

DATE: 25TH JULY / 26TH JULY 2026			SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
MASS TIME:	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM</u>	<u>SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
Vigil 5:00 PM	Joseph Tabone	Tanya Baldwyn	Tamsyn Baldwyn	
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Georgia Cook	Mary Morris	
9:30 AM	Ian Boncales	Peta Sparkes	Phil Saville	Streeters

DATE: 1st AUGUST / 2nd AUGUST 2026			EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
MASS TIME:	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM</u>	<u>SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Shayna Jordaan	Nelius Jordaan	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Tanya Graham	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	
Morning Tea: St Vincent de Paul				

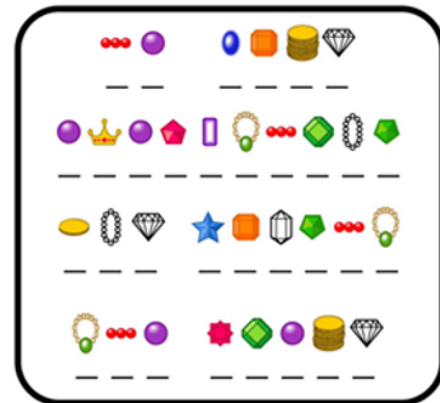
KID'S CORNER



Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is so valuable that we ought to be prepared to give up everything for it. What are some things in your life that you would be prepared to give up or change in order to enter God's Kingdom?

What did the man do after he found the treasure hidden in the field? Use the key below to decipher the code.

A B D E F G H I L N O R S T U V Y



Can you find the letters that spell the word **TREASURE** hidden in the picture below?

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field."



"The kingdom of heaven is also like a shop keeper looking for fine pearls. When he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it."

Mt 13:44-46

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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 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.



BULLETIN REFLECTION: 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY—YEAR A

Solomon could have asked God for wealth, long life, or victory over his enemies. Instead, he asks for 'an understanding heart' — the wisdom to govern well and to know right from wrong. It's a striking prayer, because it asks not for what God can give us, but for the grace to want the right things in the first place.

Jesus' short parables this Sunday point in the same direction. The hidden treasure and the pearl of great price are found, not manufactured — but once found, they reorder everything. The merchant sells all he has, not out of loss, but out of joy. The kingdom of heaven doesn't ask us to give up what matters; it asks us to recognise what matters most, and let that reorder our priorities.

What would I be willing to let go of, if I truly believed I had found the treasure?

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for Us!

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

FUNERAL NOTICES

Please keep the families of the late Neil Kirby and Chris Wilson in your prayers as they prepare to commend their loved ones to God's eternal care.

The Funeral Mass for **NEIL KIRBY** will be celebrated on **Thursday, 30 July, at 11:00 am.**

The Funeral Mass for **CHRIS WILSON** will be celebrated on **Wednesday, 5 August, at 11:00 am.**

Requiem Masses at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish, Springwood.



Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5,7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ Solomon replied, ‘Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. ‘Since you have asked for this’ the Lord said ‘and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130.
R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. (R.)
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. (R.)
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. (R.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

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

Communion Antiphon

Psalms 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

Recently Deceased: Chris Wilson, Lisa Vaughan, Neil Kirby, Murdo Macarthur, Maureen Osmetti
Sick: Janice Mills, Marlene Thomas, Angelica Maria Suso, Chris Wilson, John Warner, Evelyn Robinson, 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 'N' 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

click the Tab: **STA Sacramental Program**

to access our invitation, important dates to remember and enrolment form.

FOR ENQUIRIES: Call: 02 4754 1052 or
Email: sacramentssta@gmail.com



REMINDER TO PARENTS: CHILDREN MUST HAVE RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FIRST BEFORE ENROLLING IN THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM ENSURING THEY ARE PROPERLY PREPARED TO RECEIVE JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST.

2027 SAFEGUARDING REFRESHER TRAINING

All STA Parish volunteers, as well as volunteers from neighbouring parishes who require Safeguarding renewal or have incomplete training, are invited to attend the mandatory Face-to-Face Safeguarding Refresher Training. This training is required every two years and is provided free of charge. Volunteers who completed the Face-to-Face training at St Thomas Aquinas in 2025 are due to renew their training in 2027.

PLEASE FIND BELOW LINKS TO REGISTER FOR CYCLE 2 & 3 SAFEGUARDING TRAINING (AT SPRINGWOOD):

Saturday 20th February 2027 [Safeguarding Renewal Training Cycle 2 \(Module 4-5\) \(20 February 2027\)](#) | [Diocese of Parramatta](#)
Time: 10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Saturday 27th February 2027 [Safeguarding Renewal Training Cycle 3 \(Module 6\) \(27 February 2027\)](#) | [Diocese of Parramatta](#)
Time: 10:00 am 11:30 am

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE ON 02 4754 1052 OR EMAIL SPRINGWOOD@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG.

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

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

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 we have to offer.

Maria is currently enjoying a well-deserved two-week holiday. During this time, office staff will be limited. We sincerely appreciate your patience and look forward to having her back.

We welcome Fr Chris, who will be celebrating Mass in our Parish on Sunday 2nd August at 8:00 am and 9:30 am. All are welcomed.

SPONSOR OUR PARISH BULLETIN: Promote your business while supporting the mission of our parish. A new sponsor page is coming soon - if you are interested in advertising your business, please contact the parish office for more information.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS READING GROUP WITH DR ANGUS BROOK - All are invited!

Sunday 3pm @ the St Thomas Aquinas Parish Centre, 3:00pm.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH NIGHT

Friday 7th August 2026 from 6pm to 8pm. Listen to talks on the faith, have engaging conversation and play fun games. 7-12 Year Students all welcome!

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.