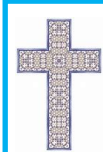


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|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Date: | 7th June/8th June 2025 | | Pentecost Sunday | |
| Mass Time: | Acolyte | First Reading & Responsorial Psalm | Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful | Music |
| 5:00 PM | Ed Junis | Tanya Baldwin | Timothy Baldwin | Chris Wilson |
| 8:00 AM | Randall Noney | Kim Crawford | Ros Comfort | |
| 9:30 AM | Phil Saville | Katherine Mahns | Anne Ellis | Streeters |
| | | | | |
| Date: | 14th June/15th June 2025 | | The Most Holy Trinity | |
| Mass Time: | Acolyte | First Reading & Responsorial Psalm | Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful | Music |
| 5:00 PM | Ian Miles | Anne Maureen Scarff | Felix Kobus | No one |
| 8:00 AM | Marek Grus | Loida Derbyshire | Tanya Graham | |
| 9:30 AM | John Belfanti | Margaret Hickey | Matt Aldous | Chris Wilson |
| Morning Tea: | Church Cleaners | | | |



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.



For all the latest information and updates about our parish, please follow our Instagram page:
[@stthomasaquinas_springwoodnsw](#)

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.



We pray for the following couple who recently married here:
Bradley James Nadalini & Isabela Blazevic



Thank You!

On behalf of the Parish team, we would like to say a BIG Thank you to all who made Fr Chris' farewell a success. The support we received, the contributions and help to make the day as good as it was, was so overwhelming. May God's Blessings be upon you all!

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.

STA 2025 Reconciliation Sacramental Program

All parents with children in Year 3 and older in 2025, who have not yet received the Sacrament of Reconciliation are invited to attend. For enquiries, please call 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org

Parent Information Sessions:
Thursday 7th August at 7.00pm, STA Church
Wednesday 13th August at 7.00pm, STA Church

Children and Parent Information Sessions:
Thursday 21st August at 7.00pm, STA Church
Thursday 28th August at 7.00pm, STA Church **(and practice)**
Reconciliation will take place on Wed 3rd September at 6.30pm St Thomas Aquinas Church

DECREE: CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS: Please see our Parish Notice Board for the decree and pastoral letter from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv to the people in the Upper Blue Mountains regarding the merging of the three parishes (Lawson, Upper Blue Mountains & Blackheath) into one new parish—The Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains. The new Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains will have seven churches served by one parish priest, two assistants and one permanent deacon: Parish Priest Fr John McSweeney (based at Katoomba), Assistant Priest Fr Peter Lamont (based at Blackheath), Assistant Priest Fr Jessie Balorio (based at Lawson) and Deacon Alan Skofic, who together will serve the needs of the whole Upper Blue Mountains community. Please note this takes out total number of parishes to 45 from 47.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL 2025: July 2025 sees the St Thomas Aquinas Springwood Conference of St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) reach its 87th year of service to the local community. So far this year, we have assisted an average of eight families and individuals in need every week. We again invite you, our generous fellow parishioners, to contribute to the 2025 Winter Appeal. Vinnies members will speak this weekend at all masses, and will then collect cash (preferred) or card donations (via special Vinnies envelopes) at the end of all masses next weekend June 14th – 15th. Donations can also be made at any time to the wooden Poor Box near the door to the sacristy. Tax receipts are available on request. Thank you for your continuing generosity. Our Conference always welcomes new members, so if you are interested in joining us, talk to one of the members during the Winter Appeal.

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.

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

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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 Jack Elkazzi (E: jack.elkazzi@parracatholic.org) |
| Parish Pastoral Council: | Email suggestions to springwoodparishpc@gmail.com |
| Parish Office Hours: | Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm |

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|-------------------------|--|
| 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.

Parish Bulletin Reflection – Pentecost Sunday

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4)

Pentecost Sunday crowns the Easter season with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It marks the birth of the Church, the moment when fear was replaced with courage, silence gave way to proclamation, and scattered hearts were united in one Spirit. In the Upper Room, the apostles were gathered with Mary, uncertain of what lay ahead. Yet, when the Spirit came—like a mighty wind and tongues of fire—their lives were utterly transformed. The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity, is not merely a divine influence, but God Himself dwelling within us, sanctifying the Church, and animating the life of every Christian.

St John Paul II described Pentecost as “a decisive turning point in salvation history,” a moment that “continues to echo in the life of the Church and in the heart of every Christian” (Pentecost 1998). For him, Pentecost was not simply a historical event—it was and remains a living mystery. The Holy Spirit is the One who gives the Church her missionary impulse, unites her members across cultures and languages, and enables her to be a sign of communion in a divided world.

