



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

18TH MARCH, 2018

YEAR B

MASS/LITURGY CALENDAR

MONDAY 19th MARCH

9.10am Mass
7.00pm Rosary

TUESDAY 20th MARCH

10.00am Mass
7.30pm COMMUNAL
PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

WEDNESDAY 21st MARCH

9.10am Parish (incl.
3/4JB & 3/4VS Classes)
10.30am Mass at
St. Thomas' Retirement
Village

THURSDAY 22nd MARCH

No Service

FRIDAY 23rd MARCH

9.30am STATIONS OF THE
CROSS
10.00am Mass

SATURDAY 24th MARCH

10.00am First Rite of
Reconciliation
6.00pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 25th MARCH

PALM SUNDAY
8.30am Mass
10.30am Mass
5.00pm Mass



Dear Parishioners,

A GRAIN OF WHEAT

Each of us is like a grain of wheat planted by the heavenly Father.

That grain must die if it is to produce a harvest.

This dying to self is a gradual process and happens in very ordinary ways.

Every act of kindness involves dying to meanness.

Every act of love involves dying to selfishness.

Every act of humility involves dying to pride.

Every act of courage involves dying to cowardice.

Every act of forgiveness involves dying to bitterness.

When a person's life is producing a rich harvest of such acts, it means that the grain of wheat has well and truly died.

The false self is dying, and the true self, made in God's image is slowly being born.

It is the true self alone that will inherit eternal life, for there is no place for what is false in the presence of God.

It would melt like snow before the sun.

Fr Terry msc

Thought of the Day.....

*Remind yourself that you don't have to do
what everyone else is doing.*



LITURGY - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 50:3-4,12-15 Rv12 Create a clean heart in me, O God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Jn 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 12:20-30

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jn 12:24

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

A Vocation View:

Unless a seed first dries out and dies, it cannot be planted in the earth to grow. Unless we first dry out and die to our selfish ways, we can never expect to be people who will "lay down their lives for their friends."

Please remember the following in your prayers...

Sick: Stella Hill, Roland Schuster, Frank Nugent, Jessie Pennetta, Pat Berti, Sr Maureen Philp RSJ, Jo Hocking, Claire Letham, Claire Tierney, Liz Murphy, Tamara Bobrovich, Marie Walker, Charles Fain, Jon Parkinson, Maree Fox, Frank Nolan, Antonio So Jr., Ashley Woods, 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:

Anton Sinach (brother of Milan), Mdm Lim Boh Tan (mother of Tony Tan) and Patricia Gleeson.

Anniversaries:

Richard Woods, Fr. Angelo O'Hagan OFM

PIETY STALL

**OPENING TIMES:
BEFORE & AFTER MASS**

St. Patricks' Day Cards, Crosses, Rosaries & Gifts

Baptism Candles and Gifts

NEW LOOK: 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

The next meeting will be **Friday 20th April, 2018.**

Enquiries: Caren on 9878 0818



STARFISH PROJECT – The next meet up will be **Saturday 21st April, 2018.**

All newcomers most welcome.

Enquiries: Maria on 0403 354 584

CATECHETICS CLASSES:

Sacrament dates and classes have been organized for 2018. If you haven't as yet filled in your forms for enrolment, please do so as classes commence in March.

All enquiries can be made to

caren.garlick@cam.or.au or by phone on 9878 0818.

EASTER VOLUNTEER ROSTERS

Volunteers are required to assist as Commentators, Lectors and Special Ministers for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Please write your name on the Roster sheets which are placed in the foyer.

OUR LADY OF SION COLLEGE

1065 WHITEHORSE RD, BOX HILL

Please note the following events taking place at the Sion College.

***College Open Day, Thursday 22nd March, 2.30pm-6.30pm**

A GENTLE REMINDER.....

The **COMMUNAL PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS** will be held on

Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm.

EASTERN HEALTH BREAST & CANCER CENTRE-MAROONDAH HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Eastern Health has completed building a new Breast & Cancer Centre and it will be opening on **Friday 6th April**. The hospital is looking for volunteers to assist in a 'patient simulation' (9am-12.30) exercise on **Wednesday 21st March**. Involvement is for approx. 1 hour.

For further details please email: Julia.dale2@Easternhealth.org.au

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

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

Venues and times:

St. Thomas' Church—Wednesdays 1.30pm

The Avenue Uniting Church—Wednesdays 7.30pm

Anyone wanting **Spiritual Direction** can enquire at the Parish Office on Ph. 9878 0818.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"I will be their God and they shall be my people." - Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our neighbors and the world, just as God cares for us.

