


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	Steve Bishop	The Streeters
Morning Tea: Passionist Family Group				
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


KID’S CORNER



He is risen! Alleluia!

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord


Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb. She ran to Jesus' disciples to tell them what she saw. Draw Mary looking into Jesus' empty tomb.



This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice!

What can you do to make people glad today?

Help the disciples find their way to Jesus' empty tomb.



Fill in the missing words below to find out what the letters in the boxes spell.

Mary M

_____ went to the tomb.

"They have taken the

_____ from the tomb", she said.

Peter was a d_____

_____ of Jesus.

The other disciple ran f_____

_____ than Peter.

He saw the strips of _____

_____ cloth lying inside the tomb.

B _____

_____ he did not go in.

When he saw _____

_____ he believed.

The Scriptures s _____

_____ Jesus would rise to life.

John 20:1-9

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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 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.



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Bishop Vincent’s Easter Message 2025

Dear sisters and brothers,

The Resurrection isn't simply something we look forward to in the afterlife! The Resurrection of Christ affects us right now, existentially and fundamentally.

This is what happened at our Baptism. We didn't simply go into the water to express our intent to die to sin and then come out of the water to express our intent to try to live a new life anchored in Christ. There's more to it than that.

Jesus didn't die a peaceful death in his sleep. His body was subject to torture and humiliation in the last hours of his life. On the cross, he was naked, beaten, tormented and completely broken. But in death, Jesus underwent a total transformation. On Good Friday he was a wreck, and on Easter Sunday his broken body was transfigured. As St Paul puts it, “the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality”.

The crucifixion, death and glorious Resurrection of Jesus teach us that our human existence is not simply extended. It is transformed by virtue of our being made one with him. Christ emerged from the tomb with a transformed, human, risen life. We emerged from our Baptism with a participation in the same life Christ received when he rose from the dead.

This is the only life Christ has, and it is this life that he gives to us: his transformed, human, and risen life.

Think about it. This is the life that is nourished within us at every Eucharist. At the Eucharist we join with Christ in his dying and rising. At Communion we come forward and sacramentally unite with the Risen Christ. What we celebrate at Easter then is too big to be put into mere words. That's why the main Easter celebration - the Easter Vigil - is full of symbols: darkness, light, fire, the Easter Candle, water, oil, Baptisms, Confirmations, Alleluia's, music everywhere.

That's why we have all those readings that tell the core stories of Creation, Abraham, the Exodus, and the prophets... And to really appreciate what we celebrate at Easter time, let's never forget to think of the real people who have died: our parents, grandparents, children, loved ones, victims of war and violence.

As we ponder and pray about our loved ones gone before us 'marked with the sign of faith', we take in all these symbols, and the full realisation comes over us, “They're alive, really living. They're with God. They're with us in a living bond, and a love that still runs back and forth between us.” And somewhere deep down inside us we say, “I really believe this. I know it to be true.”

Of course, we can only dare to believe in such a great mystery - because of our hope in Jesus of Nazareth.

Perhaps that is why Pope Francis calls us in this Jubilee year of 2025 to deepen our hope. He wants us to become people of hope and encourage our fellow pilgrims on the journey of faith.

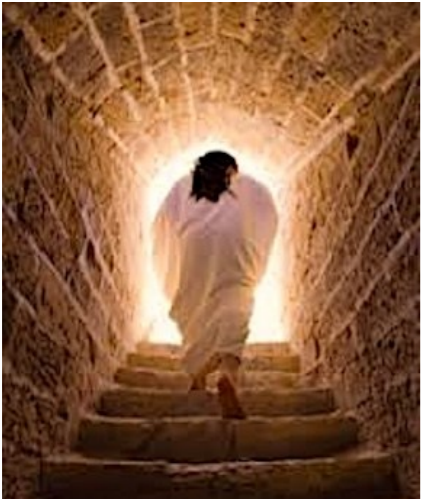
That's not so easy at times! For so many in our chaotic world of 2025 – especially marginalised communities – life seems so hopeless, unjust and unfair. And our beautiful planet is being hopelessly damaged by those who put greed, self-interest and personal ambition before God.

But take heart! Christ by his dying on the cross and his rising to a transformed human life, has opened the door of hope, and shown the way for us all. Let us live the hope of the Resurrection here and now as we journey towards its fulfilment in God's Kingdom.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Wishing you and your families a blessed and holy Easter.

Bishop Vincent Long, OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 138:18,5-6

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.’

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
‘His love has no end.’ **(R.)**
2. The Lord’s right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Sequence

The sequence is said or sung on this day. On the weekdays of the Octave of Easter, its use is optional.

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life’s own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ’s glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb’ she said ‘and we don’t know where they have put him.’

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia;
therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: Argyna Santiago, Tara Lee; Rhonda Haynes, Valentine Shchepotkin

Commemorative Deceased: Jozef Nokek

Sick: Peter Avery, 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



EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP: We are pleased to share Bishop Vincent’s Easter video message for 2025. The video can be viewed and played via YouTube channel:

Bishop Vincent Long’s 2025 Easter Message - YouTube

We wish you, your families and the whole community a safe, happy and blessed Easter!

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, meet children’s liturgy teams from other parishes, and ask any questions you may have about this rewarding ministry.

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/>

STA PARISH OFFICE EASTER CLOSURE: Our Parish Office will be closed from **Easter Monday 21st April to Monday 28th April 2025** and will re-open on **Tuesday 29th April 2025**. Adoration and Masses will continue as normal during this period. For any enquiries please call 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org

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

Enrolment form is 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. For more information, visit our website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au

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.

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

*Almighty God,
Today is the most special of days—
A day of victory, celebration and praise!
A day on which we remember your great triumph-*

*The defeat of evil, suffering and death.
A day on which we recall the transformation
you have brought -*

*Joy after sorrow, hope after despair, faith after doubt.
A day on which we give thanks for all you have given us -
Love, laughter, life!
So may we live not just this day but every day
As your Easter people,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

