

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			
Date:	13th December/14th December 2025		Third Sunday of Advent	
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	Marek Grus	Ros Comfort	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Lisa Vaughan	Anne Ellis	Streeters

KID’S CORNER

Make a straight path for the Lord

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A

At each bend in the road write down something that you are sorry for doing.

Use the words below to complete Isaiah’s prophecy which tells of John the Baptist preaching in the desert.

IN THE _____
SOMEONE IS _____
“GET THE _____
READY FOR THE _____
_____ MAKE A _____
_____ FOR HIM.”

STRAIGHT ROAD
SHOUTING LORD PATH
DESERT

Matthew 3:1-9, 11

Draw a picture of John the Baptist from his description in the bible.

He wore clothes made from camel’s hair.
He wore a leather strap around his waist.
He ate locusts and wild honey.

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

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.



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Bulletin Reflection – 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Advent calls us to prepare a place in our hearts for the Lord who is coming. Today John the Baptist stands before us as a strong but tender guide, urging us to “prepare the way of the Lord” by turning again to God with sincerity. His message is not one of fear, but of hope: God desires to draw near, to heal what is wounded, and to renew what has grown weary.

Isaiah’s beautiful vision of harmony—where justice flourishes and peace has no end—reminds us that God’s Kingdom is not a distant dream but a gift already breaking into our world. Each act of kindness, forgiveness, and patience becomes a small doorway through which Christ comes again.

As we continue our Advent journey, may we welcome the Lord with humble hearts, confident that he brings light into every darkness and restores hope where it has faded.

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

Events in December 2025

- ✝ Funeral Notice
For the late Steve Bishop: Wednesday, 10th December 2025 at 11 am
- ✝ STA Year 6 Graduation Mass is on Tuesday 16th December 2025 at 6:30pm. Please note the usual Tuesday night 6pm Adoration is cancelled.
- ✝ 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 Isaiah 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace
for ever.

- 1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
- 2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
- 3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
- 4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was
meant to teach us something about hope from the
examples scripture gives of how people who did not give
up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when
we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each
other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that
united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God
and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each
other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The
reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews
was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the
promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the
pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture
says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the
pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in
the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message:
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This
was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a
leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and
wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the
whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they
were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed
their sins. But when he saw a number
of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said
to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the
retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant,
produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell
yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I
tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these
stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees,
so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be
cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for
repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful
than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will
baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-
fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and
gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in
a fire that will never go out.'

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

Communion Antiphon Baruch 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Recently Deceased: Anthony Hastings (Joan Noney's brother), Graham Downie, 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.
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



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - 8th December
Alleluia, alleluia!
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
Blessed are you among women.
Alleluia!



Congratulations to the STA Year 6 Students! Your graduation is a testament to your hard work and commitment. May all your future endeavours be successful.
Graduation Mass will be held on Tuesday **16th of December 2025 at 6:30pm**, St Thomas Aquinas Church.
Please note the usual Tuesday night 6pm Adoration and 7pm Mass are cancelled.

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.

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.

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 will be available soon 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

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. For emergency matters, please call 0474 631 168. The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, **3 February 2026.**



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*, *2026 Franciscan Calendar* and *Columban Art Calendar* are now available for purchase from the Parish Office and Giftshop. For prices and orders, contact the **Parish office** or visit the **STA Giftshop**.