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

WATCH THIS SPACE.....



ATTENTION.....

BUS TRIP TO MILDURA

On April 9th—12th.

We have a few vacancies if interested in joining us.

Cost: \$452 per person (twin share)

\$572 Single room

Cost Includes: Trip on Paddle Steamer and a visit to Orange World.

Payment by Sunday 18th March.

If paying by cheque—make payable to "Superb Tours"

Contact: Yvonne & Peter on 9877 3360



CARDS NIGHT:

The next night will be on April 5th at 7.30pm in the Hall. All Welcome.

Contact: Pat & Don on 9878 4790



SCRABBLE NIGHT:

The next night will be on April 5th in the Hall at 7.30pm. Please contact

either Maureen on 9884 4376 or Carmel on 9894 7950



ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE & THE AVENUE UNITING CHURCH, BLACKBURN INVITES YOU TO A LENTEN LECTURE ON: "WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?"

Explore the meaning hidden within the Passion in Saint John's Gospel. To be held on **Thursday 22nd March at 7.30pm** at **St Thomas the Apostle Church, 57 Central Rd, Blackburn.**

Guest speaker: Mary Coloe

*Please bring along your Bible.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

SUPPORT ST THOMAS' SCHOOL TO RAISE FUNDS by ordering the **NEW 2018/2019 Entertainment Book** or **Entertainment Digital Membership**—just \$70 and receive **HUNDREDS OF VALUABLE OFFERS** (giving you over \$20,000 of value!) **PLUS order now to receive OVER \$100 of bonus Early Bird Offers.....hurry, these sell out quickly.**

Buy securely online: <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/187586>

Any further queries please contact the School office on 9878 8268

CHOCOLATE EASTER EGGS

Thinking of buying Easter eggs? Use your money justly—please. There is now a wide range of slavery-free chocolate and Easter Eggs available, incl. budget-priced range of UTZ certified products in ALDI, Coles & a wide selection at Haighs, Oxfam & Chocolatier shops.

Pope Francis said that, "every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral— and not simply an economic - act." Look for these symbols:



We warmly welcome **Lewis Schiavello** who will be Baptised into our Parish Family this weekend. *May the grace of God be with you and your families always.*

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

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr. Terry Bowman, msc

FORMATOR :
Fr Chris Murphy msc

PARISH PHONE:
9878 0818/9877 7693

PARISH EMAIL:
blackburn@cam.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE:
www.stthomastheapostle.org.au

PARISH SECRETARY:

Susan Collins

Admin:

Luise Hendricks

Bookkeeper/Admin:

Luisa May

PARISH ACCOUNTANT:

Maurice Gartland

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

Sr. Marg Burchell IBVM
& Caren Garlick

**PARISH PASTORAL
COUNCIL :**

Anand Rego

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Angela Lacey

SCHOOL PHONE:

P: 9878 8268

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 24TH & 25TH MARCH, 2018 - YEAR B

| Mass | Commentators | Lectors | Special Ministers | Altar Servers | Welcoming Committee |
|---------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|
| 6.00pm | | Margaret Easton | Jim Gucciardo Jan Gaffy | Alicia Wright Lachlan Wright | Michael & Maree Ransom |
| 8.30am | | Maureen Munro Chris Raisin | | | Pat & Eileen Danaher |
| 10.30am | Chris Raisin | Alan Mead | Bride Schaefer Louis Souchon Pat Northrop | Lorena Garza Chanel Thompson | Ray Johnson |
| 5.00pm | Susan Collins | Martina Tonti-Filippini | Susan Collins Josie Defina Peta Fulton | PLEASE SERVE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO | |

Children's Liturgy: Leader: Martina
Vestment Colour: Red

Piety Stall: Team 4
Money Counters: Team 5

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 11.30am (NEW TIME).

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.

MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER ANNUAL MISSION CONCERT

On **Sunday 15th April 2018** at **St Peter Claver Hall, 154 Cotham Rd, Kew commencing 2.00pm.** Admission free—collection during Concert. Proceeds from the concert will go to assist the many urgent needs in the missions—Sisters of St. John the Baptist in Dibrugarh, Assam India—they are endeavouring to give an education for poor children.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

*Invest in your most precious asset.....
Your Marriage!*

Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other.

2018 Melbourne weekend dates: 1-3 June, 17-19 August and 9-11 November

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Contact: Andre & Maria 0411 225 992
Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

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

