



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3RD DECEMBER, 2017

YEAR B

MASS/LITURGY CALENDAR

MONDAY 4th DECEMBER

9.10am Mass
7.00pm Rosary

TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER

10.00am Mass
7.30pm Communal
Prayer of Forgiveness

WEDNESDAY 6th DEC.

9.10am Mass
10.30am Mass at
St. Thomas' Retirement
Village

THURSDAY 7th DEC.

No Service

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER

FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
and ANNIVERSARY OF
FOUNDATION DAY OF THE
MSC COMMUNITY
10.00am Mass (incl.
Classes 3/4VS & 3/4KN)

SATURDAY 9th DEC.

10.00am First Rite of
Reconciliation
6.00pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER

8.30am Mass
10.30am Mass
5.00pm Mass

Dear Parishioners,

It is with deep sadness that St Thomas's Parish will say goodbye to Fr. Frank at the end of January 2018. Fr Frank has been here for 7 years as Formator of our MSC students as well as being Assistant Priest. Frank will be moving to Sydney to live at the Provincial House in Coogee. Franks' new role will be as Vocations Co-ordinator – his role will be one of coordinating the whole area of vocations ministry – Frank will bring much energy to this new role.

Frank has made such a valuable contribution whilst being here as Formator and Assistant Priest. Through his humble, gentle and fun loving manner Frank has certainly brought the love of the heart of Jesus into our lives here at St Thomas's and for that we are truly grateful. Perhaps some of you might even miss his jokes?? No doubt we will be looking at farewelling Frank sometime in January. We will miss him terribly and we pray that the Lord will continue to shower many blessings upon him as he begins the next phase of his journey.

On a happier note I am delighted to inform you that Fr. Chris Murphy will be returning to Blackburn next year. Our new Provincial, Fr Chris McPhee, is very keen that Cuskelly House become a house of welcome to all those who want to discern their vocation, their sense of being called into mission – to be a place where a young man might discover through prayer, discernment and ministry of what 'On Earth the Heart of God' might mean to him. So Fr. Chris is appointed Director of the Pre-Novitiate and will also be Formation Director of Cuskelly House. He will reside at Cuskelly House. So we look forward to welcoming back Fr. Chris next year.

Fr Terry msc

We wish Fr Terry a happy 64th birthday on Saturday December 2nd.

*Thought of the Day.....
Be thankful for every moment.*



A Vocation

View:

*It's Advent; almost Christmas!
A Season of dreams comes true. Be on guard. The Lord may call you to follow Him.*

Please remember the following in your prayers...

Sick:

Peter Murray, Tamara Bobrovich, Genni Byrne, John Delany, Marie Walker, Charles Fain, Jon Parkinson, Marie Dillon, Maree Fox, Frank Nolan, Antonio So Jr., Ashley Woods, Stella Hill, Wendy Lumby, Robert Fox, Malgosia Dziuk, Daisy Xu, Geoff Beams, Rosa Maria Santos, Patricia Duffy, Mietta Ulaan, Elaine O'Hea, Frank O'Hea, Chris Leach, Dao Le, Patricia Carey, Denise Wraight, Peter Babulo, Moira Healy, Tony Hill, Koula Tsepelidis, Norma Parker & Martin Broad.

Recently Dec'd:

Geoffrey Matthews, Maree Cunningham (sister of Sr. Robyn Reynolds OLSH), Giuseppe Bianco, Pasquale Gullace

Anniversaries:

Kathleen Peers, Maria Bianco, Adelina & Angelo Colosimo, Peter Hamblim

Funeral Notice:

LITURGY - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: CF. Ps 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

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

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

SECOND READING: Corinthians 1:3-9

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 13:33-37

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Ps 84:13

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

PIETY STALL

**OPENING TIMES:
BEFORE & AFTER MASS**

**St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards
Pkt 8 @ \$4.00**

**Majellan Christmas Cards
Pack of 10 @ \$6.00**

Baptism Candles and gifts

Columban Calendars 2018 @ \$9.00ea

**Melbourne Catholic Magazine
@ \$4.00ea**

**NZ Kauri Wooden Crosses
\$10.95 each**

**Br. James New CD's available
\$25.00ea**

**Friends of Same East Timor
Ground Coffee @ \$7.50ea**

YOUTH NEWS

SIXTEENTH YOUTH CLUB

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

Look forward to see you all back in 2018.

