

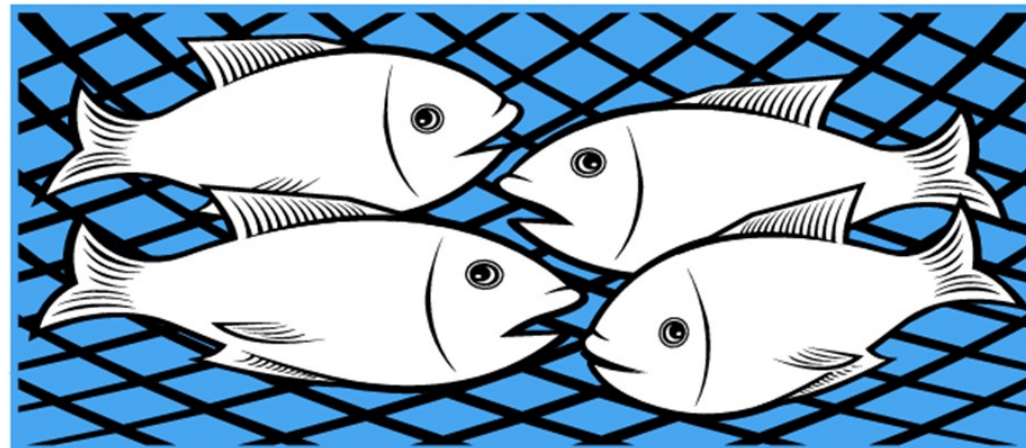
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24th January/25th January 2026</b>		<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil 5:00 PM</b>	Ian Miles	Margaret Smith	Anne Maureen Scarff	Chris Wilson
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Randall Noney	Mary Morris	Domhnall MacCormac	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	John Belfanti	Katherine Mahns	Phil Saville	Streeters
<b>Date:</b>	<b>31st January/1st February 2026</b>		<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil 5:00 PM</b>	Ian Miles	Margaret Smith	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Andrew Wilson
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Marek Grus	Vicky Walker	Kim Crawford	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Phil Saville	Lisa Vaughan	Anne Ellis	Chris Wilson

## KID'S CORNER



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The disciples were called by Jesus to bring people to God. Inside the fish write down some of the ways that we can bring people to God in our everyday lives.



Write down the names of four people you know who follow Jesus. For each person give an example of how they follow Jesus.

The first disciples to be called by Jesus were all fishermen. Connect each of these apostles with his correct description.



Andrew

Also known as Simon, Jesus called him the "rock" upon which he would build the church. After the Ascension, he became a leader of the apostles and is regarded as the first pope.



John

He was the brother of John and one of the sons of Zebedee. He was chosen by Jesus to be one of the witnesses to the Transfiguration. He was the first of the apostles to be martyred.



Peter

He was one of the sons of Zebedee and a close friend of Jesus. He stood at the foot of the cross with the virgin Mary during Jesus' crucifixion. One of the Gospels bears his name.



James

He was the brother of Peter and the first called by Jesus. He was martyred by being crucified on an 'X' shaped cross, which became his symbol. He is the patron saint of Scotland.

## 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](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook Page:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood  
**Parish Administrator:** Fr Jack Elkazzi  
**Parish Pastoral Council:** [springwoodparishpc@gmail.com](mailto: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



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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 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Isaiah's ancient prophecy comes alive today: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."* Jesus begins his public ministry not in places of influence or power, but in Galilee—a region often overlooked and dismissed. This choice reveals the heart of God: no place, no person, and no situation is beyond his saving reach.

Jesus' first words are simple and direct: *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."* Repentance is not about fear or guilt; it is about turning toward the light. It is an invitation to leave behind whatever keeps us in darkness and to step into a life shaped by hope, truth, and grace.

This Gospel reminds us that Christ still walks among us, calling ordinary people to follow him. He enters our confusion, our struggles, and our uncertainties with patient love. When we allow his light to guide our decisions, relationships, and priorities, darkness loses its power.

As disciples, we are also called to reflect that light. Through kindness, justice, and compassion, we help others glimpse the hope that Christ brings to the world.

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

## Rosary Quote

*"Commend your children to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When parents pray the Rosary, at the end of each decade they should hold the Rosary aloft and say to her, 'with these beads bind my children to your Immaculate Heart', she will attend to their souls."*



- St Louise de Marillac





Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.*  
In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.  
The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase,  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.  
For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

**(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

- The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
Before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**
- There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. **(R.)**
- I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?  
For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:  
Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!  
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations!  
The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.  
Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.  
He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

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

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.



**Recently Deceased:** Joan Gracie, Richard Bell, Elizabeth Boshell  
**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.

Please welcome Fr Nigel Griffin, from the UK Diocese of Westminster who is concelebrating Mass with Fr Jack here at St Thomas Aquinas Parish on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the 9:30 am Mass.

Australia Day - 26th January

*We bless you, God of the universe, for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate, for its abundance of wealth and opportunity. We bless you for our history, with all its struggle in adversity, its courage and hope, Give us in our diversity tolerance and respect for each other and a passionate commitment to justice for all. Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

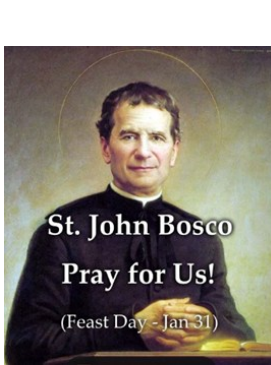


PRAY FOR US!

Saint Thomas Aquinas - 28th January

Born near Aquino (Italy) about 1225. Died on his way to the Council of Lyons in 1274. Educated at Monte Cassino, Naples, Paris and Cologne, he became a Dominican in 1244. Regarded as one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church. Despite ecclesiastical opposition at the time, the substance of his life's work has endured as an authentic exposition of Christian teaching and carries unique official

approval. Remembered for his modesty, the prayerfulness of his personal life, and the abiding influence of his thought.



St. John Bosco  
Pray for Us!

(Feast Day - Jan 31)

Saint John Bosco - 31st January

Born in Piedmont (Italy) in 1815. Died at Turin on this day in 1888. Grew up in extreme poverty and, after ordination, devoted his whole life to educating young people, especially the poor. Founded the Salesians, men and women who continue this work with youth throughout the world. Remembered - like the order's patron, Saint Francis de Sales (24th January) - for his cheerfulness and total trust in the providence of God.

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](mailto: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](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) / 0460 037 795