

DATE: 8TH AUGUST / 9TH AUGUST 2026	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
MASS TIME: ACOLYTE	FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM Phil Saville	Tanya Baldwin	Tamsyn Baldwin	Anthony Silvestrini
8:00 AM Sebastian Cook	Loida Derbyshire	Ros Comfort	
9:30 AM Ian Boncales	Margaret Hickey	Anne Ellis	
DATE: 15TH AUGUST / 16TH AUGUST 2026	TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
MASS TIME: ACOLYTE	FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM Joseph Sukkar	Felix Kobus	Nelius Jordaan	
8:00 AM Randall Noney	Tanya Graham	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM John Belfanti	Katherine Mahns	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario
Morning Tea: Passionist Family Group			

SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

PARISH RAFFLE!

ST THOMAS AQUINAS, SPRINGWOOD

GREAT PRIZES! BIG IMPACT!

Scan the QR code to buy your tickets and support our parish.

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

Thank you!
TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PREFER TO DONATE DIRECTLY?
Account Name: Springwood
BSB: 087-950
Account Number: 00000960
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.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

SATURDAY, 15 AUGUST, JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY! 9:30AM MASS AND PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY'S ASSUMPTION.

CELEBRATION BRUNCH TO FOLLOW. ENJOY OUR SAUSAGE SIZZLE, BACON & EGG ROLL, AND DRINKS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY. DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED WHICH WILL GO TOWARDS OUR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN SUPPORTING OUR MAINTENANCE SERVICES.

ONLINE RAFFLE DRAW AT 12 NOON — WINNERS ANNOUNCED LIVE. ALL PARISHIONERS AND FAMILIES WARMLY WELCOME. COME CELEBRATE THIS JOYFUL FEAST TOGETHER AS A PARISH COMMUNITY.

To buy tickets or to share this raffles use this raffle link:

[RaffleTix | Raffles by St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Springwood](#)

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 NSW

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP OUR PARISH STRONG

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES EVERYTHING POSSIBLE

Our parish is more than a building — it is a living community of faith, hope and love. From daily Mass and sacraments to pastoral care, outreach, youth ministry, and maintaining our church and facilities, your generosity keeps our parish thriving.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

- ~ Maintain our Church and parish buildings
- ~ Support the building of our new presbytery
- ~ Faith formation and sacramental preparation
- ~ Support our children, youth and families
- ~ Create a welcoming and safe environment for all

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT

- ◇ **BUY RAFFLE TICKETS**
Great prizes and all proceeds support our parish.
- ◇ **MAKE A DONATION**
Every gift, big or small, makes a real difference.
- ◇ **GET INVOLVED**
Volunteer your time and talents in our ministries.
- ◇ **SHARE OUR RAFFLE**
Invite family and friends to support our parish.

EVERY TICKET. EVERY DONATION. EVERY SHARE

Builds Our parish Community

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

- Matthew 6:21

THANK YOU!

Your generosity is a blessing that benefits so many. Thank you for standing with our parish.

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

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

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 US!
SCAN TO DONATE



Father Jack's Reflection Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples find themselves in the middle of a storm, exhausted by the wind and the darkness. Then, quite unexpectedly, Jesus comes towards them, walking across the water. Peter, filled with both courage and uncertainty, steps out of the boat at the Lord's invitation. For a moment he walks upon the waves, but when his attention shifts from Christ to the strength of the storm, fear overwhelms him and he begins to sink. His simple prayer, "Lord, save me," is answered immediately as Jesus reaches out His hand. Jesus says, "Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid."

This Gospel reminds us that the Christian life is often lived in the space between faith and fear. We all know what it is to begin with confidence, only to become distracted by the winds that surround us. Christ does not always calm the storm immediately, but He is always present within it, extending His hand to those who call upon Him.

Our first reading offers a similar lesson. Elijah encounters God not in the wind, the earthquake or the fire, but in the gentle whisper. God's presence is often quiet, inviting us to recognise Him in prayer, the sacraments and the ordinary moments of faithful living.

These readings speak deeply to our parish at this particular moment. Over recent weeks we have accompanied several families through the sorrow of losing loved ones. Most recently, we entrusted Chris Wilson to God's mercy, and we continue to hold his family and all who mourn in our prayers.

Many of you may already know that Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv has appointed me Parish Priest of St Thomas Aquinas Parish for a six-year term, commencing on 29 July. I quietly shared this news by means of a notice at the church and online, but deliberately refrained from making a public announcement or celebration until after we had accompanied Chris and his family through their time of mourning.

I accept this appointment with gratitude, humility and a profound sense of responsibility. Like Peter stepping from the boat, every new chapter calls us to trust in Christ, whose hand is always extended towards His people.

Thank you for your kindness, your prayers and your welcome. I ask your continued prayers that together we may grow in faith, hope and charity, always keeping our eyes fixed on Christ.

Yours in Christ Jesus and Mary,
Fr Jack Elkazzi
Parish Priest
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish, Springwood



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 73:20,19,22,23

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading 1 Kings 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.’ Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. ‘It is a ghost’ they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, ‘Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.’ It was Peter who answered. ‘Lord,’ he said ‘if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.’ ‘Come’ said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. ‘Lord! Save me!’ he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. ‘Man of little faith,’ he said ‘why did you doubt?’ And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’

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

Communion Antiphon Psalm 147:12,14

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.



Recently Deceased: Chris Wilson, Lisa Vaughan, Neil Kirby, Murdo Macarthur
Commemorative Deceased: Holy Souls and all souls of family and friends of Christopher and the souls of those who have no one to pray for them, Liz Miles, Mary Eileen Scarff, Bill Baldwin, Terry Hammond, Michael Hughes, Charles Hughes
Sick: Janice Mills, Marlene Thomas, Angelica Maria Suso, 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, 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: stchurchspringwood.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.

FUNERAL NOTICES - Please keep the families of the late Lisa Vaughn, Janice Mills and Fr Eugene Stockton in your prayers as they prepare to commend their loved ones to God's eternal care.

The Funeral Mass for **Lisa Vaughn** will be celebrated on **Wednesday, 12th August, at 11:00 am.**

The Funeral Mass for **Janice Mills** will be celebrated on **Thursday, 13th August, at 11:00 am.**

The Funeral Mass for **Fr Eugene Stockton** will be celebrated on **Friday, 14th August, at 11:00 am. Celebrant: Bishop Vincent Long**
Requiem Masses at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish, Springwood.

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.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Vigil Mass Friday 14th August 2026 at 7pm.
The Mass During the Day Saturday 15th August 2026 at 9:30am
All welcome!

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.

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.

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 21st 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!