

Date:	25th April / 26th April 2026		Fourth Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Phil Saville	Tanya Baldwin	Tamsyn Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Ros Comfort	Vicky Walker	
9:30 AM	Randall Noney	Peta Sparkes	Matt Aldous	Streeters
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Date:	2nd May / 3rd May 2026		Fifth Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Sebastian Cook	Domhnall MacCormac	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	Communion to the Sick			

KID'S CORNER

I am the gate for the sheep

4th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Jesus is our good shepherd and we know that we must follow him. What are some of the things our shepherd has told us to do?

A thief has stolen some letters from the passage of text below. Use these letters to discover something that Jesus said to his disciples.

"I _ _ _ T _ _ GAT _
FOR T _ _ _ _ _ P _
_ LL W _ O _ _ IN
T _ ROUG _ _ _ WILL
B _ _ _ V _ D _."

Help the sheep find its way to the gate. Keep a look out for thieves!

Jn 10:1-10 © Creative Ministry Resources 2005

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 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



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.

St Thomas Aquinas – Springwood Gift Shop

Opening Hours

Weekdays
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Saturday: Closed
Sunday:
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Contact Us

Phone: (02) 4751 1052
 Email: springwood@parracatholic.org
 Instagram: [@sthomasaquinas_springwood.nsw](https://www.instagram.com/sthomasaquinas_springwood.nsw)
 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood NSW 2777

Bulletin Reflection – 4th Sunday in Easter

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church invites us to reflect on the voice of Christ. Jesus says, "The sheep hear his voice... and they follow him." This is not merely poetic language—it is deeply personal. The Christian life is not simply about rules or obligations; it is about recognising and responding to a voice.

Yet, in a world filled with noise, competing voices, and distractions, the voice of the Good Shepherd can become difficult to hear. Fear, anxiety, and self-reliance often drown Him out. And still, He continues to call.

The question is not whether Christ speaks, but whether we are listening.

The Shepherd does not shout over the noise; He invites, leads, and waits. His voice is known in Scripture, in the quiet of prayer, and most profoundly in the Eucharist.

To follow Christ is to trust His voice more than our fears. It is to believe that where He leads—even through uncertainty—there is life.

May God Bless you All +
 In Christ Jesus and Mary,
 Fr Jack Elkazzi

Announcements

1. Confession on Saturday the **9th May 2026 only** will be heard before Mass not after.
2. To our dear Volunteers who are (a) new to the role, (b) who have expired/incomplete training, (c) did not attend the one we had last in 2025 here at STA Parish and/or (d) have limited access to computers, now is your chance to attend a Safeguarding Face-to-face Training.

A renewal training will be held on **2nd May 2026** at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood. More training opportunities are available throughout May at different parishes.

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

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

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: Aurora Cabrera, Hannah Irene Argayoso, Lucy Doran **Death Anniversary:** Michelle Thomas
Commemorative Deceased: Carina Diaz **Sick:** Evelyn Robinson, Lisa Vaughan, Margaret Smith, Larry Munn, Mary Green, 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

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS MISSION

We rely on the faithful support of our parish community to sustain the life and mission of St Thomas Aquinas. Every contribution—large or small—makes a real and necessary difference. If you are not yet supporting the parish financially, I warmly encourage you to consider doing so. Regular giving allows us to plan responsibly and continue providing for the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community.

Ways to Give:

Direct Debit: Please contact the Parish Office to arrange a regular contribution.

Direct Deposit:
Account Name: Springwood; **BSB:** 067-950
Account Number: 00000560
Reference: Please include your full name.

Please Note: This is an official parish account of the Diocese of Parramatta. Some banks may display an automated warning; however, this account is verified and secure.

Parish Collections

First Collection supports the priests of our Diocese, assisting with their living expenses.

Second Collection directly supports our parish—covering essential costs, i.e. insurance and wages, maintaining our facilities, and enabling our ministries and programs.

Mass Offering Envelopes are also available for those who wish to give regularly. Thank you for your generosity, your sense of responsibility, and your commitment to the life of our parish.



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family:

Sofia Nadalini

who was recently baptised here.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Caritas Australia sincerely thanks you for your generous support of Project Compassion this Lent. If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return by 30th April 2026.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY: Enrolling now for 2027

Open Days:
28th April: 9:30 am
28th April: 4:30 pm
2nd June: 4:30 pm
168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood. Call: 4723 3800
W: staspringwood.catholic.edu.au



Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12th May

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers and ministers at the altar are invited to join us for our **Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers**. Please see Parish Notice Board for more details or for more information, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.



Bethany Pilgrimage 2026- Inviting all faithful women 18+ to join us on Saturday **29th of August 2026** for an all day walking pilgrimage (17km). Visiting five churches whilst meditating on the "Totally Yours". Starting with 8am Mass at St Joseph Chaldean Catholic Church, Mount Druitt and returning approximately 5:00pm. Registration essential (\$20). Please see flyer on Parish Notice for more details.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS SPRINGWOOD GIFT SHOP

Our Parish Gift Shop is now open!

Located in the Parish Office building.

The shop is open:
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am – 11:30am



We offer a beautiful selection of Catholic gifts and seasonal items—from inspiring books and rosaries to religious art and meaningful keepsakes.

Whether you are searching for a thoughtful gift or simply wish to browse, we warmly invite you to visit and discover what is 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.stchurchspringwood.org.au

Note: Enrolment ends on the first Parent Only Information Session which is to be held on: Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Parish Support / Maintenance Appeal

TO OUR BELOVED PARISHIONERS

We are seeking your support as we address several important maintenance and improvement needs within our parish.

At present, we are facing a number of urgent matters, including significant roof repairs, the need for a suitable shaded outdoor area, and the replacement of our ageing hot water system. These works are essential to ensure our parish remains a safe, welcoming, and functional space for all.

We invite those who are able to contribute towards these necessary projects. Your support will directly assist in maintaining and strengthening our shared parish home.

For further information or to offer assistance, please contact the Parish Office during office hours or email: springwood@parracatholic.org

We are sincerely grateful to those who have already contributed. Your generosity is deeply appreciated, and we thank you for your continued support.

Parish Use / Approval Notice

PARISH GROUNDS AND ACTIVITIES

To ensure the proper care, safety, and coordination of our parish spaces, we kindly remind all parishioners that **no tables, displays, or stalls are to be set up within the church or parish grounds without prior approval from the Parish Administrator.**

St Thomas Aquinas Reading Group with Dr Angus Brook resumes 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. All welcome to attend.