



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

31ST DECEMBER, 2017

YEAR B

### MASS/LITURGY CALENDAR

**MONDAY 1st JAN. 2018**  
**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**  
10.00am Mass

**TUESDAY 2nd JAN.**  
10.00am Mass

**WEDNESDAY 3rd JAN.**  
9.10am Mass  
10.30am Mass at  
St. Thomas' Retirement  
Village

**THURSDAY 4th JANUARY**  
No Service

**FRIDAY 5th JANUARY**  
10.00am Mass

**SATURDAY 6th JANUARY**  
10.00am Reconciliation  
6.00pm Vigil Mass

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
**SUNDAY 7th JANUARY**  
8.30am Mass  
10.30am Mass  
5.00pm Mass



## Dear Parishioners,

The readings focus our attention on true family values. God promises an heir to a couple that cannot produce a child, and when the promise is fulfilled and the child is born, God asks for the life of that child.

The hopes that were kindled by the promise and that blazed brilliantly with the child's birth now lie like ashes on a heap. Is God reneging on the promise of a descendant? Is God playing with people's dreams and aspirations? Or might God be preparing them for yet another marvel?

The couple had placed their trust in God's initial promise of new life, and it was fulfilled. Now Abraham, as the representative of the entire family, is asked to hope against hope, to relinquish the child in whom all of the hopes of the future rests. Trust does not really depend upon the promises made, but upon the one making the promises.

God is a God of surprises, of the paradoxical, of the preposterous. This is a God who opens closed wombs, rescinds death sentences, takes an obscure child and makes him the light to the nations. Trust in such a God requires that we sacrifice our own presuppositions. Then, expecting nothing from God, we can be open to everything.

In the face of such mystery, the human heart can only sing with gratitude. We live in the presence of God, and this sustains us through whatever seems impossible. Thanksgiving opens us to receive God's promise and God's gifts.



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](http://www.stthomastheapostle.org.au)

**PARISH SECRETARY**  
Susan Collins  
**Admin:** Luise Hendricks  
**Bookkeeper/Admin:**  
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](http://www.stblackburn.catholic.edu.au)



## Liturgy-Feast of the Holy Family-Year B

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Lk 2:16**  
The shepherds went in haste, and found  
Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in a  
manger.

**FIRST READING Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3**  
Your own son shall be your heir.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 104:1-6,8-9  
Rvv7,8**  
The Lord remembers his covenant for  
ever.

**SECOND READING Heb 11:8; 11-12,17-19**  
The faith of Abrahams, Sarah, and Isaac.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb 1:1-2**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
In the past God spoke to our fathers  
through the prophets; now he speaks to  
us through his Son.  
**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40**  
The child grew to maturity, and he was  
filled with wisdom.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON Bar 3:38**  
Our God has appeared on the earth, and  
lived among us.

### PIETY STALL

**OPENING TIMES:  
BEFORE & AFTER MASS**

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

**Please remember the following in your  
prayers...**

#### **Sick:**

Mick Matthews, Claire Letham, Claire Tierney,  
Liz Murphy, Sr. Margaret Gray IBVM,  
Tamara Bobrovich, Genni Byrne, 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,  
Moirra Healy, Tony Hill, Koula Tsepelidis, Norma Parker  
& Martin Broad.

#### **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.

#### **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.

