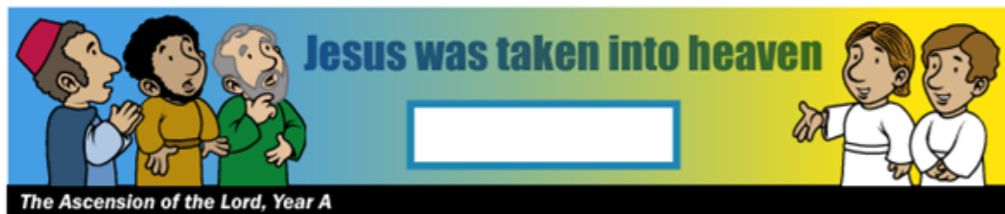


Date:	16th May / 17th May 2026		The Ascension of the Lord	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Phil Saville	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Felix Kobus	
8:00 AM	Sebastian Cook	Georgia Cook	Tanya Graham	
9:30 AM	Joseph Sukkar	Margaret Hickey	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario
Morning Tea:	Parish Choir			

Date:	23rd May / 24th May 2026		Pentecost Sunday	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Joseph Tabone	Tanya Baldwin	Tamsyn Baldwin	
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Ros Comfort	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Phil Saville	Peta Sparkes	Streeters

KID'S CORNER



The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

Draw Jesus ascending into heaven.



Even though Jesus ascended into heaven he is always with us. Complete the sentences below.

Jesus is with me when....

Jesus is with me when....

Jesus is with me when....



ASCENSION

How many words can you make from the letters in the word ASCENSION?

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 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 - 4:45 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

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 – The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

The Ascension of the Lord can seem, at first glance, like a departure. Christ ascends into heaven and is taken from the sight of the disciples. Yet the Church does not celebrate this feast as an absence, but as a new and deeper presence.

Jesus does not abandon His people. Rather, He draws humanity into the very life of God. In the Ascension, our human nature enters heaven itself in the person of Christ. As the Fathers of the Church taught, where the Head has gone, the Body is called to follow.

And yet before ascending, Christ gives a mission: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." The Christian life is never passive. We are sent into the world as witnesses — through our words, our choices, our charity, and our fidelity.

The disciples who once hid in fear now go forth with courage because they know Christ remains with them: "I am with you always."

The Ascension therefore is not the end of Christ's work, but the beginning of the Church's mission. Christ reigns in glory, but continues to act through His people, who are called to bring His presence into the world.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for Us!

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

Bishop's Good Works Appeal

Our parish is proud to support the Bishop's Good Works Appeal. Each day across our Diocese, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. The Bishop's Good Works Appeal helps support the good works of our Church across several vital ministries, including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre, and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

This first Bishop's Good Works Appeal will support Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park, helping form the future priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead.

Your tax-deductible gift helps provide the education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation our seminarians need as they answer God's call. With your support, they can continue preparing to serve our parishes with faith, compassion and hope.

Please take an envelope from the back of the church at the table, or visit: parracatholic.org/appeal to donate today. Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.

The Vigil Mass

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 67:33,35

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

The Mass During the Day

Entrance Antiphon Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

- All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
- God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
- God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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

The Vigil Mass

Communion Antiphon Cf Hebrews 10:12

Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia.

The Mass During the Day

Communion Antiphon Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.



Recently Deceased: Brian Dewhurst, Aurora Cabrera

Sick: Murdo Macarthur, 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:

Avery Grayson Rain Ellis

Elsie Marcee McSpadden

Georgia Grace Tillott

Malachi Dennis Tillott

who were recently baptised here.

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

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.

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



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 Board 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:

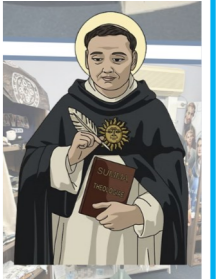
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

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 second Parent and Child Information Session is on Saturday 23rd May at 11am, St Thomas Aquinas Church, Springwood (and practice).

Loving God, we thank you that you have brought these children to this point of publicly declaring their faith in you. We thank you for the joy and fulfilment they have found in Christ, discovering him the way, the truth and the life for themselves. We praise you for all the ways you have guided them, for all the strength you have given, love you have shown and help you have offered. You are constantly reaching out in love, and we praise you for it. 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.