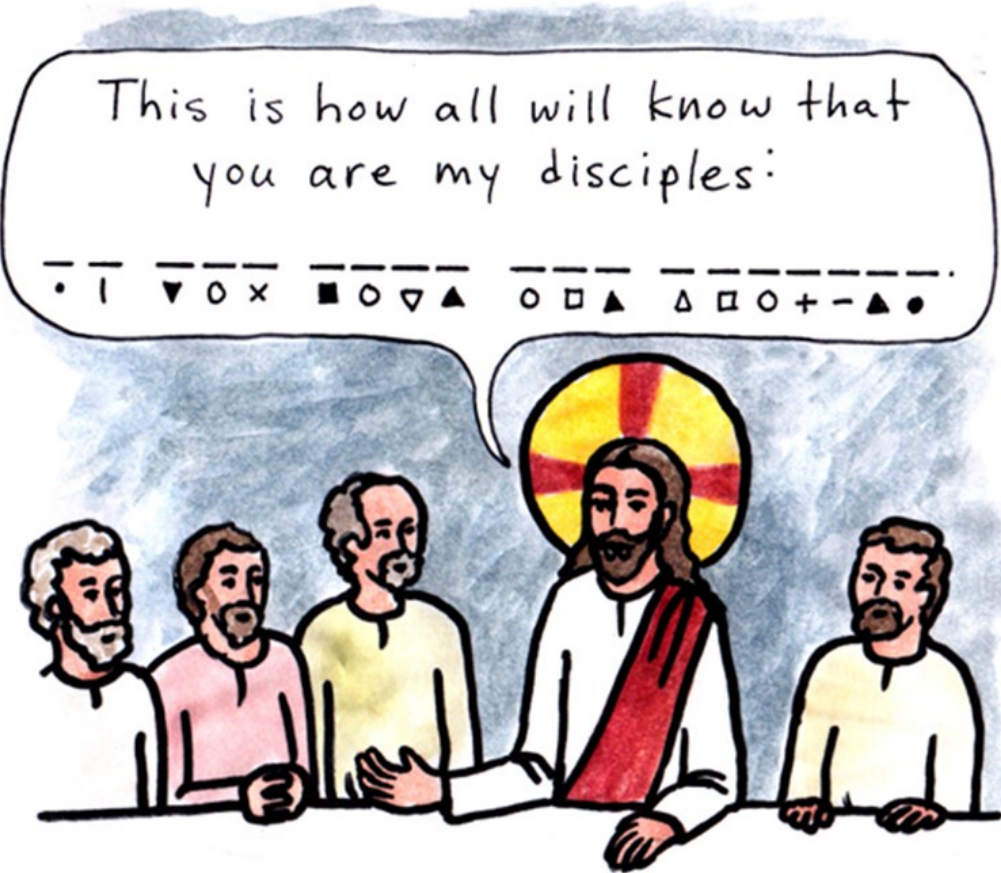


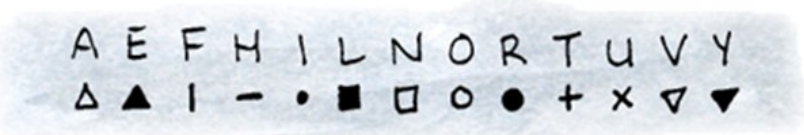
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|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Date: | 17th May/18th May 2025 | | Fifth Sunday of Easter | |
| Mass Time: | Acolyte | First Reading & Responsorial Psalm | Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful | Music |
| 5:00 PM | Ian Miles | Margaret Smith | Felix Kobus | None |
| 8:00 AM | Marek Grus | Mary Morris | Georgia Cook | |
| 9:30 AM | Phil Saville | Steve Bishop | Peta Sparkes | Chris Wilson |
| Morning Tea: Parish Choir | | | | |
| Date: | 24th May/25th May 2025 | | Sixth Sunday of Easter | |
| Mass Time: | Acolyte | First Reading & Responsorial Psalm | Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful | Music |
| 5:00 PM | Ed Junis | Wilhelmina de Raadt | Anne Maureen Scarff | Chris Wilson |
| 8:00 AM | Randall Noney | Tanya Graham | Ros Comfort | |
| 9:30 AM | John Belfanti | Phil Saville | Matt Aldous | Streeters |

KID’S CORNER

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18th, 2025



What did Jesus tell His disciples
in today's Gospel reading?
Use the code below to find out!



