

Date:	7th March / 8th March 2026		Third Sunday of Lent	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Lisa Vaughan	Anne Ellis	Streeters
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Date:	14th March / 15th March 2026		Fourth Sunday of Lent	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Phil Saville	Anne Maureen Scarff	Felix Kobus	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tanya Graham	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Katherine Mahns	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario
Morning Tea: Church Cleaning				

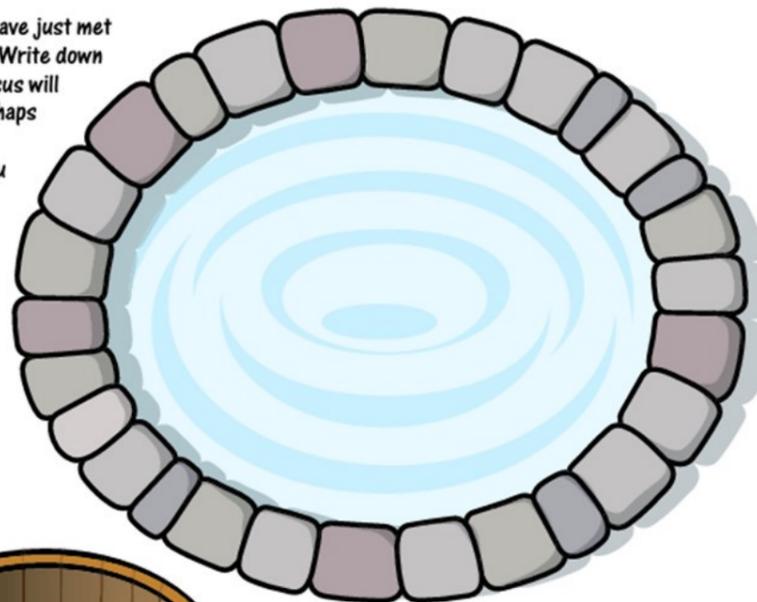
KID'S CORNER



3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A

Imagine that you have just met Jesus at the well. Write down what you think Jesus will ask of you, or perhaps share with him something that you are really in need of in your life right now.

Unscramble the letters in the bucket to reveal who the Samaritan woman discovered Jesus to really be.



— E — — S —

The Samaritan woman led many people to believe in Jesus. How can we share our faith with others?

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.stchurchspringwood.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 9:30am & 7:00 pm, Wednesday - Saturday: 9:30 am
Adoration: Tuesday 8:15am & 6:00pm, Wednesday - Saturday: 8:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Adoration & Confession - 8:15 am;
 First Friday Mass - 9:30 am will be offered for the Sacred Heart of Jesus
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 – Third Sunday of Lent – Year A

The Samaritan woman comes to draw water at noon—alone, burdened, perhaps ashamed. Yet Christ meets her there. He begins not with condemnation, but with a request: “Give me a drink.”

The conversation reveals a deeper thirst. Beneath daily routines lies a longing for meaning, love and belonging. Jesus names her history honestly, yet without harshness. In being known, she is transformed.

Lent invites us to approach the well honestly. Where are we thirsty? What do we repeatedly return to for satisfaction? Only Christ can give the “living water” that wells up to eternal life.

The woman leaves her water jar behind—a powerful sign of new priorities. Encounter with Christ reorders our desires.

Perhaps this week we can spend time in silent prayer, allowing the Lord to speak into our hidden places. He does not reject us; He reveals Himself to us.

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

ST THOMAS AQUINAS SPRINGWOOD GIFTSHOP

is offering a beautiful range of Catholic devotional items to support prayer, faith formation, and meaningful gift-giving. Available items include reverent images of Christ, crucifixes in various styles, holy water bottles, rosaries, and sacred artwork such as the Last Supper. There is also a lovely selection of statues, including a Pietà, Last Supper, and images of Our Lady, as well as other devotional pieces to enrich your home prayer space.

For families, the shop features faith-based children’s books, including titles focused on Lent and Easter, helping young hearts grow in understanding of the liturgical seasons. All items have been thoughtfully chosen to inspire devotion and make special gifts for sacraments and other occasions. Parishioners are warmly invited to browse the collection and find something meaningful for themselves or a loved one. Please come support our parish Catholic giftshop!



