

<b>Date:</b>	<b>9th May / 10th May 2026</b>		<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil 5:00 PM</b>	Ian Boncales	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Marek Grus	Loida Derbyshire	Mary Morris	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Shaun Keating	Katherine Mahns	Anne Ellis	Streeters
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<b>Date:</b>	<b>16th May / 17th May 2026</b>		<b>The Ascension of the Lord</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil 5:00 PM</b>	Phil Saville	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Felix Kobus	
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Sebastian Cook	Georgia Cook	Tanya Graham	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Joseph Sukkar	Margaret Hickey	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario
<b>Morning Tea:</b>	Parish Choir			

**KID'S CORNER**



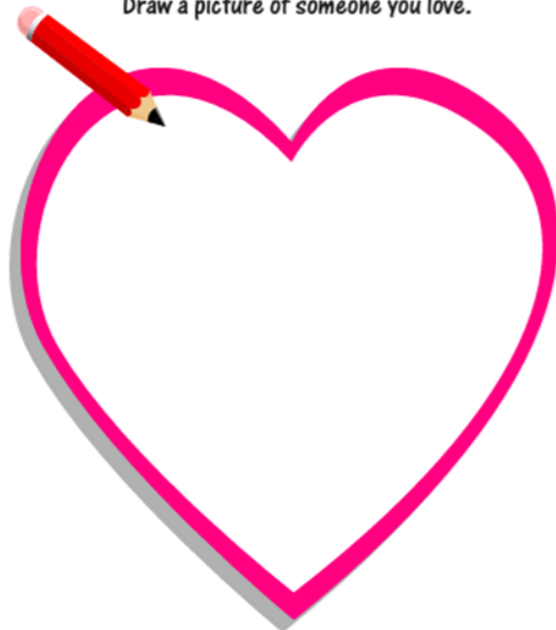

**The Holy Spirit will help you and always be with you**

6th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Jesus loves us and asks us to keep his commandments. Name some of the commandments?



The Holy Spirit helps us to love God and to love others. Draw a picture of someone you love.

**The Spirit will show you what is true**

Answer the following questions True or False

Jesus only loves those who do good deeds. \_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Spirit is always with us. \_\_\_\_\_

God sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said "You should not love your enemies". \_\_\_\_\_

The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. \_\_\_\_\_

**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](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stchurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stchurchspringwood.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook Page:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood  
**Parish Administrator:** Fr Jack Elkazzi  
**Parish Pastoral Council:** [springwoodparishpc@gmail.com](mailto: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 Masses:** 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**

<b>Weekdays</b> Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	<b>Saturday: Closed</b> <b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
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**Contact Us**

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

**Bulletin Reflection – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

"I will not leave you orphans." These words of Christ speak with particular tenderness as we celebrate Mother's Day. They remind us that the Christian life is never one of abandonment, but always of presence—God's presence.

Today we give thanks for mothers, grandmothers, and all who show a mother's love: a love that nurtures, sacrifices, and remains faithful even in difficulty. In this, they reflect something of God Himself. For every true act of motherly love is a sign of the love with which God cares for His children.

We also look to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother in faith. At the foot of the Cross, she received us as her children, and she continues to accompany us with quiet fidelity and prayer.

Christ does not leave us alone. He gives us His Spirit—and He gives us a mother. In both, we find comfort, strength, and the assurance that we are always held in love.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for Us!

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



Gracious God, on this special day we thank you for mothers – our own mothers and mothers everywhere. We thank you for all they do, or once did, all they give, or once gave, all they mean, and will always mean. Grant to all entrusted with the responsibility of motherhood your wisdom, your guidance, your support. We thank you that you love us as a mother loves her child and that like a mother, you watch over us every moment of every day, seeking our welfare, concerned about our progress, equipping us for the journey of life. Lord of love, hear our prayer, in the name of Christ. Amen.



## Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the earth:  
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

## First Reading Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. see v.1

**(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **(R.)**
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'  
Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men. **(R.)**
3. He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the river dry-shod.  
Let our joy then be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might. **(R.)**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.  
I will tell what he did for my soul:  
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

## Second Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel John 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever,  
that Spirit of truth  
whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him,  
because he is with you, he is in you.  
I will not leave you orphans;  
I will come back to you.  
In a short time the world will no longer see me;  
but you will see me,  
because I live and you will live.  
On that day  
you will understand that I am in my Father  
and you in me and I in you.  
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps  
them  
will be one who loves me;  
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Communion Antiphon John 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,  
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another  
Paraclete,  
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.



**Recently Deceased:** Brian Dewhurst, Aurora Cabrera; **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.

All parishioners are invited to join the **BIGGEST MORNING TEA** on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** at the **Parish Centre** after the **9:30am Mass**. Entry \$10. This event is hosted by the STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP Group. This has been a well supported event over recent years so come along for a pleasant social gathering.

**THE SPRINGWOOD EAST TIMOR TRIVIA NIGHT** is on **May 16<sup>th</sup>** at the STA School Hall. Cost is \$20 p/head. Book a Table of 8 by texting Dennis 0425 209 840. All funds support educational and medical needs in Timor Leste.

**STA YOUTH MINISTRY GROUP:** Next meeting is on **Friday 22nd 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 Day: 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.



### STA Parish Sacrament of Confirmation 2026 Program

The first **Parent and Child Information Session is on Saturday 16th May 2026** at 11am, St Thomas Aquinas Church.

**Parent's Prayer – Confirmation:** *Holy Spirit, grant me the grace of Wisdom to guide my child along the best path of life. Gift me with fear of the Lord, to help my child know God's glory and majesty and live in the Christian way. Enable me to lead my child to a sense of fortitude for the greatness of your love. Show me how to instil in my child a sense of piety for all things holy. Help me to understand childish ways so that my patience and counsel may be enduring. Give me the grace of knowledge when decisions need to be made. We ask this though 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](mailto: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.