd Mt Druitt) at 7pm. The speaker is Fr Matthew Dimian who will talk about and lead discussion on Blessed (St?) Carlo Acutis. 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 COLUMBA'S 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