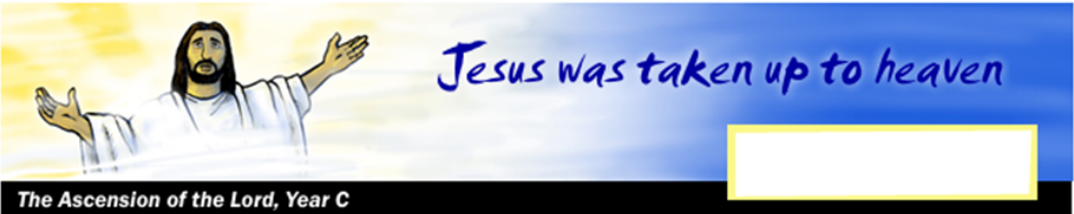


Date:	31st May/1st June 2025		The Ascension of the Lord	
Mass Time:	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</u>	<u>Music</u>
5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Margaret Smith	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Domhnall MacCormac	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Fr Chris' Farewell Morning Tea			

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Date:	7th June/8th June 2025		Pentecost Sunday	
Mass Time:	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</u>	<u>Music</u>
5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Loida Derbyshire	Ros Comfort	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Katherine Mahns	Anne Ellis	Streeters

KID’S CORNER



The Ascension of the Lord, Year C  
Draw Jesus ascending into heaven.



Even though Jesus ascended into heaven he is always with us. Complete the sentences below.

Jesus is with me when....

Jesus is with me when....

Jesus is with me when....



How many words can you make from the letters in the word ASCENSION?

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: Tuesday: 9:30 am & 7:00 pm; Wednesday - Saturday: 9:30 am  
Adoration: Tuesday: 8:15 am & 6:00 pm; Wednesday - Saturday 8:15 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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Solemnity of the Ascension

Growing up I struggled to understand the Solemnity of the Ascension. This day marks the end of Jesus’ earthly life as ‘he was lifted up while they (Apostles) looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight.’ Whilst I can only imagine Our Lord’s desire to be united with the Godhead and the Communion of Saints in his Heavenly homeland I can’t help but feel humanity being short changed with his departure. Wouldn’t it benefit the faithful more if he remained here on Earth? Does his absence allow us to be more effective disciples? Are we able to live out his mission to proclaim the Gospel with him in Heaven? If this event is a cause for joy why does it seem that Christ has abandoned us by Ascending to Heaven? These questions arise when one first considers the mystery of the Ascension.



Throughout the Gospels Christ, on occasion, hints at his eventual departure from this world: During the Transfiguration St. Luke notes the topic of conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah - they speak of his departure which he is to accomplish in Jerusalem. This sentiment is made more frequently during Jesus’ farewell discourse in John’s Gospel as he frequently speaks of his departure. Like the above questions his words trouble the disciples as St. John relates they are filled with grief upon hearing of his eventual absence. It is clear that all parties concerned desire for Christ to remain here on Earth. However note the promise coupled with Jesus eventual departure: ‘But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.’ Who is this Advocate? Catholic Doctrine understand that this Advocate is the same Holy Spirit who is part of the Holy Trinity - it is same eternal Spirit who is the bond of love between the Father and the Son. With this in mind the Holy Spirit gives richer meaning to the Ascension. Yes this day marks an end to Our Lord’s earthly life but it also highlights Christ’s eternal presence in the lives of his faithful. Through the Holy Spirit, the eternal bond of love between the Father and the Son, all the faithful now partake in this divine relationship; we are made coheirs in the life of Christ. Jesus is not limited to one place in space and time, he is ever present in all who follow his ways; in short the Ascension transcends Christ’s presence in all the faithful. His promise in St. Matthew’s Gospel rings true: “I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

Dear friends, today’s Solemnity of the Ascension is cause for great joy. On this day Christ ascends to the heights of Heaven and promises us the gift of the Holy Spirit. He does not abandon humanity as the Holy Spirit, the bond of love and third person of the Holy Trinity, will be the eternal and unyielding presence of God throughout human history. Additionally, the promised Spirit will also transform the lives of the faithful as God will work through them to proclaim his message of love and peace. May we all approach this day with joy and thanksgiving - Christ’s Ascension marks our transformation.

