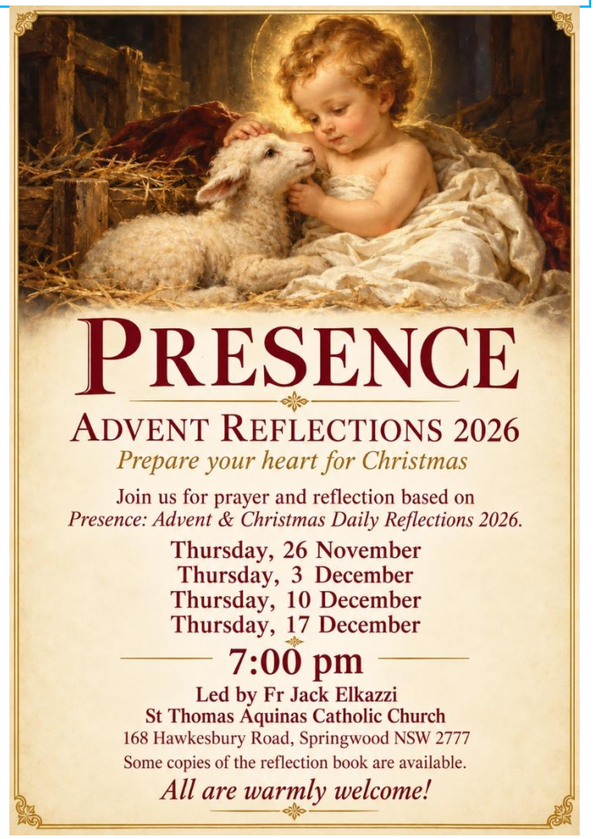
DATE: ***28TH NOVEMBER / 29TH NOVEMBER 2026*** ***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

MASS TIME:	ACOLYTE	FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Nelius Jordaan	Wihelmina	Tamsyn B & Ellie J
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Mary Morris	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Joseph Tabone	Phil Saville	Anne Ellis	Couples for Christ
Morning Tea:	Couples for Christ			

DATE: ***5TH DECEMBER / 6TH DECEMBER 2026*** ***SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

MASS TIME:	ACOLYTE	FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALM	SECOND READING & Prayer of the Faithful	MUSIC
Vigil 5:00 PM	Phil Saville			Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Sebastian Cook	Georgia Cook	Domhnall MacCormac	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Trinity Choir





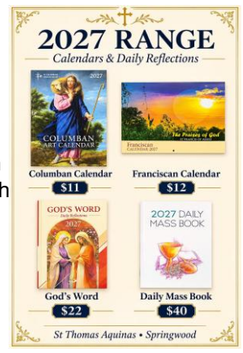
Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2026. Available for purchase at **$10.00**. Please note there is l**imited stock!**

2027 CALENDARS & DAILY REFLECTIONS

Now available at our gift shop!

Please note there is limited stock!

- God's Word: $22 each
- Columban calendar: $11 each
- Franciscan calendar: $12 each
- Daily Mass Book: $40 each