Enquiries: Caren Garlick on 9878 0818



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS WALK

Put on some Christmas colours, bring some friends and come fill the neighborhood with song.

Held on **Friday 1st December from 6.00pm-8.30pm, meet at the Church.**

Bring a gold coin donation, and bring a plate of food to share for final dinner for 2017.



STARFISH PROJECT – Will be on

Saturday 9th December and starts at 10am.

All newcomers most welcome.

Enquiries: Maria on 0403 354 584

CATECHETICS CLASSES:

Any families interested in enrolling their child in the **Catechetical Sacramental Program –**

Enrolment 2018 we are taking bookings now.

Enquire at the Parish Office on Ph: 9878 0818.

HAMPER REQUEST—ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Dear Parishioners, this Christmas we need to provide 90 hampers for families that would otherwise have very little.

Just as you have generously provided in the past, we hope that you will once again. Hampers could be gift wrapped or plain or you may prefer to use a supermarket carry bag located in the Narthex near the kitchen.

Contents we leave up to you but could contain soup, pasta & sauce, tins of ham or fish, pudding, custard, cake, sweets or cordial.

We would like to have hampers by 17th December but later is still fine.

We thank you for your continued support in all of our activities.

Grace Mizzi - President Blackburn Conference

A Prayer for Priests

God, grant them the joys of their vocation, health of mind, body and spirit; a strong faith and a light heart to do the Lord's work in this world; and the love and support of their friends, family and parishioners. Holy Spirit, guide them and give them grace. Amen

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION EVENINGS-TUESDAYS 7.30PM

Please note that classes will be adjourning after 15th December and resuming on February 2nd, 2018.

ADVENT LITURGY

The Liturgy for the Communal Prayer of Forgiveness will be held on **Tuesday December 5th at 7.30pm.**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time—our days, weeks, months even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

URGENT!

Gentleman requires lift to and from Regis on a daily basis. Lives close by. **Contact: Bride on 0409 061 037**

St. Thomas' Social Scene What's On.....

CARDS NIGHT:

Will be on **7th Dec.** at 7.30pm at 14 Gordon Cres. Blackburn.

Please bring a plate.

All Welcome.

Contact: **Pat & Don on Ph: 9878 4790**



SCRABBLE NIGHT:

Will be on **7th Dec.** at 7.30pm. It will be held at Rosemary's home.

Please contact either **Maureen on**

Ph: 9884 4376 or Carmel on 9894 7950 for address.



WATCH THIS SPACE



****No Scrabble for January 2018.**

See you back on February 1st.

Venue to be advised.

1ST FRIDAY PARISH MASS & LUNCHEON

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

After many years of organising and co-ordinating the luncheon, Dymna Lodge and Evelyn Tan have decided to 'step down'. On behalf of the parish, we thank them very much and appreciate the mighty effort. Subsequently, we require two people to take on these roles on a volunteer basis. Contact the Parish Office on 9878 0818 for further details.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY ROSTERS

Sign-Up Sheets for **Volunteer Commentators/Lectors; Special Ministers & Altar Servers** have been placed in the Narthex. Please write your name down, if you are able to assist. **Thank you.**



We warmly welcome **Jade Loh, Harvey Kilgour, Grace & Samuel Robertson** who will be Baptised into our Parish Family this weekend. *May the grace of God be with you and your families always.*

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Would like to sincerely thank those 140 plus attendees who came to consider "**The Impact of Child Sexual Abuse within the Catholic Church and the Opportunities for the Future**" on the night of the **Parish Forum — Monday 27th November.** The sensitivity of the topic was handled respectfully and the whole evening was informative yet very challenging for all. We would particularly like to thank our facilitator, Julie Taylor, for coming down from Sydney and exercising great care and respect in chairing the gathering. Special thanks, also, to Fr. Kevin Dillon for giving of his time, energy and knowledge (only a lights out call enabled him to leave the building). Thanks also, to our special guest, Brian, as a survivor to live to tell the story. Obviously, the topic was one of relevance for the parish and wider community. So, thank you for your contribution and respectful participation.



CHRISTMAS APOSTLE MAGAZINE 2017.

Is now available in the Narthex, please take a copy home with you.

