

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			

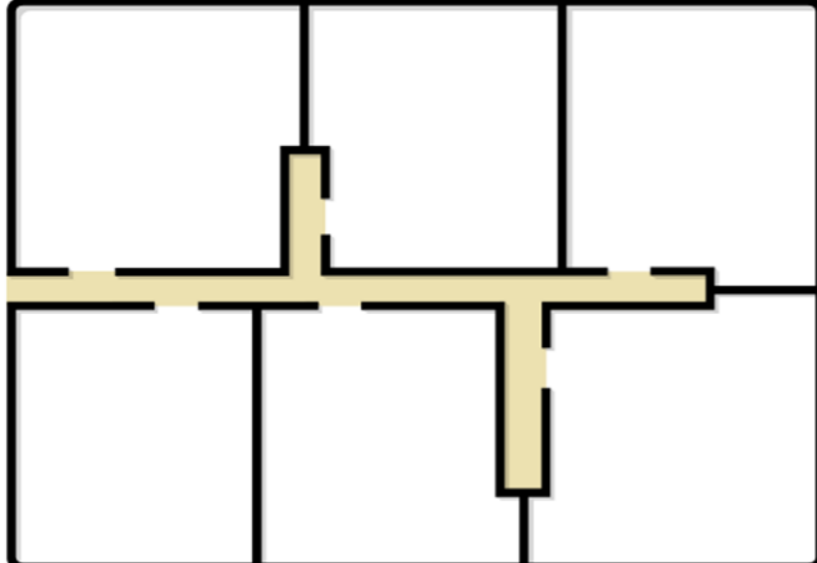
Date:	9th May / 10th May 2026		Sixth Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ian Boncales	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Mary Morris	
9:30 AM	Shaun Keating	Katherine Mahns	Anne Ellis	Streeters

KID'S CORNER

Jesus is the way to the Father

5th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Jesus tells us that there are many rooms in His Father's house and that he has prepared a place for each of us. Fill each room with drawings of your family and friends.



THE WAY → Draw an arrow next to the words below which describe the Way, the Truth and the Life that Jesus wants us to follow.

→ **LOVE**
PEACE
GREED
FORGIVENESS
CONFLICT
JUSTICE
SELFISHNESS
COMPASSION
HONESTY
HATRED

Can you decipher what Jesus is saying?

come 2
the **except**

" _____ come
_____ the
except _____."

Jn 14:1-12

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



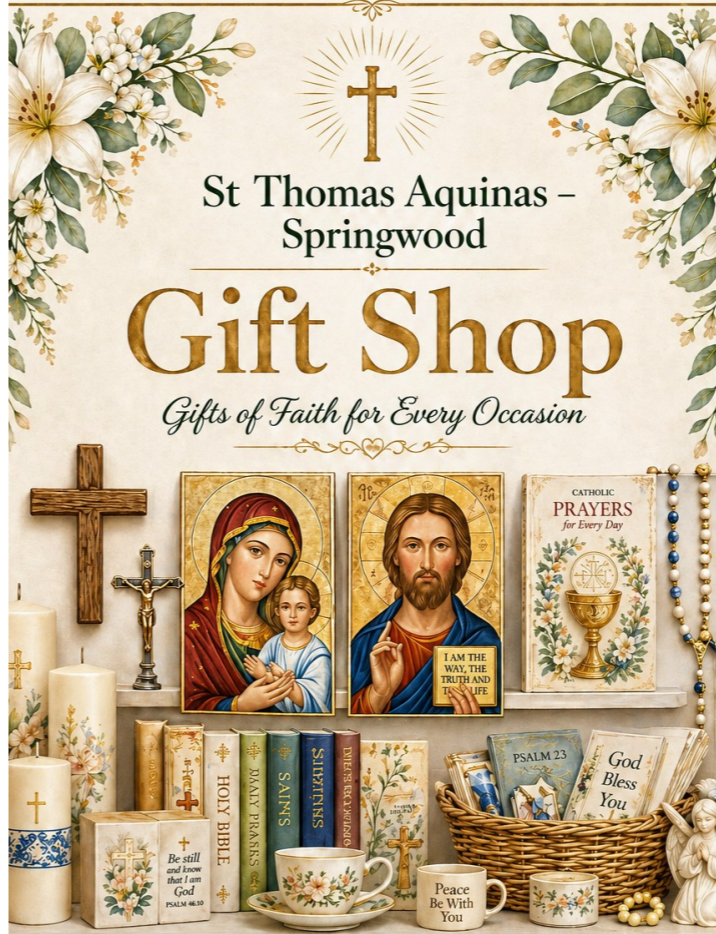
Support us!
Scan to donate

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

Gifts of Faith for Every Occasion



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: [@stthomasaquinas_springwood.nsw](https://www.instagram.com/stthomasaquinas_springwood.nsw)
 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood NSW 2777

Bulletin Reflection – 5th Sunday in Easter

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks words that are both comforting and challenging: "Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." At a time of uncertainty and fear among the disciples, Christ does not simply give reassurance—He gives Himself.

He is not one way among many, nor one truth among others. He is *the* Way that leads us to the Father, *the* Truth that reveals who we are, and *the* Life that sustains us.

Yet this requires trust. Like Thomas, we often want clarity before commitment. But the Christian life does not begin with full understanding—it begins with following.

Christ invites us to walk with Him, even when the path is not fully clear. He prepares a place for us, not only in eternity, but already in the life of grace.

To follow Him is to live with confidence: we are not lost—we are being led.

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. The 2026 National Attendance Count runs over the weekends of May (**from 2-3 May**) to support the Church in pastoral planning and resource allocation.
3. Mandatory Safeguarding Face-to-face Training session for all volunteers are available at St Finbar's, Glenbrook on Saturday 20th June 2026 commencing at 10 am. Please see parish notice board for more info. Or email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22

- (R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**
1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
 2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
 3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:
'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:
'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?
'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?
Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.
You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.
'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'

Communion Antiphon Cf John 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, 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 the following children:



Lucy Jane Gitz
William Marcus Scott
Zachary Gavin John Titterton
who were recently baptised here.

STA YOUTH MINISTRY GROUP: Next meeting is on Friday 8th May 2026 from 6pm in front of the Parish Office. All years 7-12 students are invited to join.

For more info call/text Youth Leader: 0433 686 362

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



A special Mass will be held at the St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on **Sunday 31 May 2026 commencing at 2.00pm** for the 40th Foundation Anniversary of Diocese of Parramatta. All are invited. Together, let us celebrate and give thanks for the growth, development and many blessings that have shaped our faith and Catholic community over four decades.

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 theme "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.

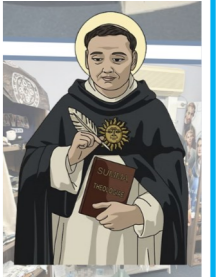
ST THOMAS AQUINAS SPRINGWOOD GIFT SHOP
Our Parish Gift Shop is now open!

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

The next **Parent Only Information Session is on Wednesday 6th May 2026** at 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church.

God our Father, we thank you for our young people who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray that this journey to Confirmation will be an opportunity for them to deepen their faith and renew their hope in you so that your love may shine through them to the world. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 is on every Sunday 3-5pm at the Parish Centre, when the group will be reading and discussing a new book together: Thomas Aquinas, Summa of the Summa. All welcome to attend.