SUPPORT LOCAL SUPPORT OUR PARISH

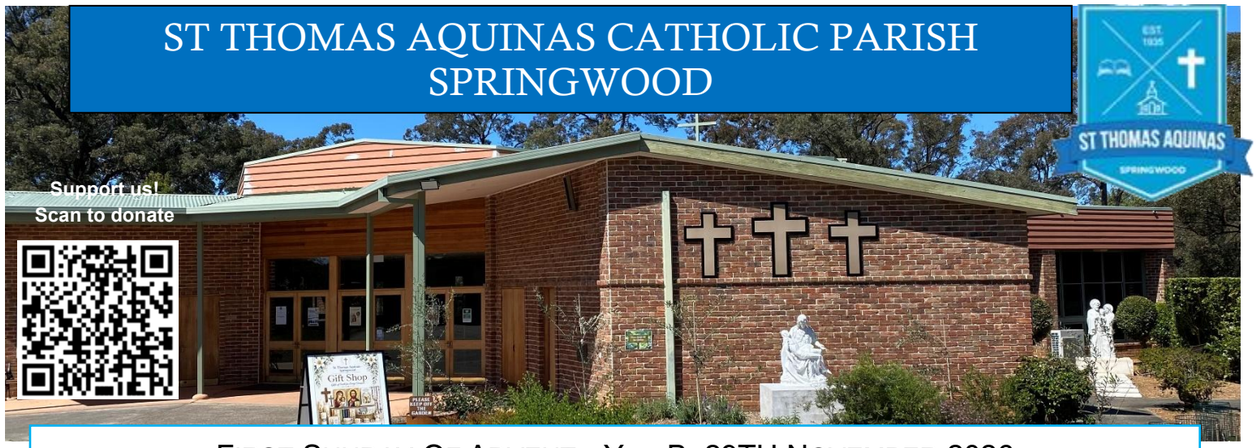
Are you a local business owner?

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**



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B, 29TH NOVEMBER 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

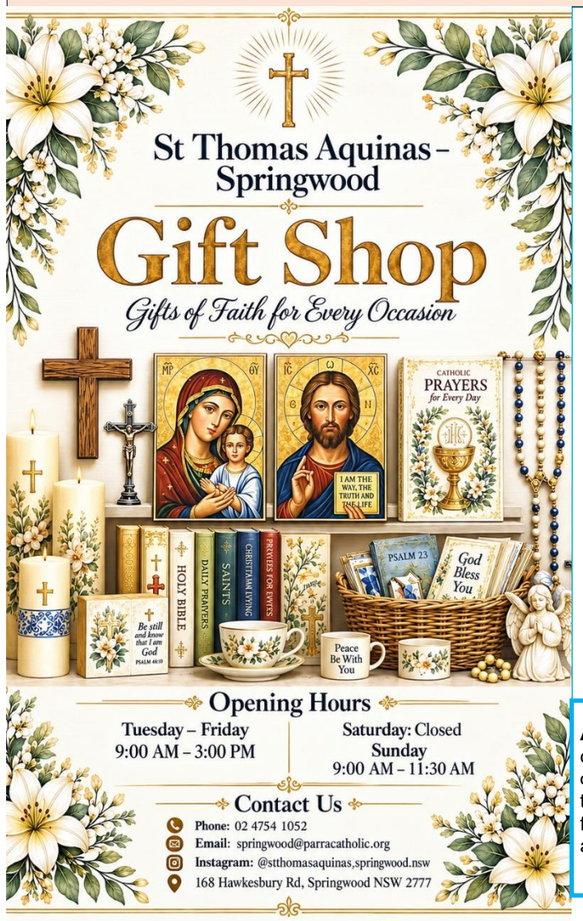
Parish Priest: Fr Jack Elkazzi
Office Hours: Tue-Fri 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Parish Pastoral Council: springwoodparishpc@gmail.com
Sacrament Enquiries: sacramentssta@gmail.com

MASS & SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Weekend Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00 pm | Sun 8:00 am & 9:30 am
Weekday Masses: Tue - Sat 9:30 am
Adoration: Tue - 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
First Sunday of Advent – Year B

Advent begins not with a sentimental scene at Bethlehem, but with a command from Jesus: "Stay awake." The Church begins her new liturgical year by asking whether our hearts are truly ready to receive the Lord. We can be busy with good things and still become spiritually inattentive: distracted by noise, burdened by worry, or accustomed to postponing prayer and repentance.

Isaiah gives us a beautiful image: we are the clay and God is the potter. Advent invites us to place our lives once more into his hands, allowing his grace to reshape what has become hardened. Christ has come among us in humility; he comes to us now, especially in his Word and the Holy Eucharist; and he will come again in glory. Our Blessed Mother shows us how to wait: not passively, but with trust, prayer and a heart ready to say yes. This week, choose one concrete act of readiness: make time for silent prayer, seek reconciliation, or show patient kindness to someone who needs it. The Lord is near. May he find us awake in faith and generous in love.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for Us!

