

DATE:	12TH SEPTEMBER / 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026		TWENTY-FOURTH 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	Ellie J & Tamsyn B
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Loida Derbyshire	Ros Comfort	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Streeters
DATE:	19TH SEPTEMBER / 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026		TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
MASS TIME:	ACOLYTE	FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ian Boncales	Tanya Baldwin	Tamsyn Baldwin	Anthony Silvestrini
8:00 AM	Bernard Ellis	Kim Crawford	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	Shaun Keating	Katherine Mahns	Matt Aldous	Clemens del Rosario
Morning Tea: Polish Group / Catechists				

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 Priest: 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.

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.

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

Peter asks Jesus a question many of us have asked in one form or another: *How many times must I forgive?* Behind the question is our natural desire to place a limit on mercy. Surely there comes a point when we have done enough.

Jesus responds with the parable of a servant forgiven an enormous debt who then refuses mercy to another. The message is confronting: we can never understand Christian forgiveness until we remember how much we ourselves have received from our Heavenly Father.

Forgiveness does not mean pretending that sin is harmless. Sin wounds people, destroys trust and fractures communion. Nor does forgiveness remove the need for justice, truth or appropriate boundaries. Rather, forgiveness refuses to let another person's sin become a permanent prison within our own heart.

Through the Holy Spirit, God can do what human strength alone often cannot: loosen resentment, heal memories and gradually restore freedom. At every Eucharist we stand before Christ as people who live by mercy. Having received His mercy, we are sent to become its instruments.

Perhaps this week we can place one name, one wound or one resentment before the Lord and pray: *Father, begin in me what I cannot yet accomplish alone.*

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 Thank you for caring for our spiritual fathers. This will help provide much-needed care and support for those who have dedicated their lives to serving our community. 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 the collection bucket and/or envelopes at the back of the church. Thank you.



Entrance Antiphon Cf Sirach 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

First Reading Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance
of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the
commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your
neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook
the offence.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on
others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die
for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.
This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was
so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I
forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven
times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but
seventy-seven times.

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a
king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants.
When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who
owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of
paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold,
together with his wife and children and all his
possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw
himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said
“and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master
felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the
debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet
a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and
he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him.
“Pay what you owe me”, he said. His fellow servant fell at
his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will
pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary,
he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt.
His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw
what had happened, and they went to their master and
reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for
him. “You wicked servant,” he said. “I cancelled all that
debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not
bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I
had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him
over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that
is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you
each forgive your brother from your heart.’

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

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your
wings.



Recently Deceased: Agnes Iverach, all of the Faithful Departed
Sick: Auntie of Finley Donaghey, 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. So far we have received \$750 from kind
parishioners. Thank you for your generosity. Every contribution,
large or small, is greatly appreciated.

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. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, 29th of
November 2026, 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.

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.

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 is on a break until Saturday 19th September. Meeting will
resume on Sunday 20th September.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH NIGHT

Friday 18th 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!

THE STA LADIES would like to invite parishioners to join them at
the Springwood Golf Club on Friday 18th Sept for their annual lunch
at 12 MD. We would also like to thank all those wonderful
parishioners who donated cakes and saleable goods for their street
stall, a total of \$1,342.10 was taken on the day. We thank you for
all your support. This money helps St Vincent de Paul and our
Parish. **Contact Colleen on 0407 125 427.**