

<b>Date:</b>	<b>13th September/14th September 2025</b>		<b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Felix Kobus	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	Phillip Saville	Lisa Vaughan	Anne Ellis	Streeters
<b>Date:</b>	<b>20th September/21st September 2025</b>		<b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Domhnall MacCormac	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Margaret Hicky	Peta Sparkes	Chris Wilson
<b>Morning Tea:</b> Children's Liturgy / Polish Group				

## KID'S CORNER

## The Son of Man must be lifted up

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

God loves us so much he sent Jesus to help us and save us.  
What are some things you can do to help those who you love?

Fill in the missing words and pictures.

**COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE**

"God did not send the Son to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

START	G	O	H	I	M	FINISH							
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D	F	Y	M	O	T	T	E	E	T	B	T	H	W
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God sent his only \_ \_ \_ to save us.

Jesus taught many people about God.  
(draw Jesus)

Jesus was sentenced to death and nailed to a \_ \_ \_ \_.

Jesus died but rose again  
(draw the risen Jesus)

*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](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook Page:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood  
**Parish Administrator:** Fr Jack Elkazzi (E: [jack.elkazzi@parracatholic.org](mailto:jack.elkazzi@parracatholic.org))  
**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email suggestions to [springwoodparishpc@gmail.com](mailto: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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## Bulletin Reflection – Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today the Church exalts the Cross, not as an instrument of shame, but as the sign of our salvation. In Christ's suffering and death, God's love is revealed in its fullest measure. As Jesus says in the Gospel (John 3:13-17), "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." The Cross lifts our eyes to this love, showing that true glory comes through self-giving.

We honour the Cross because it reminds us that no darkness, sin, or suffering is beyond God's redeeming power. By embracing our own crosses with faith, we share in Christ's victory over sin and death.

This feast calls us to gratitude and courage: to carry our crosses daily, trusting that God brings life out of suffering. May the Cross of Christ be our hope, our strength, and our path to eternal life.

May God Bless you all +

Fr Jack Elkazzi

*Thank you Acknowledgement!*

Fr Jack wishes to express his heartfelt acknowledgment and appreciation to all who so generously contribute to the life of our parish, our dedicated volunteers, the many individuals and groups who give of their time and talents, the choirs who enrich our liturgies with music, and the financial benefactors who support and sustain our mission. Your generosity, seen and unseen is a true witness to faith in action and through your service, our community continues to grow as a welcoming home for all God's people.







Entrance Antiphon Cf Galatians 6:14

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

*When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.*

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.’

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.’ Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, ‘Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.’ So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

**(R.)** Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;  
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **(R.)**
2. When he slew them then they would seek him,  
return and seek him in earnest.  
They would remember that God was their rock,  
God the Most High their redeemer. **(R.)**
3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery;  
they lied to him with their lips.  
For their hearts were not truly with him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. **(R.)**
4. Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger  
when he might have stirred up his rage. **(R.)**

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.*

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.  
Alleluia!

Gospel John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Son of Man must be lifted up.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:  
‘No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.  
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.’

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Communion Antiphon John 12:32

When I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.



**Recently Deceased:** Willem de Raadt, Ellis Dawod, Vince Tanna  
**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, Graham Downie  
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 t he 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.



This commemoration originated in the medieval devotion to the seven sorrows of Mary. Approved for the Servite order in the seventeenth century, it was extended to the whole Western Church in 1814 by Pius VII in thanksgiving for his release from captivity under Napoleon. In the light of Simeon’s prophecy about a sword piercing Mary’s soul (Luke 2:35), the feast celebrates Mary, first disciple and first to share in the pain and triumph of the cross.

**Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal 2025:**

Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal provides much-needed care and support for our priests who have dedicated their lives to serving our community. Your generosity and love ensure they receive the care, comfort and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives.  
Please visit [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or scan this QR code.



Young adults from 18-35 are invited to come along on **Sunday 14th Sept** and learn about the truly remarkable life of St Joan of Arc, and why she is as relevant today as ever. Speaker Mark Buhagiar will lead the faith formation session at Sacred Heart Parish Hall (9 Ropes Creek Rd, Mt Druitt) at 7pm, followed by free pizza, lucky door prize, and fellowship! Call Mark with any questions on 0477 004 678.

**ST PADRE PIO OF PIETRELCINA FEAST DAY:** Triduum St Padre Pio’s Novena & Mass Schedule: **Thurs 18th Sept 7pm, Fri 19th Sept 7pm, Sat 20th Sept 5:30 pm.**  
**Sunday 21st Sept at 10am:** A procession followed by the Feast Day Mass, Veneration & Blessing with St Padre Pio’s Relic & fellowship Meal. Contact: 02 4789 2232 St Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park

**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](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or call 0460 037 795 with the number of guests attending for seating and catering purposes.

**Campion College Study Camp** is a three-day school holiday retreat for Year 11 and 12 students, designed to help them focus on their studies while enjoying community life on a peaceful Toongabbie campus.  
**8-10 Oct 2025** for Year 11 & 12 students  
6-8 hours of quiet study time each day  
Daily Mass & reflective discussions  
On-campus accommodation & all meals included  
\$400/student—save \$40 with the code PARISHDISCOUNT



**LAUDATO SI’ REFLECTION**

Quote: “The word ‘creation’ has a broader meaning than ‘nature,’ for it refers to God’s loving plan in which every creature has value.” (LS 76)  
Commentary: All created things exist through and for Christ. Caring for creation is part of our vocation as disciples, helping us cooperate with God’s plan and reflect His love in the world.



**2025 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program**

*Parent Information Sessions:*

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.00pm,  
St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

*Children and Parent Sessions:*

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish  
**(and practice)**

*First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 5pm Vigil Mass, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025, St Thomas Aquinas Church*

**INVITATION TO HAVE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** All parents with children in Year 3 or older, who have been baptised and have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, are asked to register their children for the First Holy Communion 2025 Program. Details of the program and Enrolment form are available on our website. Please visit: [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au) or call parish office on 02 4754 1052. You can also send your enquiries to: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)

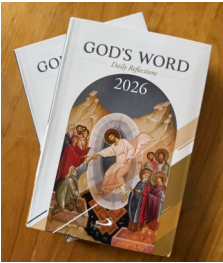


**ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC GIFT SHOP IS OPEN!**

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.

**GOD’S WORD 2026 IS NOW AVAILABLE** Edition prepared for Australia and New Zealand contains the Bible readings set down for each day of the liturgical year with reflections by eminent spiritual writers. Designed to help you keep the word of God close to your heart in daily life. A life-changing companion to nourish you, help make God’s Word the foundation of your life, and empower you to pray, to live and to share your faith with others.

- Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible
- Liturgical information of the day, including feasts and memorials of saints.
- Space to note down personal reflections, and important events.
- Produced in flexi-cover format with attractive colour designs.



*Available to purchase \$22 each from our Catholic gift shop and office*

Parishioners are invited to a lunch at the Springwood Golf Club on **Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sept from 12pm**. There will be a few guessing games, which will help make this an enjoyable get together. The Club requires notification so please contact Colleen Kime on 0407 125 427 or 02 4754 4335.