

Date:	18th April / 19th April 2026		Third Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Phil Saville	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Felix Kobus	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Mary Morris	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Margaret Hickey	Tanya Graham	Clemens del Rosario
Morning Tea:	East Timor			

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	Ian Miles	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

KID'S CORNER



Life is like being on a journey of faith, but sometimes we encounter obstacles along the way. What are some of the toughest obstacles on your path of life?

Faith

How does Jesus help you and guide you along that path?

Jesus is always with us, even when we don't realise he is there. Where or when can we recognise Jesus in our everyday life?



Colour the shapes that contain a white dot ◦ in red. Colour the remaining shapes in colours that you find in a loaf of bread.

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
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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
3rd Sunday in Easter

The Gospel of the Road to Emmaus speaks deeply to the Christian experience. The disciples walk away from Jerusalem burdened by disappointment, unable to recognise that Christ is already walking beside them. How often this is our own story. We carry confusion, grief, or doubt, and yet the Lord is not absent—He is near, speaking, guiding, and gently opening our hearts.

It is only in the breaking of the bread that their eyes are opened. This is no accident. St Luke is pointing us directly to the Eucharist. The same Lord who walked with them is truly present to us at every Mass.

The Christian life, then, is a journey of recognition. Christ comes to us in Scripture, in the Eucharist, and in the quiet movements of grace. Our task is not to make Him present, but to become aware of His presence. "Did not our hearts burn within us?" May ours do the same.

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

Announcements

- Confession on Saturday the **9th May 2026 only** will be heard before Mass not after.
- 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 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11, R. v.11

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely

Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Luke 24:35

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: Aurora Cabrera, Hannah Irene Argayoso, Lucy Doran
Death Anniversary: Michelle Thomas
Sick: 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

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.

We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children:



- Noah James Jordan
- Ted James Thomas Jordan
- Sianna Amari Rubiano Murphy
- Oliver Brae Smith
- Hallie Sonneman
- Hugh Tadeusz Wybraniec

who were 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 at this weekend Masses. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps to bring hope and opportunity to people experiencing poverty and injustice.

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12 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.** Families and friends are also invited. This will take place at **7:30pm on 12 May 2026**, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Liturgical ministers are asked to please arrive by 7pm and be seated by 7:15pm. To register the number of guests and ministers attending please register by Thursday, 7th May. 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 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 range of Catholic 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.



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

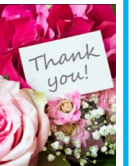
To our Beloved Parishioners

We are reaching out to our parish community for support as we attend to several important maintenance and improvement needs within our parish.

At present, we are facing a few pressing issues, including major roof leaks, the need for a suitable shaded outdoor area, and the replacement of our ageing hot water system. These are essential works to ensure our parish remains a safe, welcoming, and functional space for all.

If you would simply like to contribute towards these projects, your help would be greatly appreciated. Together, as a parish family, we can care for and strengthen our shared home. For more information or to offer your assistance, please contact the Parish Office during work hours or email us at springwood@parracatholic.org

Thank you to our generous anonymous donors who already contributed to this cause. We appreciate this much needed help. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



REGULAR STA YOUTH NIGHT GATHERING is held

fortnightly on a Friday. Our next meeting resumes on Friday 24th April. A movie night is organised (Prince of Egypt) for our first night back this term and we will be starting at 5:30 pm, which is a bit earlier than usual. All years 7-12 students are invited to join. For more info call / text Youth Leader on 0433 686 362

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.