

Date:	31st January/1st February 2026		Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Margaret Smith	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Vicky Walker	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Lisa Vaughan	Anne Ellis	Chris Wilson

Date:	7th February/8th February 2026		Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Randall Noney	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Ros Comfort	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Streeters

KID'S CORNER



Draw a line from the first half of each beatitude to its correct ending.

Blessed are those who grieve...

Blessed are the merciful...

Blessed are those who make peace...

Blessed are those with pure hearts...

...they will be treated with mercy.

...they will be called God's children.

...they will see God.

...they will find comfort.



Jesus told his disciples that even though people may be mean to you, as a follower of Christ you will have a great reward in heaven. What are some of the ways we can follow Christ?

Complete the Text Maze

"Blessed are the humble, the earth will belong to them."

B L E A C M I C E B
 E R S E B H E N P J
 Q E S H E T E A R D
 A D O A L K I N T H
 R P F M B D E L K W
 E T H U Q L D E L I
 M H E H A L E B L J
 U C V D F O W I F A
 X D G D J N G T O E
 H A I A B V O G T P
 M F H R G O C A H E
 A S C L H D E N J M

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 - Saturday: 9:30 am
Adoration: Tuesday - Saturday: 8:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Cancelled until further notice
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Saturday Vigil Mass
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11:00 am and by appointment
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: Please Contact the Parish Office



Support us!
Scan to donate

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 in Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Beatitudes are among the most challenging and beautiful teachings of Jesus. They turn the world's idea of happiness upside down. Instead of praising wealth, success, or power, Jesus calls blessed those who are humble, merciful, gentle, and hungry for justice.

These words are not abstract ideals; they describe the very heart of Christ. Jesus himself is poor in spirit, meek, merciful, and willing to suffer for the sake of love. In the Beatitudes, he invites us to share his way of living and loving.

This Gospel encourages us to look honestly at our hearts. Where do we seek our security? What do we truly value? The Beatitudes remind us that real joy flows from trusting God, not from controlling outcomes or accumulating possessions.

Living the Beatitudes does not mean avoiding hardship. In fact, Jesus promises blessing even in mourning, persecution, and struggle. When these experiences are united with Christ, they become places of grace.

May the Beatitudes shape our homes, our parish, and our daily choices, so that God's kingdom may be visible among us.

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

Rosary Quote

"You always leave the Rosary for later, and you end up not saying it at all because you are sleepy. If there is no other time, say it in the street without letting anybody notice it. It will, moreover, help you to have presence of God."

- St Josemaria Escriva





Entrance Antiphon *Psalm 105:47*

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading *Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13*

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the
name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3*

**(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 5:12*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 5:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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

Communion Antiphon *Cf Psalm 30:17-18*

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.



Recently Deceased: Joan Gracie, Richard Bell, Elizabeth Boshell
Sick: David Rees, 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.

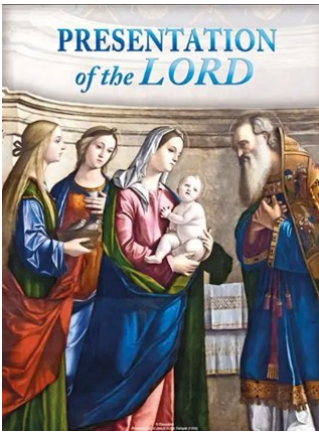
MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES are also available which can be used to express your ongoing generosity and support. Thank you.

Special Year of St Francis

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special Year of St Francis to mark the 800th anniversary of the saint's death, extending until January 2027.

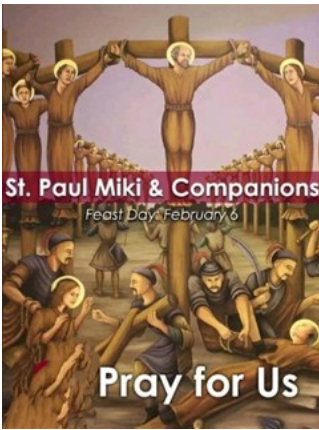
This Special Year holds particular meaning for the Diocese of Parramatta, shaped by Franciscan spirit through our Bishop and the many Franciscan friars, sisters and lay members across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. In their lives of simplicity, service to the poor and care for creation, the legacy of St Francis lives on among us today.

May this Special Year renew our hearts and shape us as instruments of peace and hope.



The Presentation of the Lord - 2nd February

Feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century and was adopted in Rome during the seventh century. Celebrated forty days after Christmas, commemorating the prescribed Mosaic ritual following the birth of a child, and recalling the encounter of Jesus with Simeon and Anna in the temple. Christ is 'the light to enlighten all nations', and so candles are blessed during the introductory rites and carried in the entrance procession.



Saint Paul Miki and Companions - 6th February

Died on 5th February 1957, a group of twenty-six martyrs crucified at Nagasaki (Japan). Most were Japanese and most were laypeople, some still youths. The first of many martyrs in a young Church. Paul Miki aged thirty-five years at his death, was a Jesuit scholastic from an aristocratic Japanese family.

Remembered as a notable preacher who inspired the local Church in his own time and in the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution and isolation.

Office Closure Notice

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Office is closed **until Monday, 2nd February 2026**. The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, **3rd February 2026**.

While the Parish Office is closed, the Tuesday to Saturday 8:15 am Adoration and 9:30 am Mass will continue as usual.

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

First Friday Adoration is also cancelled until further notice.

Please note 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Saturday Reconciliation, 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass, 8:00 am and 9:30 am Sunday Masses will continue as normal.

During the 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.



ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC GIFTSHOP

Please note that our St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Giftshop is closed **and will re-open 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 this New Year.



One of the most beautiful acts of service in our parish is bringing the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist to those who are sick, elderly, or unable to join us at Mass. This ministry is not only a sacred duty but also a profound gift of comfort, companionship, and faith to those in need.

We are inviting parishioners who feel called to serve as **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the**

Sick and Housebound. Training and guidance will be provided, so no prior experience is necessary—only a willing heart, a spirit of compassion, and a commitment to treat this ministry with reverence. If you would like to learn more or express your interest, please contact the parish office on 02 4751 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Let us continue to be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing His love and presence to all members of our community.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick: Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. DD. will be celebrating the Holy Mass with the Rite of Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday 11th February 2026 11:00 am at St Patrick's Catholic Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown. At the conclusion of Mass, a special blessing will be given for all carers and those who minister to the sick. Refreshments available following Mass. For catering purposes, RSVP to: ofw@parracatholic.org / 0460 037 795