

Date: 18th July / 19th July 2026		Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time: Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Phillip Saville	Nelius Jordaan	Anthony Silvestrini
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Katherine Mahns	
Morning Tea:	Parish Pastoral Council	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario
Date: 25th July / 26th July 2026		Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Mass Time: Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil 5:00 PM	Joseph Tabone	Tanya Baldwyn	
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Georgia Cook	
9:30 AM	Ian Boncales	Peta Sparkes	Streeters

KID’S CORNER



The farmer scattered good seed

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

What are some of the “weeds” in our lives that stop us from growing?

Circle the things plants need in order to grow.



Write down or draw some of the things we need to make ourselves grow.

Help the farmer scatter the seed by finding the path to the wheat. Keep a look out for weeds!



Mt 13:24-30 © Creative Ministry Resources 2005

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.

SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

PARISH RAFFLE!

ST THOMAS AQUINAS, SPRINGWOOD

BUY TICKETS ONLINE!

<https://www.raffletix.com.au/stthomasaquinas>

GREAT PRIZES! BIG IMPACT!

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: 067-950
Account Number: 00000560
Reference: **Please include your full name**

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.

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 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary – Year A

This Sunday's parable of the wheat and the weeds asks us to sit with an uncomfortable truth: good and evil grow side by side, even within our own hearts, and it is not ours to rip out the weeds before harvest time. The householder in the parable is patient, not careless — he knows that a hasty judgement risks destroying the very wheat we are trying to protect.

Isaiah's image of a God who is 'mild in judgement' and governs 'with great lenience' sits alongside the Psalm's picture of the Lord as 'slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity.' This is not a licence for indifference to sin, but an invitation to the same patience God shows us — with others, and with our own slow growth in holiness. St Paul reminds us that even when we don't know how to pray, the Spirit prays within us, groaning on our behalf.

Where might I need to trust God's timing rather than my own, this week?

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for Us!

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

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.

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 53:6,8

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading Wisdom 12:13.16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged
unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is
questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R.)**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put
into words.*

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we
cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit
himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be
put into words, and God who knows everything in our
hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the
pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to
the mind of God.

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 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, ‘The kingdom of
heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good
seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy
came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off.
When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel
appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and
said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your
field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some
enemy has done this” he answered. And the servants
said, “Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said,
“No, because when you weed out the darnel you might
pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the
harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers:
First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt,
then gather the wheat into my barn.”

He put another parable before them, ‘The kingdom of
heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and
sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but
when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and
becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and
shelter in its branches.’

He told them another parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is
like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three
measures of flour till it was leavened all through.’

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed,
he would never speak to them except in parables. This
was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the
world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his
disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain the parable about
the darnel in the field to us.’ He said in reply, ‘The sower
of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world;
the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel,
the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them,
the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers
are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up
and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The
Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of
his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who
do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where
there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the
virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their
Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

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

Communion Antiphon Psalm 110:4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.



Recently Deceased: Lisa Vaughan, Neil Kirby, Murdo Macarthur, Maureen Osmetti
Commemorative Deceased: Bill Baldwin, Terry Hammond, Michael Hughes, Charles Hughes
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 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 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

Reminder to Parents: For your children to be eligible for the First Holy Communion Program, **they must have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation first.** This requirement ensures that the children are adequately prepared and spiritually ready to receive our Lord Jesus.

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.

2027 SAFEGUARDING REFRESHER TRAINING WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS OF THE STA PARISH AND NEARBY PARISHES

To all our Volunteers and Volunteers of nearby parishes who have incomplete training or are due for renewal, please make use of this opportunity to have Face-to-Face Mandatory Renewal Safeguarding Training, which happens in our Parish every two years.

2027 cost-free training is now scheduled in February.

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 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

Or call the STA Parish Office: 02 4754 1052 or email: springwood@parracatholic.org Together we will be able to strengthen our shared commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for everyone in our community.

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.

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 resumes this Sunday 19th July 2026 at 3pm. All welcome!

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!

We are delighted to 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.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027

LAUNCH: 12 AUGUST 2026—Come and discover the pilgrimage to the 17th International World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea (26 July – 11 August 2027), themed “Take courage! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Join us for an inspiring evening to learn about the pilgrimage, hear testimonies from past pilgrims, explore the faith and culture of the Korean Church, and enjoy fellowship with other young people. Date: 12 August 2026 Doors open at 6:30pm. Venue: Nagle College, 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown. Register today at: parracatholic.org/events/wyd27-launch/