John 13:31-35

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



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.

The Wood of the Bridge (by Fr Benjamin Earl)

With all that has been happening in the Church in the last few weeks – the death of Pope Francis, his funeral, the election of Pope Leo XIV, and today’s solemn celebration of the inauguration of the new pontificate – we could almost be forgiven for forgetting that it is still Easter. Nevertheless, among all the other celebrations both sad and joyful, it is right to continue to wish each other ‘Happy Easter!’: the Lord is indeed risen.

The events of recent weeks perhaps providentially serve to remind us that the Christian’s Easter joy is not quite the unalloyed jubilation some might think. Easter may be a great celebration of resurrection, but no resurrection is possible if there is not first a death.

The term ‘Easter’ is something of a linguistic accident of English. The word originally had little to do with the Christian mysteries we celebrate at this time. Rather, it comes from the name of a pagan goddess, Eastre, who was celebrated at the vernal equinox, which of course is always around the time we celebrate Easter.

The ‘official’ name for Easter Sunday, stripped from all its pagan influences, both of Æstre and the of Sun God, is, translated literally, ‘The Lord’s Day of the Resurrection’.

And so you might think that this Eastertide should more properly be called ‘Resurrectiontide’ or something like that: the prolongation of the Lord’s Day of the Resurrection for seven weeks. But you would be wrong. A literal translation of the ‘official’ name for Eastertide is actually ‘Paschaltide’, or ‘Passover Time’ if you like. In this season it is not merely the resurrection which we continue to celebrate, but the whole of the Lord’s Passover, from this life, to death, to risen life and ultimately passing into heaven. We emphasise in this season the fulfilment of the Jewish Passover with the sacrifice of Christ, the new Passover lamb, and the ransoming of his people from sin by means of that sacrifice.

This recollection perhaps explains something of the choice of readings today. The gospel passage is taken from the last Supper, a little after the passage we read back on Maundy Thursday. We’re not glorying in the resurrection here, but rather preparing for Christ’s imminent departure, the gory glory of the cross, and his new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. That is, by giving our very lives.

The imitation of Christ’s love is a theme taken up in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Paul and Barnabas say that Christians, like Christ, ‘through many tribulations... must enter the kingdom of God.’ Out of love for Christ and the people he calls, the disciple will have tribulations to endure.

In Europe we live in a land where society has grown perhaps so used to the Christian gospel that it has started to forget it, and has started to leave Christ behind; even believers may be infected by what Pope Leo in his first homily as Pope called a ‘practical atheism’. In the face of this challenge, all of us who would be friends of Jesus must embrace the cross.

Yes, we may be ‘mocked, opposed, despised, or at best tolerated and pitied’. But this is precisely how we are called to show love: as Christ has loved us. This is how we will be known as his disciples. Only with the wood of the cross can we build a bridge between the divine and this world. Only with the wood of the cross can any ‘pontiff’ – literally a ‘bridge builder’ – be successful in his task.

But this Eastertide also gives us hope: for what we are anticipating here, what we are building here, and what we are preaching here is the new Jerusalem, the city of God. Whatever we suffer now, what we preach is the city where there is no ‘mourning, nor crying, nor pain, for the former things [are passing] away’.

Whatever trials and tribulation we may endure, we proclaim the good news: proclaimed, yes, by the one seated on the throne of Peter, but more importantly proclaimed from the throne of the lamb: ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. ‘We all have to experience many hardships’ they said ‘before we enter the kingdom of God.’ In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. (R.)
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Revelation 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, ‘You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.’

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: ‘Now I am making the whole of creation new.’

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 John 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Cf John 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: Pope Francis, Lillian Andrade, John Cornthwaite, Hazel Wood, Michelle Thomas, Argyna Santiago
Sick: Naziha George, 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



SPRINGWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH MEETING is on every Sunday from 5-7pm. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other young Catholics, share about the faith and enjoy a community of prayer. Anyone interested and who is between 18 and 35 years of age please contact Noah Tabone on 0493 490 960.

