

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				

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

KID’S CORNER

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

Jn 21:1-14

My name is

Jesus appears to his friends

The disciples had almost given up on catching fish when Jesus appeared to them and told them to let down their nets one more time. Fill the nets with fish!



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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Tying It Together (by Fr Euan Marley O.P.)

In the end, every human life comes to a point, a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to love, to truth, and to the gift of creation. There is a unity in our lives, but we cannot grasp that unity for ourselves, we cannot be sure what our final decision will be. Even as we approach the end of life, there is still doubt, and the last few days, hours, or even moments may be significant. In my time as a hospital chaplain, I often said to a patient the same thing, a little speech which seemed important to me to get across. Time is elastic, I would say, you can go through years of life without much happening of any importance, and then a lot can happen in a very short time.

I think this is why today’s Gospel should be seen as a unity. There are three parts to the story, the miraculous draft of fish, Jesus asking Peter if he loves him, and then the odd prophecy of his death. The prophecy is odd because it is not obviously about the death we know about in tradition. St Peter being nailed to an upside down cross, seems rather different from this depiction of an old man being cared for, losing his freedom and becoming utterly dependent on others as he approaches death. There is a unity there though, a unity to be found both in the life of St Peter and in the nature of all lives. The miracle of the fish is both a reference to the past and the future. Once St Peter had been a fisherman, but soon he would be a new kind of fisherman. The miraculous catch, because it is the work of Our Lord, because it is done in obedience to him, is both the repetition of his past life, and the start of a new life. When we are in the presence of Christ, what we have been, what we are now, and what we will be are one.

Then there is the question of St Peter’s love. The question is couched in terms of the present. ‘Do you love me?, but the present contains the past and the future, because it is Jesus the Christ, who is posing this question to all of us. St Peter has a past, we all know about this past, his betrayal, his failure at the moment of the Cross, and the moment that showed that he really did not know who he was. That failure echoes throughout the whole of the history of the Church. We will remember the words of St Peter until the end of time. ‘I do not know him’. Yet we also know that St Peter is to be redeemed and is with Christ forever, not in spite of those words but through them. The grace of God is great enough. While we live, we are always in a single moment, always at an exact point in time and space, but what we have been is part of that moment, and what we can be, long to be, and by God’s grace will be, is also part of that moment. Do you love me, is always a question for now, but it is never just about that ‘now’. Only Christ can truly know that St Peter loves him, because he sees the whole of his life, he alone knows all things.

Then there is the third part, where Jesus predicts the death of Christ. Why is it so different from the way the Church has remembered the death of St Peter. I assume that this passage was aimed at readers who knew how St Peter had died, but there must have been a time when these words of Christ were remembered, not least by St Peter himself, before his death. The words are not wrong. They did not mislead Peter about his death. Instead they speak of the deeper meaning of his death, and all death. We may wish to continue forever, speaking, acting, making, sharing life, and being part of this world. Yet all lives come to an end. The depiction of the martyrdom of St Peter as if it were the work of carers, who look after an old man, speaks of the true purpose of God. He it is who binds us up, takes away our freedom, and wraps us up for the new life. If we live in faith and hope, then no matter who our death comes to us, sudden or not, peaceful, or violent, understood or while we are unaware, that death will give glory to God. Meanwhile, come and follow him.

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Psalm 65:1-2*

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading *Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32. 40-41*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are witnesses of these words, and so is the Holy Spirit.

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. ‘We gave you a formal warning,’ he said ‘not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man’s death on us.’ In reply Peter and the apostles said, ‘Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’ They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2*

(R.) I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.

- I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. *(R.)*
- Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. *(R.)*
- The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me you have changed my mourning into dancing; O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. *(R.)*

Second Reading *Revelation 5:11-14*

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, wealth, glory, and blessing.

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, ‘The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.’ Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, ‘To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.’ And the four animals said, ‘Amen’; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;
he has shown pity on all people.
Alleluia!

Gospel *John 21:1-19*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, ‘I’m going fishing.’ They replied, ‘We’ll come with you.’ They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, ‘Have you caught anything, friends?’ And when they answered, ‘No’, he said, ‘Throw the net out to starboard and you’ll find something.’ So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord.’ At these words ‘It is the Lord’, Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, ‘Bring some of the fish you have just caught.’ Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, ‘Who are you?’; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?’ He answered, ‘Yes Lord, you know I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He replied, ‘Yes, Lord, you know I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Look after my sheep.’ Then he said to him a third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and said, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.

‘I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.’

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, ‘Follow me.’

Communion Antiphon *John 21:12-13*

Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat.
And he took bread and gave it to them, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: Pope Francis, 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.

WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM: For all the latest information and updates about our parish, please follow our page @stthomasaquinas_springwoodnsw



MESSAGE FROM OUR PPC CHAIRMAN: We are pleased to share the release of our Parish Plan today. The feedback and vision shared by our church community throughout this process have been truly inspiring. We hope this plan reflects the hopes and values we hold together and serves as a vision for the future of our parish that we can all embrace and support. Please see our Parish Notice Board or grab a copy available at the back of the church. Thank you. – Brandon Luke Scott, Chairman

We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here :



*Myles Leon Holt, Ryan Benjamin Mann
Pia Rose Nazar, Carter David Pike
Audrey Jade Higgins, Eva Marie Brazzell
Brynlee Rae Niven, Abigail Jean Prosser
Millie Jade Prosser*

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. Open to ages 13 and up, this event aims to ignite a deeper love for the Catholic faith and inspire us to live it out with boldness and joy.

Topic: Being a Fired Up Catholic
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!

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

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

Parent ONLY Sessions:

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 beginning **Sunday 4 May at 3pm**. If you are interested please inform the Parish Office.



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.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all who donated to Project Compassion 2025. We had more contributions from last weekend and our new total is \$4,593.75. May God bless you all!

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/

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.