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus
Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

**(R.) If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

- Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
- Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
- O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit
which has been given to us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation See John 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 4:5-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to

Continuation ...

him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.'

'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together.

For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon John 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.



Recently Deceased: Danielle Pace, Patricia Hood, John Hunia, Flordelis Ramos

Sick: Mary Green, Hannah Irene Argayoso, Rowena Cook, Precious Tamayo, David Rees, Melissa Couch, Erlisa Argayoso, Allan Arias, Mary Coombs, Carl Johnson, 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.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAM

This is on every **Wednesday: 11th, 18th and 25th of March 2026** at 7:00 pm. **Venue:** St Thomas Aquinas Church, Springwood
We encourage you to set aside this time during Lent for spiritual growth, renewal, and community.

We warmly invite young children to join us for **Children's Liturgy of the Word** next week at our 9:30am Sunday Mass. During this special time, the children will hear the Gospel in language they can understand, reflect on God's Word through stories, activities and prayer and grow in faith in a joyful and age-appropriate way. Children will be invited forward after the opening prayer and will return before the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Parents are welcome to accompany little ones if they wish. Let's help our children discover the beauty of God's Word and feel at home in our parish family.

HELP WANTED: Readers for Palm Sunday (Vigil & Sunday Masses), Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter (Vigil and Sunday Masses). Anyone interested please contact the parish office on 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org. Thank you for considering this opportunity to bless others through the spoken Word during this meaningful season.

UPDATE FROM THE STA READING GROUP:

The St Thomas Aquinas Reading Group is taking a break for the rest of the Lenten and Easter period and will re-start on Sunday the 26th of April 2026, when the group will be reading and discussing a new book together: Thomas Aquinas, *Summa of the Summa*, (an abbreviated edition of the *Summa Theologica*) Edited by Peter Kreeft and published by Ignatius press.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION OPPORTUNITY

A parishioner, in training to be a Spiritual Director, is seeking a couple of parishioners interested in receiving spiritual direction. This would commence early April. If interested email Chris at: currentofgraceministries@gmail.com

THANK YOU **ALL WE HAVE IS GIFT** - We wish to express deep thanks and gratitude to the many parishioners who gave so generously to the call to support the 150 families in the care of Jesuit Refugee services. The amount received last weekend was \$3,882. This is a wonderful effort. We are joining parishes across the diocese. You can imagine the difference this will make to these families' lives.



Join us for the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 6:30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church, Springwood NSW



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.

Our Parish Giftshop presents a beautiful new range of Lenten gifts, and seasonal treasures! From inspiring books and rosaries to unique religious art and thoughtful gifts, there's something for everyone. Whether you're looking for a special keepsake, a meaningful present, or simply wish to browse, we'd love for you to stop by and see what's new.



LENTEN CONFESSION TIMES - (Excluding Holy Week)

Tuesdays:	Fridays:	Saturdays:
6:00pm – 6:45pm	7:15pm (approx.) after Stations of the Cross	After the 9:30am Mass; 4pm – 4:45pm (Before Vigil Mass)

Special Saturdays: 21st & 28th March 3pm – 4:00pm (Before Vigil)

Holy Week Confession Times: To be confirmed (TBC). Please do not leave Confession until the last minute, as Fr Jack is the only priest available.



St Thomas Aquinas Parish Sacrament of Confirmation 2026 Program

Details and Enrolment Form are available on our website, at the back of the church / Parish Office. For more information, call 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org or visit our website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au

Important Dates to Remember:

- Parent Only Information Sessions:**
Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
 - Children and Parent Information Sessions:**
Saturday 16th May 2026 at 11am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 11am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
- Confirmation Date: Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 6:30pm, STA Church**



REGULAR STA YOUTH NIGHT GATHERING is held every second Friday of the month. For **March** it will be on the **13th and 27th** from 6pm-8pm in front of the Parish Office. All years 7-12 students are invited to join. For more info call / text Youth Leader on 0433 686 362

As our RCIA candidates continue their journey of faith toward full communion with the Church, let us surround them with our love, encouragement, and prayer. We invite you to join us in lifting them up to the Lord, asking that He strengthen their hearts, deepen their understanding of the Gospel, and fill them with the joy of His presence.