HOLY LAND GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION:
Thank you for supporting the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection as encouraged by the late Pope Francis. Together we have collected a total amount of **\$2,063**, a proof of our joint effort with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection 2025 will continue to support the works of the Holy Land Custody through the generosity of the Australian Church. Thank you.

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.

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/>

BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL FOR OUR HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARIANS:

Will you help our seminarians to be ‘Pilgrims and Sowers of Hope’ for God’s people? With your prayers and generosity, they can continue to grow in faith and formation, as they prepare to become priests who will sow hope, faith and love in the hearts of God’s people. Please give generously to the Bishop’s Good Shepherd Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thanks



MOUNTAINS PRIMARY SCHOOLS OFFER FEE DISCOUNTS:

To help more families access quality Catholic education, three local schools are offering major fee discounts from 2026 (T&Cs apply). Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson and St Thomas Aquinas Springwood will offer a **50% discount on Diocesan fees** while St Canice's Katoomba will be **fee-free!** Contact the schools or visit their websites to learn more.

CLERGY CONFERENCE is to be held for all our clergy commencing on the evening of **Tues 20th May** and concluding on **Fri 23rd May 2025** in the morning. With the assistance of some retired priests and some priests from religious congregations Mass will be available at six major churches in the Diocese including St Thomas Aquinas Church. We encourage all parishioners to attend the Holy Mass as normal and pray especially for the clergy of the Diocese during their time away. Please note there is **no Adoration from Wed to Fri 21st to 23rd May** but the church will be open at 8 am for all who wishes to pray before the 9:30 am Mass.

FR CHRIS’ FAREWELL MORNING TEA: As many of you may know, our beloved Parish Administrator, Fr. Christopher Del Rosario, will soon be leaving our parish to continue his ministry in Rome, Italy. While his departure fills our hearts with sadness, we also rejoice in the knowledge that he has been called to serve in this new and sacred mission—a true gift from the Holy Spirit. Since his arrival, Fr. Chris has been a guiding presence in our parish community. His pastoral care, deep faith, and compassionate leadership have impacted the lives of so many. Under his guidance, our parish has grown not only in number but in spiritual depth and unity. Whether through his inspiring homilies, his support of parish ministries, or his presence at community events, Fr. Chris has left an indelible mark on our church family. Father Chris’ last mass will be **June 1st 2025**, we will be holding a Morning Farewell Breakfast after the 9.30am Mass. For those who wish to donate a plate of food or drinks for the occasion please contact the office or email us at springwood@parracatholic.org.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish
2025 Confirmation Sacramental Program
Children and Parent Sessions:
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: We are very thankful to Dr. Angus Brook, Scholar of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame Australia who started a reading group exploring the works of St Thomas Aquinas. Parishioners who are eager to take on the exciting challenge of knowing more about our Patron Saint are more than welcome to attend. This is an ongoing session **every Sunday at 3pm** in our Parish Centre.



BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S CHAPLAINCY SERVICES:

Thank you for supporting our Catholic Care’s chaplaincy services, for your kind-hearted generosity and support for people in hospital and prison who might otherwise feel abandoned. Our Bishop’s Good Samaritan Appeal has raised **\$806.50**, which will provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to people in times of darkness. Thank you.

SPRINGWOOD EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP (SETSG):
26th Annual **Trivia Night** will be held on **SATURDAY 14th JUNE** at the STA School Hall from 7:00pm. Entry is \$20 per head. Tables of 8-10. All funds raised go to support medical and educational projects in East Timor. Thanks to the many Parishioners who have supported these projects over the years. It is always a fun night and you will be in great company! For enquiries and bookings - call Dennis 0425 209 840.

BABYSITTER WANTED: We are looking for an occasional babysitter during working hours. \$25 per hour. Would be to mind our 4 yr, 2 yr and 8 month old. Location: Valley Heights. Email: horsfallclare@gmail.com or call 0407 400 841. Thank you.