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

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who generously donated towards the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King, particularly towards the cost of the Eucharistic canopy. We sincerely thank all those who have worked tirelessly, given their time, and helped in so many ways over the past few weeks. We are truly grateful for your hard work, patience, sacrifices and generosity.
God bless and thank you for your continued support of our parish.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. 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.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)



Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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

Communion Antiphon Psalm 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 29TH November 2026

Recently Deceased: Heather Cole, Richard Kemmis, Shirley Bell and all of the Faithful Departed
Sick: Fr Peter Carroll, Brendan Church, 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: STA 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.

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.

The season of joy and giving is upon us, and our Parish Gift Shop is brimming with beautiful treasures to help you share the true spirit of Christmas. You'll find something special for every loved one sure to warm hearts and brighten homes.
Visit us and explore our festive displays. Let your Christmas gifts reflect faith, hope, and love.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION!

May receiving Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist for the first time strengthen their faith and deepen their love for Christ. May God bless them and their families as they continue their journey of faith

HELP SUPPORT OUR PARISH ELECTRICITY BILLS

As the warmer months approach, our parish electricity bills are beginning to increase, particularly with the increased use of air conditioning to keep our church & parish facilities comfortable for everyone. Our latest electricity bill came to **$1,242.52 due in December**. We kindly ask for your support in helping us meet this expense. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference and helps us continue to maintain our parish facilities for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for your continuous support & generosity.

CLEANING ROSTERS FOR 2027

– are now available at the back of the Church. Thank you to all our volunteers for your continued support and generosity.

READING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED –

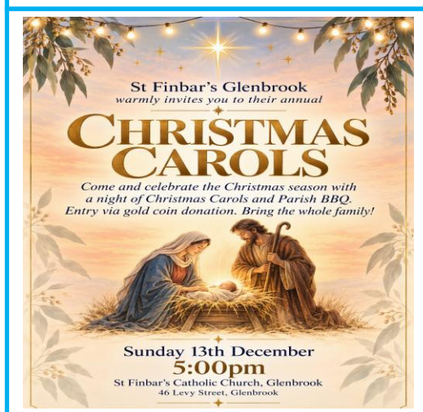
We are seeking volunteers to assist with the readings at our Weekend Masses. Whether you would like to join a monthly roster or simply volunteer when you are available, we would love to hear from you! If you are interested, please contact our Parish Office.

BISHOP'S GOOD WORKS APPEAL – Help a young mother break the cycle of violence and homelessness

This Christmas, embrace the spirit of the Nativity story.
Let the birth **of** our Saviour, Jesus Christ, inspire us to reach out to those in need – especially vulnerable homeless women & children. Your tax-deductible gift this Christmas can provide young mothers and their children with secure shelter, nourishing food, & the support they need to build a strong family life & hopeful future. Please give Generously through the **Bishop Good Works appeal envelopes located at the back of our Church or at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code.**
Thank you for your generosity, Christian kindness & compassion.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL 2026

This weekend is your final chance to choose a hamper profile for someone in need locally at Christmas.
See the Vinnies table outside the church after Mass.
Cash or shopping voucher donations still welcome. Hampers to be returned the weekend of December 19 & 20 for distribution the following week. Thank you once again. STA Vinnies Conference.



ST FINBAR'S warmly invites you to join them for their Christmas Carols and Parish BBQ on Sunday 13 December at 5pm.



A MORNING TO SLOW DOWN, REFLECT AND PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHRISTMAS Soul Sorting in the Silly Season is a women's breakfast event at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills, offering space to pause and prepare your heart for Christmas through prayer, discussion and reflection. Facilitated by Sr Virginia Bourke RSJ, Sister of Saint Joseph and Sacramental theologian. **Saturday 12 December**, 8:00am – 10:30am $35(incl. Breakfast). Learn more & book: https://mmsm.org.au/events/soul-sorting-in-the-silly-season/