N.B. As I end my appointment as Administrator of the Parish I’d like to thank you, the wonderful parishioners of St. Thomas, for inspiring me to be a better priest every day. Please pray for me as I begin my studies in Rome. Please also pray for Fr. Jack as he takes this appointment. He’s my brother who is both holy and zealous for souls. You are in very good hands.

May the love of Christ be with you always,  
Fr Chris





The Vigil Mass

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 67:33,35

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

The Mass During the Day

Entrance Antiphon Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3, 6-7, 8-9, R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.

Responsorial Psalm (continuation)

2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.
3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Vigil Mass

Communion Antiphon Cf Hebrews 10:12

Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia.

The Mass During the Day

Communion Antiphon Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: Naziha George

**Sick:** Peter Avery, 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.

Welcome Fr Jack!

A warm welcome to our new Parish Administrator!

We are so happy to welcome you to our parish! It's wonderful to have you join our community. We are excited to have you lead us in faith and service. We know you will do great things here at STA Parish! We are grateful for your commitment to serving God and our community. We look forward to growing closer to God together under your pastoral care.

We also look forward to your guidance and leadership as we journey together in faith. We are here to support you in your ministry, and we hope you feel welcomed and at home among us.

We are thrilled to have you!

For all the latest information and updates about our parish, please follow our Instagram page @stthomasaquinas\_springwoodnsw

We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here :  
*Eloise Francesca Bath, Harrison David Betros  
Brooklyn Hunter Freitas, Eli James McSparron  
and Siena Belfanti Scott*



We pray for the following couple who recently married here:

*Hugh O' Brien & Breeanah Barbara*

**BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL:** Thank you for supporting our Holy Spirit Seminarians. Bishop Vincent and our Holy Spirit Seminary, thank you for your generous support in the formation of our future priests. Our Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal raised \$739.65, which will support our seminarians to deepen their relationship with God and commit more fully to their spiritual calling, so they may serve our faith community. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit [parracatholic.org/appeal-thankyou](http://parracatholic.org/appeal-thankyou) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



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.

On behalf of the Parish, Fr Chis we thank you!

We are so grateful for your ministry and all you have achieved here at St Thomas Aquinas Parish Springwood.

Thank you for serving our parish with gladness, tirelessly, faithfully and with great compassion. Your devotion and your homilies have been a great comfort and inspiration to us all.

We appreciate your dedication and your unwavering faith. Thank you for all you have done for us here at STA Parish and we will forever be grateful.

We wish you all the best in your next chapter and pray for your continued happiness and success. We will miss you and always keep you in our prayers.

May the LORD bless you and keep you! May the LORD let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you!  
May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

WEEKDAY ADORATION & MASS SCHEDULE:

Mondays - No Adoration; No Mass  
Tuesdays - Adoration: 8:15am and 6pm; Mass: 9:30am and 7pm  
Wednesday to Saturdays - Adoration: 8:15am; Mass: 9:30am

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION:** 6th June at 5:30 pm. All are invited!

2025 STA Confirmation Sacramental Program



Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmees. May the Holy Spirit make you all strong and perfect Catholics and true soldiers of Christ!

2025 Reconciliation Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm, STA Church

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm, STA Church

Children and Parent Information Sessions:

Saturday 23<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00am, STA Church

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00am, STA Church **(and practice)**  
*Reconciliation will take place on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 6.30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church*

**ST THOMAS AQUINAS READING GROUP:** 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.

SPRINGWOOD EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP (SETSG):

26<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Night will be held on **SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> 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.