As the sainted Pope affirmed, “The Church must constantly return to the Upper Room, to relive in prayerful communion the moment of her birth, and to draw fresh strength from the Holy Spirit”. Today, as we celebrate Pentecost, we are invited to do just that—to return in prayer, to open our hearts, and to receive the same Spirit who ignited the faith of the apostles.

Pope Benedict XVI, ever the teacher of interiority and deep spiritual reflection, reminds us that the Holy Spirit is the One who “guides us into the truth” (cf. Jn 16:13). In his homily for Pentecost 2006, he beautifully taught: “The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church. Without Him, what would she be reduced to? A great organisation, perhaps, a social movement. And yet it is the Spirit who makes the Church a living body, the Body of Christ.” He also stressed that the Spirit brings peace, joy, and courage—not by removing suffering or struggle, but by transforming the hearts of believers. The Holy Spirit purifies, renews, and elevates human nature, empowering each of us to become holy, to become saints.

Pope Francis, with his heart always turned toward the peripheries, often speaks of the Holy Spirit as the “divine disrupter”—the One who pushes the Church out of complacency. In his Pentecost homilies, he describes the Spirit as the source of missionary dynamism: “The Holy Spirit is the protagonist of the Church’s mission... He pushes us to go out, to proclaim Jesus, not with human strength, but with the love of God” (Pentecost Homily, 2018). He challenges us not to domesticate the Spirit or reduce the Church to a comfortable routine. Instead, Pentecost calls us to live in constant conversion, to allow the Spirit to shake us out of self-reliance, and to entrust ourselves entirely to His creative and renewing power.

As we reflect on this sacred day, let us remember: Pentecost is not just a feast we recall, but a mystery we enter into. The Holy Spirit was not poured out once and for all in the past—He is given anew in every Mass, in every sacrament, in every moment of prayerful openness.

Let us ask ourselves today:

- Am I attentive to the voice of the Spirit in my heart?
- Do I seek His gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord?
- Do I allow the Spirit to transform me into a missionary disciple—ready to witness to Christ with my life?

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Jack*



Support us!
Scan to donate

The Vigil Mass

Entrance Antiphon Rm 5:5; cf. 8:11

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

First Reading Exodus 19:3-8. 16-20

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord God appeared before all the people on Mount Sinai.

Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, “You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.” Those are the words you are to speak to the sons of Israel.’ So Moses went and summoned the elders of the people, putting before them all that the Lord had bidden him. Then all the people answered as one, ‘All that the Lord has said, we will do.’

Now at daybreak on the third day there were peals of thunder on the mountain and lightning flashes, a dense cloud, and a loud trumpet blast, and inside the camp all the people trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God; and they stood at the bottom of the mountain. The mountain of Sinai was entirely wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. Like smoke from a furnace the smoke went up, and the whole mountain shook violently. Louder and louder grew the sound of the trumpet. Moses spoke, and God answered him with peals of thunder. The Lord came down on the mountain of Sinai, on the mountain top, and the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 103:1-2. 24. 27-30. 35. R. see v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

- 1. Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! (R.)
- 2. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. Bless the Lord, my soul. (R.)
- 3. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)
- 4. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 8:22-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. For we must be content to hope that we shall be saved – our salvation is not in sight, we should not have to be hoping for it if it were – but, as I say, we must hope to be saved since we are not saved yet – it is something we must wait for with patience.

The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 7:37-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

From his breast shall flow fountains of living waters.

On the last day and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood there and cried out:

‘If any man is thirsty, let him come to me!
Let the man come and drink who believes in me!’

As scripture says: From his breast shall flow fountains of living water.

He was speaking of the Spirit which those who believed in him were to receive; for there was no Spirit as yet because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon John 7:37

On the last day of the festival, Jesus stood and cried out: If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink, alleluia.

The Mass During the Day

Entrance Antiphon Wisdom 1:7

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. ‘Surely’ they said ‘all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.’

Responsorial Psalm Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

- 1. Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
- 2. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
- 3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever! May the Lord rejoice in his works! May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 8:8-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Second Reading (continuation)

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

Sequence

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, From the clear celestial height Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor, Come with treasures which endure; Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best, Thou, the soul’s delightful guest, Dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet; Pleasant coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine, Visit thou these hearts of thine, And our inmost being fill: If thou take thy grace away, Nothing pure in man will stay; All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour thy dew; Wash the stains of guilt away: Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore Thee confess and thee adore, With thy sevenfold gifts descend: Give us comfort when we die; Give us life with thee on high; Give us joys that never end.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:15-16. 23-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

Jesus said to his disciples

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.’

Communion Antiphon Acts of the Apostles 2:4,11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.