**ST THOMAS THE
APOSTLE PARISH
57 CENTRAL ROAD
(PO BOX 395),
BLACKBURN**

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr. Terry Bowman, msc

**ASSISTANT PRIEST &
FORMATOR:**
Fr. Frank Dineen, msc

PARISH PHONE:
9878 0818/9877 7693

PARISH FAX:
9877 9519

PARISH EMAIL:
Blackburn@cam.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE:
www.stthomastheapostle.org.au

**PARISH
SECRETARIES:**
Susan Collins, Luise
Hendricks & Luisa May

**PASTORAL
ASSOCIATES:**
Sr. Marg Burchell IBVM
& Caren Garlick

**PARISH PASTORAL
COUNCIL :**
Anand Rego

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:
Angela Lacey

SCHOOL PHONE/FAX:
P: 9878 8268
F: 9878 1233

SCHOOL EMAIL:
Office@stblackburn.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL WEBSITE:
www.stblackburn.catholic.edu.au

Catechetics/Altar Servers:
Caren Garlick 9878 0818
Six2Eight: *Caren Garlick*
9878 0818
Starfish: *Maria Bardsley*
0403 354 584



ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND OF THE 9TH & 10TH DECEMBER, 2017 YEAR B

Mass	Commentators	Lectors	Special Ministers	Altar Servers	Welcoming Committee
6.00pm	Anthony O'Hea	Peter Watson	Margaret Easton Tony Keaney Louis Souchon	Joshua Gall Bethany Gall	Ray Johnson
8.30am	Yvonne Crowe	Peter Crowe	Dorothy Murray Maureen Munro		Pat & Eileen Danaher
10.30pm	COMMENTATOR NEEDED	Veronica Hawkins	Anne Marmion Margaret O'Loughlin Patricia Northrop	Audrey Brodrick Freya Brodrick	Margaret O'Loughlin
5.00pm	Jenny Simmons	Angela Pillai	Susan Collins Josie Defina Peta Fulton	Joseph Negro Alessandra Negro	

Children's Liturgy: Leader: Monica
Vestment Colour: Violet

Piety Stall: Team 4
Money Counters: Team 4

ST.VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY:

Call Centre for assistance – 1800 305 330
Free Call Weekdays 10am-3pm.

Vinnies Centre Ringwood Ph. 9870 9124,
Unit 1B/76-82 Maroondah Hwy Ringwood.
For Furniture & Whitegoods pickup—
Eastern Emergency Relief will pickup for St Vincent
de Paul week days 9am-1pm . Ph. 9874 8433.



FIRST AID EQUIPMENT

Attention Parishioners: We now have a new DEFIB which is located in the Sacristy. A First Aid Kit is also in the Kitchen Broom Cupboard. First Aid items (blankets etc.) which are provided by the Church are stored in a large plastic tub in the Crying Room (right sliding cupboard.)

FIRST FRIDAY PARISH MASS & LUNCHEON:
First Friday of the month starts at 12noon.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:
Sundays at 10.30am Mass. **During School Terms only.**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AFTERNOON/EVENINGS:
Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Quiet Room of the Church. Contact Phil Collins on 0410 668 140 or email at chrmed3130@gmail.com
New comers most welcome.



Monday afternoons at 4pm at the Retirement Village Centre. Contact Geni Hunt on 9802 2078 or email: geni.hunt9@gmail.com

ST. THOMAS' PLAYGROUP:
Every Wednesday morning during the School term, from 9.00am-11.00am. Please bring along a piece of fruit. If you have any queries, please call our coordinator Julie O'Donnell on 0434 408 122 (**During School Terms**)

PRAYER FOR PEACE....

God of hope and peace, be the spirit of wisdom, reconciliation and justice in the words and actions of the leaders of all nations. Protect those communities affected or threatened by violence in troubled areas. May the memories of those who have died urge all people towards an international community of security and peace. Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED URGENTLY

To help run the activities program at **Crofton House Aged Care, Blackburn.** If you have some spare time between the hours of 1.30pm-3.30pm Monday-Friday or a skill/talent that you would like to share with our residents, we would love to hear from you!
Please call **Jackie on 0409 848 161**

PLAY PIANO NOW! AGES 7-97

The revolutionary SIMPLY MUSIC PIANO PROGRAM offers a breakthrough in music education, and has students playing great-sounding contemporary, classic, gospel, blues and accompaniment pieces—immediately—from their very first lesson.

Contact: Bernardine Kee on ph: 9878-6449 or email: bkn@yahoo.com

*Time for a cuppa and a
chat after Mass.....*

