

Date:	10th May/11th May 2025		Fourth Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Loida Derbyshire	Ros Comfort	-
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Katherine Mahns	Streeters
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	Margaret Hickey	Peta Sparkes	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea: Parish Choir				


KID’S CORNER

Jesus is our shepherd
and we follow him

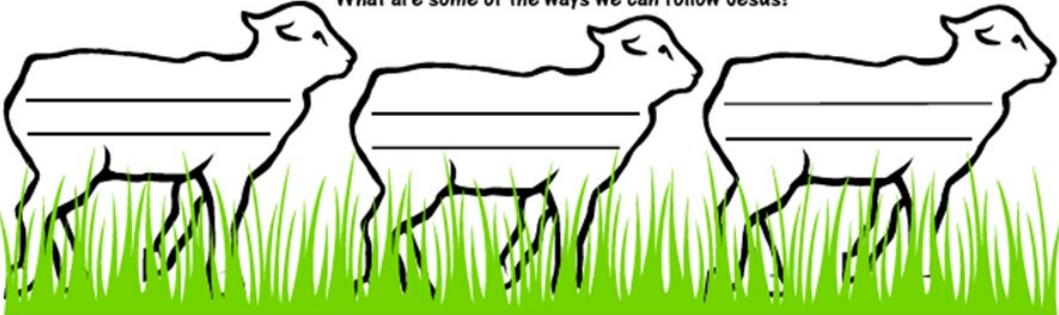
My name is

4th Sunday of Easter, Year C


In each of the sheep, write down the name of someone you know who is a follower of Jesus.




What are some of the ways we can follow Jesus?



Jesus' sheep will never be lost. Help the sheep follow the path to the shepherd.



Jesus told his disciples that no one could snatch them from out of His hand. Draw a picture of yourself feeling safe in Jesus' hand.



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



Support us!
Scan to donate

Habemus Papam - Pope Leo XIV

The first Augustinian Pope, Leo XIV is the second Roman Pontiff - after Pope Francis - from the Americas. Unlike Jorge Mario Bergoglio, however, the 69-year-old Robert Francis Prevost is from the northern part of the continent, though he spent many years as a missionary in Peru before being elected head of the Augustinians for two consecutive terms.

First Augustinian Pope
The new Bishop of Rome was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph. He spent his childhood and adolescence with his family and studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where in 1977 he earned a Degree in Mathematics and also studied Philosophy. On September 1 of the same year, Prevost entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicago, and made his first profession on September 2, 1978. On August 29, 1981, he made his solemn vows. The future Pontiff received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At the age of 27, he was sent by his superiors to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum). In Rome, he was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica by Archbishop Jean Jadot, then pro-president of the Secretariat for Non-Christians, which later became the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and then the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue. Prevost obtained his licentiate in 1984 and the following year, while preparing his doctoral thesis, was sent to the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas, Piura, Peru (1985–1986). In 1987, he defended his doctoral thesis on "The Role of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine" and was appointed vocation director and missions director of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Olympia Fields, Illinois (USA).

Mission in Peru
The following year, he joined the mission in Trujillo, also in Peru, as director of the joint formation project for Augustinian candidates from the vicariates of Chulucanas, Iquitos, and Apurímac. Over the course of eleven years, he served as prior of the community (1988–1992), formation director (1988–1998), and instructor for professed members (1992–1998), and in the Archdiocese of Trujillo as judicial vicar (1989–1998) and professor of Canon Law, Patristics, and Moral Theology at the Major Seminary "San Carlos y San Marcelo." At the same time, he was also entrusted with the pastoral care of Our Lady Mother of the Church, later established as the parish of Saint Rita (1988–1999), in a poor suburb of the city, and was parish administrator of Our Lady of Monserrat from 1992 to 1999. In 1999, he was elected Provincial Prior of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Chicago, and two and a half years later, the ordinary General Chapter of the Order of Saint Augustine, elected him as Prior General, confirming him in 2007 for a second term. In October 2013, he returned to his Augustinian Province in Chicago, serving as director of formation at the Saint Augustine Convent, first councillor, and provincial vicar—roles he held until Pope Francis appointed him on November 3, 2014, as Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Chiclayo, elevating him to the episcopal dignity as Titular Bishop of Sufar. He entered the Diocese on November 7, in the presence of Apostolic Nuncio James Patrick Green, who ordained him Bishop just over a month later, on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the Cathedral of Saint Mary. His episcopal motto is "In Illo uno unum"—words pronounced by Saint Augustine in a sermon on Psalm 127 to explain that "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one."

Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, from 2015 to 2023
On September 26, 2015, he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo by Pope Francis. In March 2018, he was elected second vice-president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference, where he also served as a member of the Economic Council and president of the Commission for Culture and Education. In 2019, Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy (July 13, 2019), and in 2020, a member of the Congregation for Bishops (November 21). Meanwhile, on April 15, 2020, he was also appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Callao.

Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops
On January 30, 2023, the Pope called him to Rome as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, promoting him to the rank of Archbishop.

Created Cardinal in 2024
Pope Francis created him Cardinal in the Consistory of September 30 that year and assigned him the Diaconate of Saint Monica. He officially took possession of it on January 28, 2024. As head of the Dicastery, he participated in the Pope's most recent Apostolic Journeys and in both the first and second sessions of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality, held in Rome from October 4 to 29, 2023, and from October 2 to 27, 2024, respectively. Meanwhile, on October 4, 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as a member of the Dicasteries for Evangelization (Section for First Evangelization and New Particular Churches), for the Doctrine of the Faith, for the Eastern Churches, for the Clergy, for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for Culture and Education, for Legislative Texts, and of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State. Finally, on February 6 of this year, the Argentine Pope promoted him to the Order of Bishops, granting him the title of the Suburbicarian Church of Albano. Three days later, on February 9, he celebrated the Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, the second major event of the Holy Year of Hope. During the most recent hospitalisation of his predecessor at the "Gemelli" hospital, Prevost presided over the Rosary for Pope Francis's health in Saint Peter's Square on March 3.



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, ‘We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.’

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)

Responsorial Psalm Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Revelation 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, ‘These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God’s throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.’

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

‘The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon :

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: Pope Francis, Lillian Andrade, John Cornthwaite, 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.

Loving God, we thank you for our homes and all we associate with them—the joy of family life and especially today the love of our mothers across the years. We thank you for the love you show us—the same love a mother feels for her child, the same patience and understanding, the same concern and protectiveness. Loving God, grant your blessing upon all mothers and all families this day; upon the family of humankind the world over, upon the family of your church, Lord of all, hear our prayer!



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family

Robin Pimentel

who was recently baptised here.

EVENT TITLE: BEING A FIRED UP CATHOLIC

Guest Speaker: Simon Carrington – Co-Founder of Fire Up Ministries
St Finbar’s Catholic Church warmly invites parishioners to a talk by Simon Carrington, co-founder of Fire Up Ministries, on **Sunday, 18 May 2025 at 7:30 PM**, held at the Parish Hall, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook.
Contact: Karen Sukkar – 0406 491 718

We encourage all teens, young adults, parents, and parishioners to attend. Let’s come together as a faith community to be recharged and inspired!

THE NEPEAN CATENIAN GROUP (in-formation) is a lay Catholic Mens’ Association that meets monthly at the Nepean Rowing Club. Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 13th May 2025**, commencing at 6:45 p.m. For a 7:00 p.m. start, followed by a meal. There will be a guided discussion on the night on ‘The Resurrection of Jesus and Modern Healthcare.’ For enquiries, please email: Michael.tan@parracatholic.org

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.



We have a new pope, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost who has taken the name of Pope Leo XIV!
Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world. Amen.

ALL PASTORAL ACTIVE PRIESTS will be attending a 4-day conference hence there will be **no Adoration and Holy Mass on Wednesday to Friday 21st –23rd May 2025**. The church will be open up to 3pm on these days for anyone who wishes to pray or visit the Blessed Sacrament.

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 contribute to his farewell gift, please see office staff or email us on springwood@parracatholic.org. The same goes to those who wish to donate a plate of food or drinks for the occasion please contact the office 02 4754 1052 or email us.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish
2025 Confirmation Sacramental Program
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: We are very thankful to Dr. Angus Brook, Scholar of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame Australia who started a reading group last week 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.



STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP:
is again hosting an AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA event on **Friday May 16th** in the Parish Centre. It commences at 10:00am. All are invited to partake of delicious spread and enjoy our activities and company while raising funds for the worthy cause – THE CANCER COUNCIL.

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.