

Date:	9th August/10th August 2025		Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
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	Lisa Vaughan	Streeters
Date:	16th August/17th August 2025		Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Anne Maureen Scarff	Felix Kobus	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Debbie Breytenbach	Mary Morris	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Margaret Hickey	Phil Saville	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea: Passionist Family Group				

KID’S CORNER



Below are some things we can do that will help us to always be ready for Jesus.

PRAY

What are some things we can pray for?



Write a prayer about one of them.

Dear God,

. Amen.

CARE FOR OTHERS

Draw a picture of yourself caring for someone you know

ASK FOR FORGIVENESS

When do we need to say “I’m sorry” to others or God?

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: Fr 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

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.



Support us!
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Gospel: Luke 12:32–48 – Be Ready for the Master’s Return

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit.” Jesus speaks to His disciples with urgency and tenderness, calling them to vigilance and faithfulness as they await the Master’s return. He begins with the comforting words, “Do not be afraid, little flock,” reminding us that the call to readiness is not based on fear but on hope and trust in the Father’s Kingdom.

This Gospel speaks to the tension of Christian life: living fully in the present while remaining oriented toward the coming of Christ. The parable of the faithful servant reveals that readiness is not a passive waiting, but active stewardship. We are entrusted with responsibilities—our vocations, families, communities—and we are called to carry them out with faithfulness and love. Jesus warns that much will be required of those to whom much has been given. These are words of both warning and encouragement: our daily choices matter, and faithfulness in little things prepares us for eternal joy.

Let us be watchful, not with anxiety, but with loving expectation. May our hearts be awake, our hands be busy with good works, and our lives shine with the light of Christ until He comes again.

May God Bless you All +

Fr Jack Elkazzi

PPC FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL EVENT

PPC Car Rally - a fun parish social and fund-raising event on 17th August after the 9:30 am Mass. It is like a scavenger hunt (the route is entirely in the lower Blue Mountains) and involves things like reading signs and answering questions, suitable for adults and children. The final destination is a picnic spot with a playground and toilet facilities. Please let the parish office know that you intend participating so we know how many copies of the directions to make. Cost is \$10 per car, payable in cash on the day. See the parish notice board for more information such as what to bring.

For enquiries email: springwoodparishpc@gmail.com

Thank you.

Anne Edwards, PPC

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 73:20,19,22,23

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Just as you struck our enemies, you made us glorious by calling us to you.

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage.

This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you.

The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1. 12. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. (R.)
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

We will look for the city designed and built by God.

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves

Second Reading (continuation)

make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
You know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 12:32-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

See that you are prepared.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.


'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

Communion Antiphon Psalm 147:12,14

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.



Recently Deceased: Ellis Dawod, Vince Tanna, Lilia Otaday, Rodney Dowling, Isaiah Dahdah

Sick: Mary Coombs, Chris Gorman, Carl Johnson, Peter Avery, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Marama Watson. We also pray for private intentions including the sick, dying and the suffering. ***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

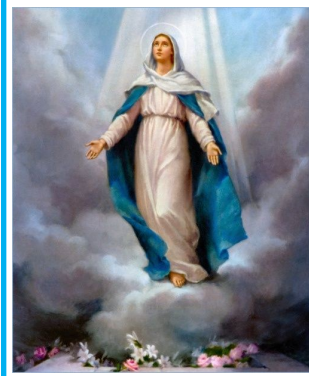
FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS WORKS: Please support our Parish and its projects.

- **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.



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

WELCOME BACK, FATHER JACK!

We're so glad to have Father Jack back from the youth pilgrimage! Thank you for guiding our young people on this spiritual journey and for being a source of inspiration and leadership. We look forward to hearing the stories and blessings you've brought back with you!



BETHANY PILGRIMAGE SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER:

Inviting all faithful women as we walk and visit five churches whilst meditating on the Glorious Mysteries. Starting with 8 am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys and returning at approximately 5:30 pm. Cost: \$20; Pilgrims must be 18+ years old; Registration is essential: www.trybooking.com/DDBUX
Contact: 0494 173 359 or email: bethanypilgrimage@gmail.com
Please see Parish Notice Board for more information.

MASS FOR MUSICIANS: In this Year of Jubilee, a Mass for Musicians will be celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen on **Wednesday 24th September 2025** at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. RSVP by 19th September 2025. Email: ofw@parracatholic.org or call 0460 037 795 with the number of guests attending for seating and catering purposes.

BACK TO THE BASICS SERVING AT THE ALTAR: A seminar on the **11th Oct** for Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar (Senior Servers) where the basic principles: Why we do what we do in serving at the altar will be discussed. RSVP **7th October 2025**. Email ofw@parracatholic.org or call 0460 037 795.

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST: Schedule of Masses is as follows:
Friday 15th August Mass at 9:30 am
Friday 15th August Mass at 7:00 pm

TUESDAY 6PM ADORATION AND 7PM CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS resumes on Tuesday, 19th August 2025

To help our parish office run smoothly and to respect the privacy of work being done, we kindly ask that the Secretary's workspace be entered by staff only. Thank you for your cooperation.




STA 2025 Reconciliation Sacramental Program

Parent Information Session:
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

Enrolment forms are available at the back of the church, STA Parish Office or online by visiting our website:
www.stachurchspringwood.org.au



CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 9:30AM MASS NEXT WEEK 17TH AUG 2025

Children aged 4-12 are invited to join our Children's Liturgy. They will be called forward and sent with a blessing over to our Parish room for a Gospel lesson and will return to their families in church after the Creed.



ST THOMAS AQUINAS PIETY SHOP IS OPEN!


Please visit our shop located in the parish office building.

We are open:

Tuesday to Friday 9am – 3pm

Sunday 9am – 11:30am.

Show your support by purchasing sacramental gifts, religious gifts for families or for your own spiritual journey.



For all the latest information and updates about our parish, please follow our Instagram page:
@stthomasaquinas_springwoodnsw

ST THOMAS AQUINAS READING GROUP: A wonderful opportunity to engage in discussions and connect with like-minded individuals. This is an ongoing session **every Sunday at 3pm** in our Parish Centre. Feel free to simply show up.

SPRINGWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH MEETING is on every Sunday from 5-7pm. Anyone interested and who is between 18 and 35 years of age please contact Noah Tabone on 0493 490 960.

STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP will be holding their annual street/cake stall on **FRIDAY 15th AUGUST** outside Priceline Chemist from 9:00am until 12:30pm. If anyone would like to contribute cakes, jams, pickles etc please bring them on the day or contact Colleen Kime on: 0407 125 427 or 02 4754 4335.