

DATE: **19TH SEPTEMBER / 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026**
MASS TIME: **ACOLYTE** **FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Vigil 5:00 PM Ian Boncales Tanya Baldwin
8:00 AM Bernard Ellis Kim Crawford
9:30 AM Shaun Keating Katherine Mahns
Morning Tea: Polish Group / Catechists

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful **MUSIC**
Tamsyn Baldwin Anthony Silvestrini
Domhnall MacCormac
Matt Aldous Clemens del Rosario

DATE: **26TH SEPTEMBER / 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026**
MASS TIME: **ACOLYTE** **FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Vigil 5:00 PM Ian Miles Chantelle Sukkar
8:00 AM Marek Grus Tanya Graham
9:30 AM Joseph Tabone Margaret Hickey

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful **MUSIC**
Felix Kobus
Ros Comfort
Peta Sparkes Streeters



THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood NSW 2777

PO Box 4410, Winmalee NSW 2777

(02) 4754 1052 | 0474 631 168

springwood@parracatholic.org

www.stachurchspringwood.org.au

Facebook: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community, Springwood

Instagram: stthomasaquinas_springwoodnsw

Parish Priest: Fr Jack Elkazzi

Office Hours: Tue-Fri 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Parish Pastoral Council: springwoodparishpc@gmail.com

Sacrament Enquiries: sacramentssta@gmail.com

MASS & SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Weekend Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00 pm | Sun 8:00 am & 9:30 am

Weekday Masses: Tue 9:30 am & 7:00 pm | Wed-Sat 9:30 am

Adoration: Tue 8:15 am & 6:00 pm | Wed-Sat 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: Sat after 9:30 am & 4:00 pm-4:45 pm before the Saturday Vigil Mass

Baptism: 2nd & 4th Sundays 11:00 am or by appointment

Weddings: By appointment (6–12 month notice)

Funerals: Contact 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.

Fr Jack's Reflection

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

The Generosity of God

The workers in today's Gospel are not all called at the same hour. Some labour from the beginning of the day; others arrive when the day is almost finished. Yet the landowner's generosity unsettles those who have worked longest. Their problem is not that they have been treated unjustly, but that somebody else has received generosity.

Jesus exposes a subtle spiritual danger: comparison. We can begin faithfully serving God and then quietly measure our lives against others – their blessings, opportunities, recognition or even their spiritual journey. Gratitude can slowly become entitlement. Our Heavenly Father does not love us according to a human system of competition. His mercy is gift. This does not make sin insignificant; rather, it means that no sinner who truly turns back to God is beyond His forgiveness. Isaiah reminds us that God's ways are higher than ours.

The Holy Spirit frees us from envy and teaches us to rejoice when grace reaches another person. At the Eucharist, none of us approaches as an owner demanding wages. We come with empty hands to receive Christ. The question is not whether another has received too much, but whether we have recognised how generously God has already dealt with us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for Us!

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

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL 2026: Thank you for caring for our spiritual fathers. Your generosity and love ensure they receive the care, comfort and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or use our collection bucket/envelopes at the back of the church. Thank you.

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 finger 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.*



Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R.

v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Acts of the Apostles 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

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

Communion Antiphon

Psalms 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



Recently Deceased: Agnes Iverach, and all of the Faithful Departed

Sick: Patricia Hughes, Auntie of Finley Donaghey, Marie Medlin, Marlene Thomas, Angelica Maria Suso, John Warner, 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 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.

BIG THANK YOU We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed towards covering the parish’s electricity bill. Your willingness to help ensure that we can keep things running smoothly. Your generosity, every contribution, large or small is truly appreciated.

ALL HALLOWS’ EVE NIGHT – Saturday 31 Oct 2026 from 4:30pm at St Thomas Aquinas School Hall, Cost: \$5/person (capped \$30/family) Come and join us to celebrate the life of our Saints who are in Heaven and still inspire us today. There will be games, dinner, parade and prayer time with other families. To book: <https://www.trybooking.com/DPWQD>

Enquiries: Shayna 0433 686 362

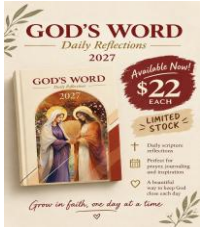
For more information, please see our STA Notice Board

We look forward to seeing you for this celebration in your favourite Saint costumes!

GOD’S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS

2027 – now available at our gift shop for \$22 each. Please note there is limited stock.

- Daily Scripture reflections
- Perfect for Prayer, journaling and inspiration
- A beautiful way to keep God close each day



PREPARING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WITH FR JACK

As we prepare for the beautiful seasons of Advent and Christmas, Fr Jack will be offering weekly reflections to help guide and prepare us spiritually as we journey towards the celebration of Christ’s birth. Fr Jack will be using the book: **Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2026**. Further details and dates will be announced soon. Books are now available for pre-order at **\$10.00** each. Please see the Parish Office staff to pre-purchase your copy. All parishioners are warmly invited to join Fr Jack as we journey together in faith and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Advent and Christmas.

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.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: There will be no Adoration nor evening Mass on Tuesday 22nd September 2026. We encourage all to join us for our regular morning Mass at 9:30 am instead.

STA 2026 SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM

Enrolment is now on! Please visit our website:

www.stachurchspringwood.org.au, then click the STA Sacramental Program TAB to view details and enrolment form (these are also available at the back of the church & Parish Office). Our first Parent Information Session is on Wednesday 21st October at 7pm. It is compulsory that parents and children attend all the Information Nights and Practice Session. Please note children must have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to participating in the First Holy Communion program. For enquiries call 02 4754 1052.

RCIA – RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Date previously published is cancelled. Future dates will be announced soon. For more information or to register your interest, please contact the Parish Office.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS READING GROUP WITH DR ANGUS BROOK

is on every Sunday at the Parish Centre 3pm – 5pm. All are invited to attend.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH is on a break. Next meeting is scheduled on Friday 16th October 2026.

TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE - AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith? Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction.

Next weekend we welcome to our parish Sandra Doueithi who will share with us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.



MAJOR PILGRIM RELIC VISIT OF ST CARLO ACUTIS 28–30 SEPTEMBER | ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA Come and pray with the relic of **St Carlo Acutis** and discover his inspiring devotion to the Eucharist. The three-day visit beginning at 4pm on Monday 28 September includes Holy Mass, relic veneration, blessings, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession and an exhibition on Eucharistic Miracles. All are welcome - bring your family and friends!