



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17TH DECEMBER, 2017

YEAR B

MASS/LITURGY CALENDAR

MONDAY 18th DECEMBER

9.10am Mass
Rosary

TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER

10.00am Mass

WEDNESDAY 20th DEC.

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

THURSDAY 21st DEC.

No Service

FRIDAY 22nd DECEMBER

10.00am Mass

SATURDAY 23rd DEC.

10.00am First Rite of
Reconciliation
6.00pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

8.30am Mass
10.30am Mass
5.00pm No Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:

6.00pm Children's Mass
9.00pm Mass
12.00pm Midnight Mass

MONDAY 25TH DEC.

9.30am Christmas Day
Mass



Dear Parishioners,

LONELY VOICES

There are many lonely voices in our world. Somewhere at this moment a child is crying – crying for love or maybe simply for bread.

Somewhere a young person is crying – crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart.

Somewhere an old person is crying – crying for a visit or a word from his/her children.

There are thousand unheard cries in our world, coming from the victims of injustice and neglect.

Lord, help us to listen to these voices. Above all, help us to listen to your voice, whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts, telling us that we are loved by you, and that we are to love one another.

Fr Terry msc

THANK YOU

I would sincerely like to thank you the parishioners of St. Thomas's for your generous gift on the occasion of my Diaconate—it is very much appreciated. Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Khoi Doan Nguyen msc



LITURGY - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

A Vocation View:

There was a man sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe.

Is your name in the Gospel today?

Please remember the following in your prayers...

Sick:

Claire Letham,
Claire Tierney, Liz Murphy,
Sr. Margaret Gray IBVM,
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:

William Shaw, Tim Furphy

Anniversaries:

Eric Bailey, Pat McDonald, Bienvenido Contreras

Funeral Notice:

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Phil 4:4-5
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
I exalt for the joy in the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 R Isa 60:10
My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING: Thessalonians 5:16-24
May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Isa 61:1
Alleluia, Alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28
There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Isa 35:4
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our god will come, and he will save us.

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



STARFISH PROJECT – Will be back in 2018— have a very Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Please note there will be no Carol service preceding Midnight Mass this year.

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.

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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

'Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ

Jesus for you" 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up stewardship.

"Rejoice always" means place your trust in God. He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day.

"Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

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



ST. THOMAS' SOCIAL SCENE EVENTS WILL BE BACK IN 2018.

BUS TRIP TO MILDURA

Next **April 9th to 12th**. We have booked a trip to Mildura. We are staying at Wentworth Grand Motel and activities include a cruise on a Paddle Steamer and a trip to Orange World. *We have many who have expressed an interest so it will be on a first come first served basis.*

Contact: Yvonne & Peter Crowe-9877 3360

ST. THOMAS' SOCIAL SCENE EVENTS WILL BE BACK IN 2018.

Advent
A Season of Hope & Expectation



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.**

YEAR FOR YOUTH AND VOCATIONS

In Australia we have just begun the 'Year for Youth and Vocational Discernment', called by the Bishops of Australia. This began with a huge gathering of youth in Sydney in early December for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Let us pray for our young people in our families and our parish. Can we all say one 'Hail Mary' for them now to help them in their discernment of their call from the Lord?



KARDIA FORMATION PTY LTD

SUMMIT AND WORKSHOP

Kardia Formation invites you to join them for a weekend Summit with Margaret Silf, 18-20 May 2018—**"Imagining the Self in a Spiritually Expansive World"** and/or a four day workshop **"The Future is Within Us"** 14-17 May 2018.

For more information - www.kardia.com.au

A CHRISTMAS FANTASIA!

ORGAN CONCERT AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE

Thomas Heywood will be playing pieces such as *"Fantasy on two well-known Christmas Carols"*, *"Rhapsodie sur de Noels from Dix Pieces"*. To be held on **Friday 22nd December, 2017 at 6.30pm.**

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE - DECEMBER 2017

Has arrived.....please purchase a copy for only \$4.00 from the Piety Stall. An interesting read!

**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 23RD & 24TH DECEMBER, 2017 YEAR B

Mass	Commentators	Lectors	Special Ministers	Altar Servers	Welcoming Committee
6.00pm	Philip Brooks	Kim Anderson	Bride Schaefer Gerald Gill John Philp	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	Help if You can
8.30am		Therese Case	Peter Crowe Yvonne Crowe Fidelma D'Souza	SERVE	Maureen Munro
10.30pm	Alan Mead	Veronica Hawkins	Mary Crossan Neil Crossan Jim Gucciardo	IF	Ray Johnson
5.00pm	CHRISTMAS EVE NO MASS	CHRISTMAS EVE NO MASS	Susan Collins Josie Defina Peta Fulton	CAN	

Children's Liturgy: Leader: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Vestment Colour:

Piety Stall: Team 1
Money Counters: Team 6

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

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

