

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

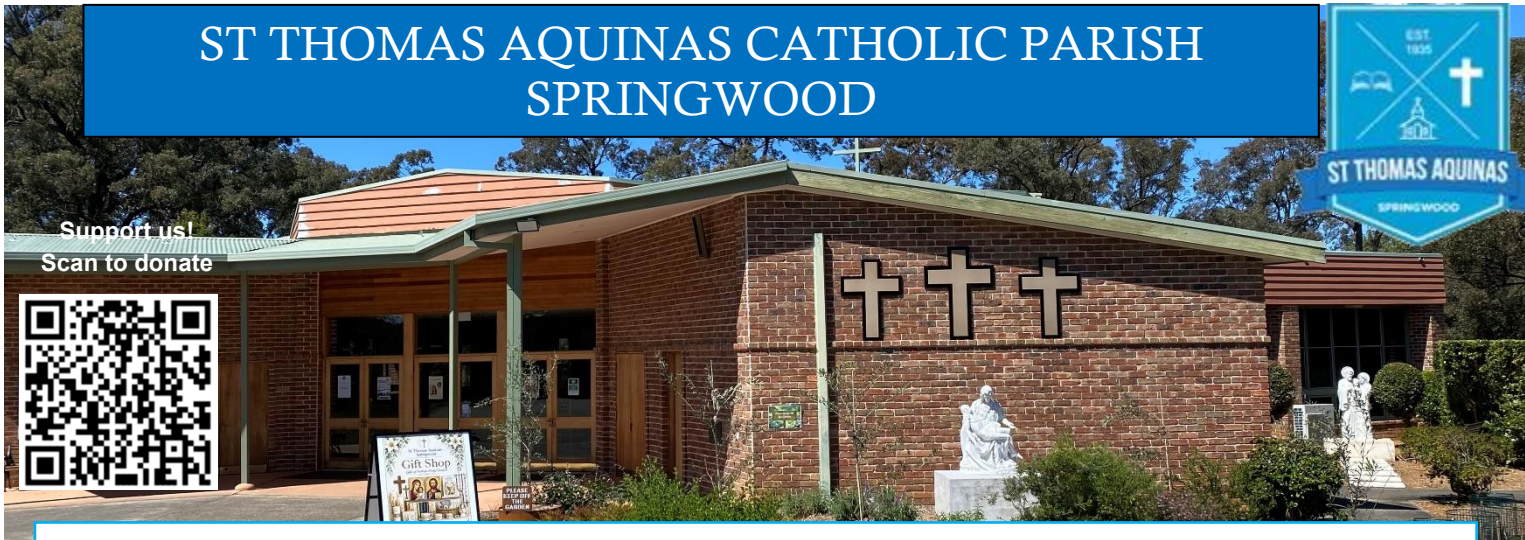
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful **MUSIC**
Felix Kobus
Ros Comfort
Peta Sparkes
Streeters

DATE: **3RD OCTOBER / 4TH OCTOBER 2026**
MASS TIME: **ACOLYTE** **FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Vigil 5:00 PM Phil Saville Nelius Jordaan
8:00 AM Randall Noney Mary Morris
9:30 AM Bernard Ellis Anne Edwards

Morning Tea: Mothers Prayers

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful **MUSIC**
Shanya Jordaan
Georgia Cook
Brian Edwards
Andrew Wilson



THE 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A, 27TH 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 | Wed-Sat 9:30 am
Adoration: Tue 8:15 am | 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.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

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.

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

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

Contact Us

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

Fr Jack's Reflection
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

It Is Never Too Late to Change Your Answer

Today's Gospel gives us two sons. One says no to his father, but later changes his mind and goes to work in the vineyard. The other says all the right words but never acts. Jesus reminds us that discipleship is measured not simply by what we say, but by the direction in which our life is moving.

This is also a Gospel of great hope. Our first answer to God does not have to be our final answer. Ezekiel tells us that when a sinner turns away from sin and chooses what is right, he shall live. The destructiveness of sin is real, but so too is the transforming power of God's mercy.

Our Heavenly Father does not define us forever by our worst moment. Through the Holy Spirit, He gives us the grace to repent, change direction and begin again. Saint Paul shows us what that new life looks like: the humility of Christ, who emptied Himself and became obedient even to the Cross.

At the Eucharist we meet this humble Christ and receive the grace to become like Him. The question this week is simple: where is God asking me to turn my words into action?

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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FR JACK:

Dear Parishioners, I have taken this opportunity to have a short period of leave. It has now been around a year and a half since I last had a proper break, so I am grateful for the opportunity to take some time for rest and renewal. Please keep me in your prayers during this time, as I will certainly keep you and our parish community in mine. I look forward to returning refreshed and to being back with you all on 13th of October. Thank you for your continued prayers, support and understanding.

God bless you all,
Fr Jack

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 Daniel 3:31,29,30,43,42

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

- Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
- Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
- The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people’s interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not go,” but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir,” but did not go. Which of the two did the father’s will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.’

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.



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.

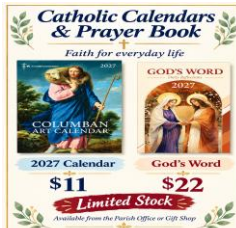
BIG THANK YOU We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed towards covering the parish’s electricity bill. Your willingness to help ensure that we can keep things running smoothly. Your generosity, every contribution, large or small is truly appreciated.

ALL HALLOWS’ EVE NIGHT — Saturday **31 Oct 2026 from 1:30pm to 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 AND COLUMBAN ART

CALENDAR — now available at our gift shop. Please note there is limited stock.

- God’s Word: \$22 each
- Columban calendar: \$11 each



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 Tuesday Adoration nor evening Mass. We encourage all to join us for our regular morning Mass at 9:30 am instead.

Until further notice, request a visit from Fr Jack is also cancelled. We appreciate your support and understanding.

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

will be taking a break from Sunday 27th of September until Saturday 10th of October. Meetings will resume on Sunday 11th October at 3pm at the parish centre.

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

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS LADIES FELLOW would like to invite parishioners to join them on Friday 16th October to Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa Leaving after 9:30 Mass (carpool). Visit the Shrine in a “beautiful serene location” for reflection and prayer. A light lunch for \$20 will be served at 12:30 pm. You can buy morning tea if required. Please notify of any diet requirements. Money must be paid by 9 October. No refunds after this date. Inquires and bookings to Colleen 0407 125 427 or Annette 0413 213 909.

**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!