

Date:	20th December/21st December 2025		Fourth Sunday of Advent	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Margaret Smith	Felix Kobus	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Katherine Mahns	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario
Date:	24th December/25th December 2025		Nativity of the Lord	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Bernard Ellis & Shaun Keating	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Andrew Wilson
Children's Mass				
Family 8:00 PM	John Belfanti & Randall Noney	Matt Aldous	Anne Maureen Scarff	STA Choir
Christmas Mass				
8:00 AM	Ian Miles	Jim Gresser	Mary Morris	
9:30 AM	Marek Grus	Lisa Vaughan	Peta Sparkes	Streeters
Date:	27th December/28th December 2025		The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Felix Kobus	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Vicky Walker	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Phillip Saville	Lisa Vaughan	Anne Ellis	Streeters

KID'S CORNER



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: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Administrator: Fr Jack Elkazzi
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 – 4th Sunday of Advent (Year A)

This final Sunday of Advent brings us to the quiet threshold of Christmas. Matthew's Gospel reveals the courageous faith of St Joseph—a man who listens deeply, trusts God's word, and welcomes the mystery of Emmanuel, "God-with-us." Joseph does not speak a single recorded word in Scripture; instead, his silence becomes a space where God's voice can be heard.

The Collect today recalls the angel's message to Mary, reminding us that the Incarnation begins with a simple "yes." God's greatest works unfold through ordinary people who are open to his grace.

As Christmas draws near, we are invited to imitate Mary and Joseph: to surrender fear, to welcome God's plan, and to allow Christ to be born anew in our homes, our parish, and our hearts.

In these final days of Advent, may we slow down, listen, and prepare a place where Christ can dwell—bringing light, peace, and hope.

May God bless you all +
In Christ Jesus and Mary
Fr Jack Elkazzi

Events in December 2025

- ✝ Join us tonight for this Sunday STA Christmas Carols 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 Isaiah 45:8](#)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading [Isaiah 7:10-14](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No’, Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’

Then Isaiah said:

‘Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10](#)

(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Romans 1:1-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 1:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 1:18-24](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’.
When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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

Communion Antiphon [Isaiah 7:14](#)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



Recently Deceased: Peter Avery, Janette Green, Anthony Hastings (Joan Noney’s brother), Graham Downie, Helen Redman, Steve Bishop;
Sick: Melissa Couch, James Murray, Erlisa Argayoso, Allan Arias, Mary Coombs, Carl Johnson, 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: *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.



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children:

Valle Philip Kemp

Stevie Bo Lee

Arel Ambrose Quinn

who were recently baptised here.

Office Closure Notice

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Office will be closed from **Thursday, 25 December 2025 until Monday, 2 February 2026.**

During this time, all regular Adoration and Mass times will continue except on Tuesday evenings.

Please note that Tuesday night Adoration (6:00pm) and Mass (7:00pm) are cancelled for the duration of the office closure.

First Friday Adoration on **2 January 2026** at 5:30pm is also cancelled.

During the Christmas Holiday break, emails will not be regularly monitored. For URGENT or Emergency matters ONLY, please call our after-hours number on 0474 631 168.

All non-urgent enquiries and invoices will be attended to upon our return from leave.

The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, **3 February 2026.**

Thank you.

RETURN OF VINNIES HAMPERS THIS WEEKEND

Thank you for bringing back the hamper you promised to put together for our needy. Please place your hamper at the back of the church in the area marked with your hamper’s ID number (the profile number you originally chose). At the end of 9:30 am mass, all hampers will be transferred across to the Parish Centre to the large meeting room ready for distribution on Monday, with that number order maintained if at all possible - volunteer porters welcome! If your hamper is too heavy to carry from your car, we will have trolleys available - just let us know. Thank you again.

The Epiphany Pilgrimage occurs only once a year (to coincide with the Feast of the Epiphany). The pilgrims begin their journey at Our Lady of the Way Parish in Emu Plains and complete their journey at the *Chapel of the Magi* at Bell. The pilgrims will arrive at St Thomas Aquinas Parish on Saturday **3rd January** and leaving on Sunday **4th January** following our 8am Mass. A prayer box is at the back of the church so parishioners can drop their prayer requests, which will be prayed by the pilgrims. To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage including walks, Mass, Adoration/prayer sessions and meals – visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org



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

Tue 23 Dec

Adoration & Mass as usual
(morning & evening)

Wed 24 Dec – Christmas Eve

8:15am & 9:30am – Adoration
& Mass as usual

5–6pm – Children’s Christmas Mass

8–9pm – Family Christmas Mass

Thu 25 Dec – Christmas Day

No Adoration

8–9am – Mass

9:30–10:30am – Mass

WE NEED YOUR HELP

2026 Epiphany Pilgrimage will be on Saturday **3rd January**. If you would like to be involved by way of providing food or drinks also helping with the setting up and serving the food for dinner please contact

Colleen Kime on 0407 125 427 or k.kime@bigpond.com

Thank you to all parish members who have helped in past years - Colleen Kime.



ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC GIFTSHOP CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BREAK!

Please note that our St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Giftshop will be closed from Thursday **25th of December 2025 up to Monday 2nd of February 2026** and will reopen on Tuesday **3rd February 2026.**

We thank everyone who shopped with us in 2025. We appreciate your support more than words can say. Your patronage keeps us going and we hope we could be of service to you again in the new year.

Merry Christmas to All and have a Prosperous New Year!