

DATE:	22ND AUGUST / 23RD AUGUST 2026		TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
MASS TIME:	ACOLYTE	FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Tanya Baldwin	Timothy Baldwin	
8:00 AM	Joseph Tabone	Roslyn Comfort	Mary Morris	
9:30 AM	Ian Boncales	Phil Saville	Peta Sparkes	Streeters
DATE:	29TH AUGUST / 30TH AUGUST 2026		TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
MASS TIME:	ACOLYTE	FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Shayna Jordaan	Felix Kobus	Tamsyn B & Ellie J
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Mary Morris	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Shaun Keating	Tanya Graham	Matt Aldous	Couples for Christ
Moring Tea: Couples for Christ				

SUPPORT LOCAL SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Are you a local business owner?

St Thomas Aquinas Parish is inviting local businesses to join our Parish Business Sponsors Page.

By advertising with us, you can promote your business to our parish community while also helping to support the ongoing life, ministries and projects of our parish.

It's a wonderful opportunity for our parishioners to support the local businesses that support our parish.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

- SUPPORT LOCAL • BUILD COMMUNITY
- SUPPORT OUR PARISH

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

- ◇ **MAKE A DONATION**
Every gift, big or small, makes a real difference.
- ◇ **GET INVOLVED**
Volunteer your time and talents in our ministries.
- ◇ **JOIN OUR PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM**
Invite family and friends to support our parish.

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.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.

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
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Contact Us

- Phone: (02) 4751 1052
- Email: springwood@parracatholic.org
- Instagram: @stthomasaquinas_springwood.nsw
- 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood NSW 2777

Father Jack's Reflection
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Who Do You Say That I Am?

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus turns to His disciples with a question that echoes across every generation: "Who do you say that I am?" It is Peter who answers, not from cleverness but from grace — "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus responds by naming him the rock on which He will build His Church, entrusting him with the keys of the kingdom.

This exchange reminds us that faith is never simply information passed down; it is a personal encounter, a question each of us must answer for ourselves. The crowds had their theories about Jesus — a prophet, a teacher, a healer. But Peter's confession goes deeper. It is a recognition born of relationship.

This week, let us sit with Jesus's question as though asked of us directly. Not "who do others say I am," but "who do you say that I am?" Our answer, lived out in prayer and charity, becomes our own quiet confession of faith.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!
May God Bless you All +
In Christ Jesus and Mary,

Fr Jack Elkazzi
Parish Priest
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish, Springwood

ON FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST, THERE WILL BE NO 8:15 AM ADORATION AND 9:30 AM MASS AT THE CHURCH
All are invited to attend the Holy Mass at 9:15am, St Columba's College school grounds to celebrate the feast of St Columba.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL
On the weekend of 5-6 September, the annual Bishop's Father's Day appeal will take place. This year's focus will be on Fr John O'Neill, recently retired Parish Priest of St John Vianney's, Doonside. This appeal supports all the retired priests of the Diocese, and your donations are very much appreciated. Full information will be provided next week, but if you wish to get in early, please visit
<https://parracatholic.org/donate/clergy-support-foundation>



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day
long.

First Reading Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R)**

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.



Recently Deceased: Janice Mills, Fr Eugene Stockton, Chris Wilson, Lisa Vaughan, Neil Kirby, & all of the Faithful Departed
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
Sick: Marie Medlin, 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.

YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED The cost of running the church air conditioning has increased significantly. Our current electricity bill is \$1,552.70. We are asking parishioners who are able to make a financial contribution towards this cost to please consider supporting the parish. Every contribution, large or small, is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our parish. *Every contribution makes a difference.*

A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR OUR CHILDREN From September every 3rd Sunday at the 9:30am Mass, all children are warmly invited to come forward for a special blessing before dismissal. This is a beautiful opportunity for our parish family to pray for our children and ask God to guide, protect and bless them as they continue to grow in faith.

MASS FOR OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED From Sept. every 3rd Tuesday at our 7:00 pm Mass, we will offer the Mass especially for our Faithful Departed. Parishioners are invited to bring a photo of their loved ones who have passed away. These photos will be placed on the table of remembrance as we pray for them & entrust their souls to God's loving mercy. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

RCIA – RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming Catholic?
Our RCIA Program is a welcoming opportunity to explore the Catholic faith, ask questions, deepen your understanding and journey towards full communion with the Church. Starting Sunday, 20 September 2026 (Consecutive Dates to be confirmed)
Time: 1:00pm;
Location: St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood
For more information or to register your interest, please contact the Parish Office.

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.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

INSTALLATION MASS

OF

Fr Jack Elkazzi

AS PARISH PRIEST OF

ST THOMAS AQUINAS

CATHOLIC PARISH, SPRINGWOOD

TO BE CELEBRATED BY

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen

OFM Conv, STL, DD

Bishop of Parramatta

SUNDAY

25TH OCTOBER 2026

9:30AM

Mass followed by brunch

We look forward to celebrating this blessed occasion with you as a parish family.

SAVE THE DATE, YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED To help make this a special occasion, we are asking parishioners who can contribute: Financial Contribution to assist with the cost of the celebration OR **Savoury food only** to share with our parish community. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated as we celebrate this wonderful milestone with Fr Jack. Please save the date – we look forward to celebrating together! *God bless and thank you for your continued support of our parish.*