

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading Sirach 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34.

R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)
2. You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. (R.)
3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. (R.)
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the
kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.
Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.
'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.
'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.



Sick: Danielle Pace, Rowena Cook, Precious Tamayo, 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.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an official parish account linked to the Diocese of Parramatta. Some banks may display automated warning; this account is verified and legitimate. Please proceed. Thank you for your donation.

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY
18TH FEBRUARY 2026

Morning Adoration: 8:15am—9:15am
Mass: 9:30am and 7:00pm

STA Youth Group Opening Event: Sunday 22nd Feb 2026 5:30 pm—8pm

All years 7-12 students are invited to join this special event which starts with the celebration of the Holy Mass, followed with Games, BBQ, Fellowship!
To register, scan the code or call / text Youth Leader on 0433 686 362



Regular STA Youth Night Gathering

commences every second Friday of the month beginning on **Friday the 27th February 2026 from 6pm-8pm** in front of the Parish Office

**ST THOMAS AQUINAS SPRINGWOOD GIFTSHOP IS OPEN!**

Please visit our shop located in the parish office building. We are open Tuesday to Friday 9am-3pm and every Sunday 9am—11:30am.
Show your support by purchasing sacramental gifts, religious gifts for families or for your own spiritual journey.



Still available for sale:
Franciscan Calendar 2026 at \$10 (only 2 left)



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 PRAY Friday 6th March, 2026 at the Uniting Church, 4 Lewin St, Springwood; **Time:** 10:30 am Morning Tea. 11 am Service. Members of the STALF will be taking part in the service. Come and join the WDP with our fellow friends of faith in the Springwood Community.