

DATE: 29TH AUGUST / 30TH AUGUST 2026	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MASS TIME: ACOLYTE	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful
FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM Ian Miles	Shayna Jordaan
8:00 AM Marek Grus	Mary Morris
9:30 AM Shaun Keating	Tanya Graham
Moring Tea: Couples for Christ	
	Felix Kobus
	Kim Crawford
	Matt Aldous
	Tamsyn B & Ellie J
	Couples for Christ
DATE: 5TH SEPTEMBER / 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MASS TIME: ACOLYTE	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful
FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM Phil Saville	Ellie Johnson
8:00 AM Sebastian Cook	Loida Derbyshire
9:30 AM Joseph Sukkar	Karen Sukkar
Moring Tea: STA Volunteers	
	Nelius Jordaan
	Georgia Cook
	Anne Ellis
	Andrew Wilson
	TBA

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 Priest: Fr Jack Elkazzi
Parish Pastoral Council: springwoodparishpc@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



SUPPORT US!
SCAN TO DONATE

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.

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.

THANK YOU!

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

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

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**

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.

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: @stthomasquinas_springwood.nsw
- 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood NSW 2777

Father Jack's Reflection Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A **Reflection: Losing Life to Find It**

This Sunday's Gospel turns sharply from last week's triumph — Peter's confession of faith — to a moment of real tension. Jesus begins to speak plainly about the suffering, rejection, and death that await him in Jerusalem. Peter, still glowing from being called the "rock," cannot bear it. He pulls Jesus aside and rebukes him. Jesus' response is startling: "Get behind me, Satan!" Not because Peter is evil, but because his love, however sincere, is trying to steer Jesus away from the Father's will.

It's a warning for all of us. We, too, want a faith without a cross — success without sacrifice, resurrection without Good Friday. But Jesus is clear: "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

This isn't a call to seek suffering for its own sake, but an invitation to trust that self-giving love, poured out daily in small deaths to selfishness, is the very shape of a life truly lived. What cross is Christ asking you to pick up this week?

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

May God Bless you All +

In Christ Jesus and Mary,

Fr Jack Elkazzi

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish, Springwood

BISHOP'S ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL

The Bishop's Father's Day Appeal begins this weekend, 29–30 August, supporting the Clergy Support Foundation and the retired and unwell priests of our Diocese. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal Thank you.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES The new sets of Planned Giving envelopes are now available for collection at the church entrance. We thank all parishioners who contribute regularly through the program, your generosity supports the ongoing mission and upkeep of our Parish. To join the program, please ring the parish office.



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

- O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
- So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
- So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
- For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

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

Communion Antiphon Psalm 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.



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.*

SACRED MUSIC FOR CHILDREN

Children aged 4–16 are warmly invited to learn the beautiful tradition of Sacred Music and Chant at St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood.

Saturdays: 19 September, 17 October & 21 November 2026
10am–12pm
Cost: By donation

Sessions will conclude with Sung Benediction, followed by a BYO picnic lunch on the parish greens.
Places are limited. To register your interest, please contact Philipa on 0402 700 093 or email philipacaulfield@hotmail.com.

MARK'S GOSPEL Three sessions will be offered in St Finbar's Parish on the 12th, 19th, and 26th October from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Register by **Friday 4th September, 2026** if you can come to all three sessions.

Please leave name and email address with St Finbar's secretary. (02) 4742 6958

ST THOMAS AQUINAS SPRINGWOOD GIFT SHOP

Our Parish Gift Shop is now open!

Located in the Parish Office building.



Giftshop Hours:

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
Catholic Gift Shop.

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.

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: 11:30pm;
Location: St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood
For more information or to register your interest, please contact the Parish Office.

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 4th September 2026 from 6pm to 8pm. Listen to talks on the faith, have engaging conversation and play fun games. 7-12 Year Students all welcome!

PLEASE FIND BELOW LINKS TO REGISTER FOR CYCLE 2 & 3 SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AT ST THOMAS PARISH, 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