

Date:	22nd November/23rd November 2025		Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	
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	Ros Comfort	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Margaret Hickey	Peta Sparkes	Streeters
Morning Tea:	STA Team			
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			

KID’S CORNER

Throughout our history there have been kings who were selfish, arrogant and cruel towards their people, while other kings have been kind and wise leaders who have protected their people. What kind of a king is Jesus Christ and how does he treat his people?

Place a cross next to the words that best describe Christ the King

POWERFUL

UNJUST

SELFISH

COMPASSIONATE

MERCIFUL

GREEDY

LOVING

DISRESPECTFUL

PROTECTING

FORGIVING

Luke 23:35-43

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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 (Year C)

Today we acclaim Christ as King—not a rival to earthly powers, but the Lord who reigns from the Cross. His sceptre is mercy, his crown is thorns, and his throne is the wounded Heart that never ceases to love.

The good thief discovers a kingdom unlike any on earth: one entered by repentance, received as pure gift—‘Today you will be with me in Paradise.’ To serve such a King is true freedom. When we forgive, speak truth, protect the vulnerable, and adore Christ in the Eucharist, we proclaim his Kingship.

Let us invite the Lord to reign first in our hearts, then in our homes and parish, so that our lives become a public hymn: ‘To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins—be glory and power for ever and ever!’ May this feast renew our courage to live under Christ’s gentle rule.

May God bless you all +
In Christ Jesus and Mary

Fr Jack Elkazzi

Events in November 2025

- ✚ November Mass Offerings. All November Masses are offered for the Faithful Departed.
- ✚ Join us on the **29th of November between 9am and 1pm** at the church for a Working Bee. Bring your gloves, tools and a smile as we clear the way for our upcoming shade project.
- ✚ The Bishop’s Christmas Appeal will be held on the weekend of **Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th November 2025**. This appeal will help Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, the Diocese’s social welfare agency, to continue providing grief and loss counselling to those who need it most. Without our community support, this type of counselling may go unfunded; waitlists grow; and people face Christmas and the months after without much needed professional help and support. We encourage parishioners to donate generously to support people in need in our community.



Entrance Antiphon

Revelation 5:12; 1:6

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading

2 Samuel 5:1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel

They anointed David king of Israel.

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. ‘Look’ they said ‘we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, “You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel.”’ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

(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. Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. **(R.)**
3. 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.)**

Second Reading

Colossians 1:12-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

He has taken us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

Second Reading (continuation)

He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.
As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 11:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our
father;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 23:35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according Luke

Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’ The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’ Above him there was an inscription: ‘This is the King of the Jews.’ One of the criminals hanging there abused him. ‘Are you not the Christ?’ he said. ‘Save yourself and us as well.’ But the other spoke up and rebuked him. ‘Have you no fear of God at all?’ he said. ‘You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,’ he said, ‘remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ ‘Indeed, I promise you,’ he replied, ‘today you will be with me in paradise.’

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

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 28:10-11

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.



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.



Thank you again to Kim Ellis and Wilhelmina de Raadt for the remarkable 25 years of service to our Parish as catechists and to Anne Ellis, Elizabeth Bauerhuit, Ingrid Merchant, Kelli Brough, Pia Waring, Tanya Baldwin, Therese Ross, Vicky Walker and the lovely student volunteers from St Columba’s College for the continued unwavering support in guiding students from public schools on their faith journey. Anyone who would like to answer the call for being the guiding light in our student’s spiritual journey and be a part of our Catechist group of ministry, please contact Vicki Walker on 0408 024 597, parish office 02 4754 1052.

The Saint Thomas Aquinas Ladies Fellowship will be holding their Annual Christmas Raffle on the weekends **of 29-30 November and the 6-7th December.**

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.

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

Bishop’s Christmas Appeal: Christmas is drawing near, and with it the promise that God is with us. For many in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, that promise is needed right now. Many individuals and families are carrying grief, stress and uncertainty – wrestling with the rising cost-of-living, unstable work and the heartbreak of losing a loved one. Your generosity is the way to open the doors of hope for the broken-hearted ensuring that no one is our community grieves alone. Collection week-end is on the **29th/30th November**. For those who wish to donate now, please give generously at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code.



Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses are now open for registration: Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick & Dying and Ministers at the Altar to be held in Blacktown or Penrith in 2026. Enrolments will close on Friday, **23rd January 2026** or earlier if maximum capacity is reached. Please contact STA Parish Office for enrolment form or the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Office for Worship directly on 0460 037 795; email: ofw@parracatholic.org



Please be informed that the STA Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, **25th November 2025** and will re-open on Wednesday, 26th November 2025. For urgent matters call 02 4754 1052/0474 631 168.



Join us on the **29th of November between 9am and 1pm** at the church for a Working Bee. Bring your gloves, tools and a smile as we clear the way for our upcoming shade project.



NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS

During the month of November, the Church invites us to remember and pray for all the faithful departed. It is a sacred time to commend our loved ones to God’s mercy and to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for their eternal rest.

Parishioners are encouraged to submit the names of deceased family members and friends to be included in our November Mass Offerings. Please ensure all **NAMES are CLEARLY written**. These names will be placed in our Book of Remembrance located at the back of the church and remembered at all Masses throughout the month.

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.”



First Holy Communion Congratulations!

We wish abundant blessing on those children who receive their first Holy Communion, and pray that they, accompanied by their families and loved ones, will

continue to avail themselves of the graces that come with receiving the Eucharist. Thank you to the parents who did much to prepare their children for this sacrament. May they be guided by God’s love as they journey with their children towards this important sacrament.



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**.

BECOME A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TO THE SICK: We warmly invite individuals to join the compassionate team of Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick, a role that offers more than just delivering communion—it is an opportunity to bring love, joy and the presence of our faith to those unable to attend church due to health issues, visiting hospitals, private and nursing homes. This allows volunteers to be a beacon of hope and a reminder of inclusion within our church family for our homebound friends. For those interested, please ring the parish office 02 4754 1052.