


Date:	29th November/30th November 2025		First Sunday of Advent	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Margaret Smith	Felix Kobus	No One
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Vicky Walker	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Katherine Mahns	Phil Saville	Couples for Christ
Morning Tea:	Couples for Christ			
Date:	6th December/7th December 2025		Second Sunday of Advent	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Mary Morris	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	Phillip Saville	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	East Timor			

KID’S CORNER





Stay Awake! Be Ready!


First Sunday of Advent, Year A



During the season of Advent we prepare for the arrival of Jesus.
What are three things you can do to be ready for Jesus during this first week of Advent?

Try to decipher this teaching that Jesus gave to his disciples. Draw yourself listening to Jesus.




Always  red+e!

U don't  the

 of  will come.

Help Noah and the animals find their way onto the ark so they can be ready for the flood when it comes.



Matthew 24:37-44

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St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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Parish Email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Administrator: Fr Jack Elkazzi (jack.elkazzi@parracatholic.org)
Parish Pastoral Council: 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



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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.

Bulletin Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent– New Liturgical Year Begins: Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle 2

Advent begins with a summons to wakefulness. We ‘run forth to meet Christ’ not by frantic activity but by holy desire and practical charity. The Lord’s coming is certain; the hour unknown.

Each Mass teaches us how to live in the meantime: receive the gift, give thanks, and become what we receive. Prayer stretches the heart, reconciliation heals our steps, and service of the poor clears a path for the King who draws near. The Scriptures ask us to lift our heads and refuse discouragement—God is at work in hidden ways.

Let this week be marked by a concrete act of love and a renewed habit of daily prayer. If we keep our eyes on Christ, we will find that hope is not optimism but confidence in the God who comes to save.

Maranatha—Come, Lord Jesus!

May God bless you all +
In Christ Jesus and Mary

Fr Jack Elkazzi

Events in November/December 2025

- ✚ Collection for the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal will be held this weekend **Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th Nov 2025.**
- ✚ Funeral Notices
For the late Helen Redman: Friday, 5th December 2025 at 11 am
For the late Steve Bishop: Wednesday, 10th December 2025 at 11 am
- ✚ The Annual STA Christmas Carols is on Sunday 21st December 2025 at 4:30 pm followed by BBQ and light refreshment.
- ✚ Christmas Eve Mass Times: 5-6 pm and 8-9 pm
Christmas Day Mass Times: 8-9 am and 9:30-10:30 am

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
‘Let us go to God’s house.’
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel’s law it is,
there to praise the Lord’s name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
‘Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!’ (R.)
4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: ‘Peace upon you!’
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

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

Communion Antiphon Psalm 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



All November Masses will be offered for the Faithful Departed Souls; **Recently Deceased:** Helen Redman, Steve Bishop
Sick: Melissa Couch, Stan Pakulski, James Murray, Erlisa Argayoso, Allan Arias, Mary Coombs, 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 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: *Proceeds go to the Board of Management.* The fund supports the living expenses of the priests within our Diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION: *Collection is for the upkeep of 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.

Invitation from our PPC to join new parish groups: Greeters, Maintenance and Fundraising Teams; Request to complete a Parish Survey; and Details on the upcoming construction of shaded outdoor space can all be found in the Parish News on our STA website (including the links to access more information). Visit: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au

An Ausland Interpreter is available this coming Saturday for those with hearing impairment at the **5pm Vigil Mass 29th November**. Please see Acolyte for the reserved seats.

The St Thomas Aquinas Reading Group has wrapped up for the year now. Sessions will resume in February 2026. Watch this space for updates.

We would like to express our gratitude to all our church volunteers who donate their time and energy expecting nothing in return. We are so grateful for your kindness, generosity and all your contributions to our parish.
We appreciate, too the quiet service behind the scenes of our church cleaners, making such a big difference — creating a space where we can worship, pray, and gather in comfort. Your work is a true act of love and ministry, and we deeply appreciate your faithfulness.
For those wanting to have the new roster, this is now available at the back of the church. Thank you.

STA VINNIES CONFERENCE SAYS THANK YOU. It keeps happening. Every year parishioners and our school communities decisively respond to the call to help the less fortunate in our community. We Vinnies members are again truly grateful for the rapid uptake of all the Christmas hamper profiles we presented recently, each one representing a needy family or individual doing it tough in the Mountains. In addition, another group of generous people have provided cash and/or gift cards intended for these same needy people. Each of you have “put Christ back into Christmas”. God bless you. Please bring your hampers to Mass the weekend of Dec 20 & 21 so that Vinnies can distribute them before Christmas.

Thank You to Wilhelmina — Over Ten Years of Faithful SRE Service With heartfelt gratitude, we extend our sincere thanks to Wilhelmina for her outstanding dedication and generous service as an SRE teacher for over 10years. Her faith, gentleness, and commitment have been a true blessing to the children of our parish and local schools. Through her presence, countless young hearts have heard the Gospel, encountered Christ’s love, and grown in confidence in their faith. Wilhelmina’s ministry has been marked by patience, kindness, and a deep love for the Lord. We thank her for the countless hours of preparation, teaching, and prayer she has offered in service of our young people. May God reward her abundantly for all she has given.



St Thomas Aquinas Parish CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Come and join us for our annual Carol singing event led by our Parish Choir, the E Streeters and some special guests (including Santa).

This is an event for all the family, so children are encouraged to come dressed as angels or shepherds.

This will be followed by a BBQ and light refreshments.

Where: In Thomas Aquinas Church
When: Sunday 21st December at 4:30 pm

STA Christmas Mass Times

23rd December, Tuesday: Adoration & Mass
times as usual in the morning and night

24th December, Wednesday (Christmas Eve):
8:15am and 9:30am—Adoration & Mass times as usual

5-6pm - Christmas Children’s Mass

8-9pm - Family Christmas Mass

25th December, Thursday (Christmas Day)
No Adoration

8-9am: Mass

9:30-10:30am: Mass



ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC GIFTSHOP 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.

Copies of God’s Word 2026, the Ordo 2026, Daily Mass Book 2026 and 2026 Franciscan Calendar are now available for purchase from the Parish Office and Giftshop. Also, due to increase in demand for the **Sunday Missal**, this will be available from next week. For prices and orders, contact the **Parish office** or visit the **STA Giftshop**.

The Saint Thomas Aquinas Ladies Fellowship will be holding their Annual Christmas Raffle on the weekends of **29-30 Nov & 6-7th Dec**. All money raised will be given to St Vincent de Paul towards buying food vouchers for their Christmas Appeal. Great Christmas gifts, and Christmas Cakes to be won. Thank you for your support.

Welcome to Our New SRE Co-ordinator — Vicki

We are delighted to welcome Vicki as our new SRE Co-ordinator. Vicki brings enthusiasm, experience, and a generous heart for ministry. We are grateful for her willingness to step into this important role, helping to guide our parish’s mission in supporting faith education in our local schools. Please keep Vicki in your prayers as she begins this ministry, and may the Holy Spirit strengthen and inspire her as she serves our parish community.