

DATE: 5TH SEPTEMBER / 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MASS TIME: ACOLYTE	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful
Vigil 5:00 PM Phil Saville	Nelius Jordaan
8:00 AM Sebastian Cook	Georgia Cook
9:30 AM Joseph Sukkar	Anne Ellis
Moring Tea: STA Volunteers	Andrew Wilson
	TBA
DATE: 12TH SEPTEMBER / 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MASS TIME: ACOLYTE	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful
Vigil 5:00 PM Ed Junis	Timothy Baldwin
8:00 AM Randall Noney	Ros Comfort
9:30 AM John Belfanti	Brian Edwards
	Ellie J & Tamsyn B
	Streeters



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 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

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

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

The Work of His Hands

"The heavens declare the glory of God." Creation is not merely the background to human life; it is a gift through which we glimpse the goodness, wisdom and beauty of our Heavenly Father.

Yet the harmony intended by God has been wounded by sin. Sin does not only damage our relationship with God; its destructiveness reaches into our relationships with one another and even into the way we treat the created world. When selfishness, greed and indifference take hold, what the Father has entrusted to us as gift can become something we exploit rather than cherish.

But sin does not have the final word. The prayers of the Mass for the Care of Creation ask that, docile to the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit, we may lovingly care for the works of the Father's hands. The Holy Spirit renews what sin wounds, converts our hearts and teaches us again to receive creation with gratitude and responsibility.

This renewal finds a beautiful expression in the Eucharist. The fruits of the earth and human labour are brought to the altar and transformed by the Holy Spirit into the sacramental presence of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit heal the effects of sin within us, deepen our communion with our Heavenly Father, unite us in Christ, and teach us to cherish faithfully all that God has made.

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 After a lifetime of faithful service, many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or use our collection bucket or envelopes provided at the back of the church Thank you.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES The new sets of Planned Giving envelopes are now available for collection at the back of church. 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.

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.*



Entrance Antiphon Ps 19 (18):2

The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.

First Reading Wisdom 13:1-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

'If they can weigh up the world, how have they still not found its Master?'

Empty-headed by nature are all who are unaware of God,
and who, from good things seen, have not been able to
discover Him-who-is, or by studying the works, have not
recognised the Artificer, but have thought fire or wind or the
swift air, the circle of the stars or forceful water,
the starry constellations of heaven, to be the gods of the
world.

If charmed by their beauty, they have taken these for gods,
let them know how much the Master of these excels them,
since he was the very source of beauty that created them.
If struck by their power and energy, let them consider from
these how much mightier is he that formed them, since
through the grandeur and beauty of the creatures
their Author is by analogy perceived.

Small blame however attaches to them, for perhaps they go
astray only in their search for God and their eagerness to find
him; familiar with his works, they search for him
and are seduced by the eye, seeing so much beauty.
But even so, they have no excuse: if they are capable of
knowing so much that they can weigh up the world,
how have they still not found its Master?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 104:1-2a. 5-6. 10, 12. 24, 35c

(R.) **May the Lord rejoice in his works.**

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as with a robe! (R.)
2. You set the earth on its foundation,
immovable from age to age.
You wrapped it with the depths like a cloak;
the waters stood higher than the mountains. (R.)
3. You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between the hills.
There the birds of heaven build their nests;
from the branches they sing their song. (R.)
4. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. (R.)

Second Reading Colossians 1:15-20

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

All things were created through him and for him

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God, the first-born of
all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and
on earth: everything visible and everything invisible,
thrones, sovereignties, rulers, authorities – all things were
created through him and for him.

He exists before all things, and in him all things hold
together, and he is the head of the body, the Church.
He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that he
should be supreme in every way; because God wanted all
fullness to be found in him and through him to reconcile all
things to him, everything in heaven and everything on earth,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Chronicles 29:11d,12b

Alleluia, alleluia!
Yours is the sovereignty, Lord;
you are ruler of all.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 6:24-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Do not worry about tomorrow.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'No one can be the
slave of two masters: a person will either hate the first and
love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the
second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.
'Therefore I tell you not to worry about your life, what you
should eat, nor about your body, what you should wear.
Surely life is more than food, and the body more than
clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or
reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds
them. Are you not worth much more than they are?

Can any of you, by worrying, add one single cubit to your
span of life? And why worry about clothing? Learn from the
flowers of the fields, how they grow; they neither work nor
spin, yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his glory
was clothed like one of these.

Now if God so clothes the grasses of the field which are there
today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much
more clothe you, who have so little faith?

So do not worry; do not say, "What should we eat? What
should we drink? What should we wear?" It is the gentiles
who strive for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows
you need them all. Strive first for his kingdom, and
righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as
well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take
care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

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

Communion Antiphon Ps 98 (97):3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of the our
God.



Recently Deceased: Agnes Iverach, Janice Mills, Fr Eugene Stockton, Aileen and Jozef Nojek & 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.

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.

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.



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.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS Please note that Father Jack will not
be on the parish premises on **Saturday, 12 September 2026**.
We will be welcoming visiting priests who will celebrate both the
morning Mass and the Vigil Mass. Please note that there will be **NO**
Confessions on this day. Thank you for your understanding.

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 will be having a 2-week break from Sunday 6th Sept until
Saturday 19th Sept. Meeting will resume on Sunday 20th Sept.

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!