

<b>Date:</b> 11th July / 12th July 2026		<b>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b> Acolyte	<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> Joseph Sukkar	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	
<b>8:00 AM</b> Randall Noney	Loida Derbyshire	Ros Comfort	
<b>9:30 AM</b> Shaun Keating	Margaret Hickey	Anne Ellis	Clemens del Rosario
<b>Date:</b> 18th July / 19th July 2026		<b>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>Mass Time:</b> Acolyte	<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> Phillip Saville	Nelius Jordaan	Felix Kobus	
<b>8:00 AM</b> Marek Grus	Domhnall MacCormac	Tanya Graham	
<b>9:30 AM</b> John Belfanti	Katherine Mahns	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario
<b>Morning Tea:</b> Parish Pastoral Council			

KID'S CORNER



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Help Jesus tell the story of the farmer sowing the seed. Add words and pictures to the story.

**A farmer scattered**  
---- in a field.

Draw the farmer sowing seed.

**Some seed fell on the road**  
and was...

Write down what happened to the seed.

**Some seed fell on rocky**  
ground where the soil was not  
deep; the plants that grew  
withered in the ----.

Draw what happened to the seed  
which fell on rocky ground.

**Some seed fell among thorns,**  
which choked the plants that grew.

Draw thorns choking the plants.

**But some seed fell on good ground and...**

Write down what happened to the seed that fell on good ground and draw a picture of it.

The Word of God is like seed that needs good soil.  
How can we be like good soil for this seed?

Which of these four plants is the one bearing fruit?

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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**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!  
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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.

**SUPPORT OUR PARISH!**  
**PARISH RAFFLE!**  
ST THOMAS AQUINAS, SPRINGWOOD  
**GREAT PRIZES! BIG IMPACT!**  
BUY TICKETS ONLINE!  
Scan the QR code to buy your tickets and support our parish.  
Thank you! TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
PREFER TO DONATE DIRECTLY?  
Account Name: Springwood  
BSB: 057-950  
Account Number: 00000560  
Reference: Please include your full name

To buy tickets or to share this raffles use this raffle link:  
[RaffleTix | Raffles by St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Springwood](https://www.raffletix.com.au/stthomasaquinas)  
or scan the QR Code above.  
Every ticket purchased and every share genuinely helps. Thank you again for your support and prayers.  
Fr Jack Elkazzi  
Parish Administrator  
St Thomas Aquinas Parish  
Springwood

Bulletin Reflection – 15th Sunday in Ordinary – Year A

This Sunday's readings turn our attention to a single image: seed scattered onto different kinds of ground. Isaiah reminds us that God's word, like rain and snow, never returns to him empty — it always achieves its purpose. Yet Jesus' parable of the sower is honest about how differently that word is received. Some hearts are like the path, hardened by distraction; some are rocky, quick to respond but shallow in perseverance; some are choked by the thorns of worry and ambition. And some soil is good, and yields a harvest beyond all expecting.

The invitation this week isn't to judge which kind of ground we are, but to tend the soil we've been given. Prayer, the sacraments, and quiet honesty before God are what soften hardened ground and clear away thorns. St Paul tells the Romans that all creation is groaning, waiting with hope — our own small efforts at conversion are part of that larger hope coming to birth.

What might need clearing from the soil of your heart this week?

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for Us!

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

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**First Reading** Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

**(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

**Second Reading** Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Communion Antiphon** Cf Psalm 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



**Recently Deceased:** Murdo Macarthur, Maureen Osmetti **Commemorative Deceased:** Charles Hughes  
**Sick:** Marlene Thomas, Angelica Maria Suso, Chris Wilson, John Warner, Evelyn Robinson, Lisa Vaughan, 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.



**STA Parish 2026 Sacrament of Reconciliation Program**

Please visit our website:

[stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://stachurchspringwood.org.au) and then click the Tab: **STA Sacramental Program** to access our invitation, important dates to remember and enrolment form. For enquiries, please call: 02 4754 1052 or email: [sacramentssta@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentssta@gmail.com)

**REQUEST A VISIT FROM FR JACK**

Need a home blessing or pastoral visit? Please complete a **Priest Visit Request Form**, available at the back of the church or the parish office. We will then contact you to arrange a visit.

We are pleased to announce that the new Face-to-Face Safeguarding REFRESHER Training **will be available to all our Volunteers of the STA Parish and nearby parishes.** Volunteers who attended the 2025 Face-to-face training held here in Springwood will be due for renewal in 2027.

Please find below links to register for Cycle 2 & 3 Safeguarding Training (at Springwood):

[Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2027 Safeguarding Renewal Training Cycle 2 \(Module 4-5\) \(20 February 2027\) | Diocese of Parramatta](#)

[Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2027 Safeguarding Renewal Training Cycle 3 \(Module 6\) \(27 February 2027\) | Diocese of Parramatta](#)

Make use of this important opportunity! Together we will be able to strengthen our shared commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for everyone in our community.

STA Ladies Fellowship will have its next meeting on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July** after Morning Mass. Our guest speaker is Magda Piotrowski talking about her life journey from Poland to Australia. All parishioners are welcome to come and hear her speak.

**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.

**Now Available** our exclusive Saints' images which are a unique part of our parish family. You can now own and purchase at our Catholic Gift Shop.

Whether you are searching for a thoughtful gift or simply wish to browse, we warmly invite you to visit and discover what we have to offer.

**St Thomas Aquinas Reading Group with Dr Angus Brook** is on break and will resume on Sunday 19th July 2026 at 3pm.

**St Thomas Aquinas Youth Night** - next meeting is on Friday 24th July 2026 from 6pm to 8pm. Listen to talks on the faith, have engaging conversation and play fun games. 7-12 Year Students all welcome!



THE 54<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
**EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028**  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

**EUCCHARIST28 UPDATE – HEARTS SET ABLAZE!**

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation. For more information and regular updates, please register on the website: [eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org)