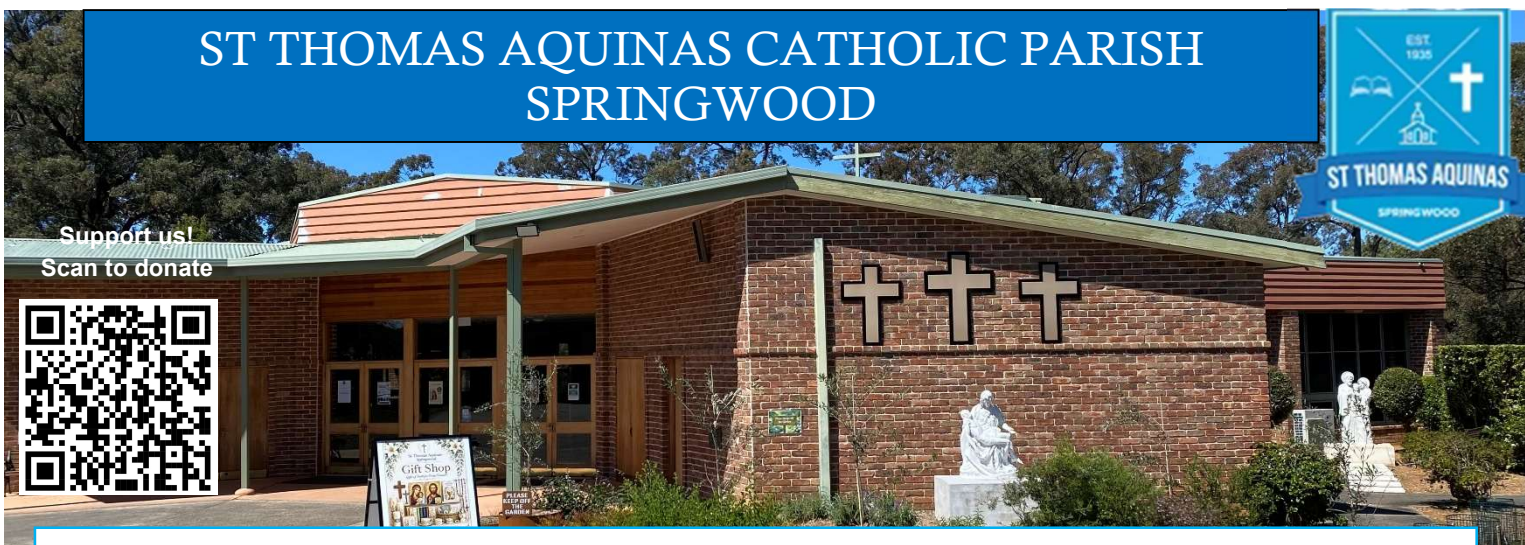


DATE: **3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER / 4TH OCTOBER 2026**  
MASS TIME: **ACOLYTE** **FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
  
Vigil 5:00 PM Phil Saville Nelius Jordaan  
8:00 AM Randall Noney Mary Morris  
9:30 AM Bernard Ellis Anne Edwards  
  
Morning Tea: Mothers Prayers

DATE: **10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER / 11TH OCTOBER 2026**  
MASS TIME: **ACOLYTE** **FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
  
Vigil 5:00 PM Ed Junis Tanya Baldwin  
8:00 AM Sebastian Cook Ros Comfort  
9:30 AM Shaun Keating Katherine Mahns

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

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful** **MUSIC**  
Timothy Baldwin Tamsyn B & Ellie J  
Kim Crawford  
Anne Ellis Streeters



THE 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A, 04TH OCTOBER 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 11:00 am or by appointment  
**Weddings:** By appointment (6–12 month notice)  
**Funerals:** Contact Parish Office

We respect the Darua 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

**25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2026**

9:30AM

Mass followed by brunch

We look forward to celebrating this blessed occasion with you as a parish family.

**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.

**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**

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A**

What Fruit Is God Finding?

Isaiah and Jesus both place a vineyard before us this Sunday. The owner has done everything necessary: the ground is prepared, the vines are planted and the vineyard is protected. The tragedy is not a lack of care from the owner, but the failure of the vineyard to produce the fruit for which it was planted.

The image invites a personal question: what fruit is God's grace producing in me? Our Heavenly Father has given us life, faith, the Scriptures, the Sacraments, the Church and countless opportunities to love. These gifts are not simply possessions; they are entrusted to us so that our lives may bear fruit.

Sin makes the heart barren when God's gifts are received without conversion. But the Holy Spirit can cultivate even neglected ground, restoring prayer, charity and peace. Saint Paul tells us to turn anxiety into prayer and to fill our minds with whatever is true, noble and good.

At the Eucharist we receive Christ, the cornerstone. May His life within us produce the fruit the Father desires: faith that becomes action, mercy that becomes service, and love that becomes visible.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for Us!*  
*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

## Entrance Antiphon Cf Esther 4:17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

## First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.*

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,  
and planted choice vines in it.  
In the middle he built a tower,  
he dug a press there too.  
He expected it to yield grapes,  
but sour grapes were all that it gave.  
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
I ask you to judge  
between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes.  
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?  
Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.  
I will command the clouds  
to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the House of Israel,  
and the men of Judah that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20.R. Is 5:7

**(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.**

- You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **(R.)**
- Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. **(R.)**
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
- And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **(R.)**

## Second Reading Philippians 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.*

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation See John 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel Matthew 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He leased his vineyard to other farmers.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. “They will respect my son,” he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, “This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance.” So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They answered, ‘He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders  
that became the keystone.  
This was the Lord’s doing  
and it is wonderful to see?

‘I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.’

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

## Communion Antiphon Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,  
to the soul that seeks him.



**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!

### Keeping Our Parish Safe Together

SAFEGUARDING • SUPPORT • COMMUNITY

## ALL STA PARISH VOLUNTEERS

who require Safeguarding renewal or have incomplete training are invited to attend the **mandatory Face-to-face Safeguarding Refresher Training.**

This is a requirement every 2 years and provided free of charge.

### 2027 Safeguarding Refresher Training

Register for cycle 2 & 3 Safeguarding training here at our parish.

**Saturday**  
**20th of February 2027**  
Safeguarding Renewal Training  
Cycle 2 (Module 4-5):  
**10.00am - 1.30pm**

**Saturday**  
**27th of February 2027**  
Safeguarding Training  
Cycle 3 (Module 6):  
**10.00am - 11.30am**

For Further Information contact  
the parish office on **02 4754 1052**  
or email **springwood@parracatholic.org**

### 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.

### STA 2026 SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM

Enrolment is now on! Please visit our website:

[www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

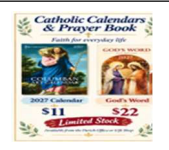
### RCIA – RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

### 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



**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 diet requirements. Money must be paid by 9 October. No refunds after this date. Inquires/bookings to Colleen 0407 125 427 or Annette 0413213909.

**PREPARING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WITH FR JACK** As we prepare for the beautiful seasons of Advent & 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 will be announced soon. Books are now available for pre-order at **\$10.00**. 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 & prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Advent & Christmas

### ST CARLO ACUTIS EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION

**(11-25 OCTOBER) AT ST FINBAR’S PARISH GLENBROOK.** The exhibition, created by St Carlo Acutis, showcases Eucharistic miracles from around the world. All families, students, teachers and visitors are warmly invited to attend. Free entry. No bookings required. Open during parish office hours only.