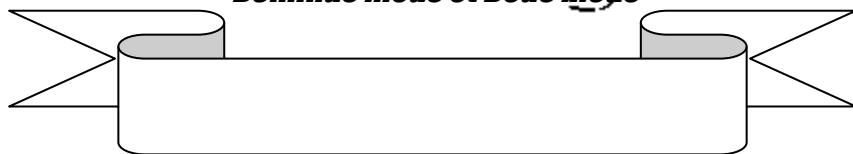


St Thomas The Apostle Parish Blackburn Parish Activities Directory 2015



“Dominus meus et Deus meus”



ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH
57 CENTRAL ROAD BLACKBURN VIC 3130
Ph: 9878 0818, 9877 7693 Fax: 9877 9519

E-Mail: blackburn@cam.org.au

Website: www.StThomasTheApostle.org.au

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Terry Bowman M.S.C.
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Sr. Margaret Burchell IBVM.
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Dianne Redford
PARISH SECRETARIES: Mrs Susan Collins
Mrs Louise Hendricks
Mrs Luisa May

MASSES

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm,
Sunday 8.30am 10.30am 5.00pm

WEEKDAYS

Monday & Wednesday 9.10am
Tuesday & Friday 10.00am
Wednesday at Retirement Village 10.30am
Thursday – No Service

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10.00am.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our Parish Pastoral Council meets monthly and seeks to be involved in three areas:

1. By becoming familiar with all aspects of parish life it advises and assists the Parish Priest in policy matters and decision making related to the parish as a whole.
2. It seeks to co-ordinate and to stimulate the various lay organizations operating within the parish without regulating or interfering with their mode of operation.
3. It continually reviews the needs of the parish and initiates activities, where required, to meet these needs.

Members: Joan Morgan (Chair), Fr. Terry Bowman (Parish Priest), Dianne Redford (School Principal), Fr Frank Dineen, Sr. Margaret Burchell, (Pastoral Associates), Therese Harkin, Alan Mead, Maryanne Measey, Marco Negro, Anand Rego and Barry Soraghan.

Call the Parish Office to make contact. 9878 0818

FINANCE

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Appointed by the Parish Priest in accord with Diocesan guidelines to advise on all matters of funding and finance in the parish. Meets about eight times a year.

Members. Max Wittick.(Chair), Fr Chris Murphy, Susan Collins, Fiona Thompson, Paul Leydin, Adrian Spring, Tom Tierney and Kevin Weir. Call the Parish Office for information. 9878 0818

THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN and program administration needs constant attention. There is also a team of money counters who administer money and banking each Sunday morning. Contact. Louise Hendricks (Mondays at Parish Office) 9878 0818 Ray Johnson 9800 2626, Alan Rutzou 9877 2005.

ANNUAL PARISH CAR RAFFLE happens in the early part of each year. It is conducted by the Combined Catholic Parishes. Proceeds are retained and distributed between the Parish, School and St Vincent de Paul. Contact Alan Rutzou. 9877 2005. Peter Heywood 98782762.

Elderly Persons Units; 203 Mahoney's Road, Forest Hill, 3131. These One Bedroom Units were erected over twenty years ago by the State Government on our parish land and are available under the Dept. of Human Services (Office of Housing) conditions. Broadly speaking these conditions refer to people who are eligible for a Commonwealth Benefit (or Part Benefit) and are 54 years of age or older. Some Asset and Income conditions apply. For further information contact the Parish Secretary Phone 9878 0818 who may pass the inquiry on to Peter Heywood who maintains the Parish Waiting List.

FAITH COMMUNICATION

ST. THOMAS' LITURGY COMMITTEE

St Thomas' Liturgy Committee meets on a monthly basis to oversee and coordinate all Liturgical activity in the Parish. As well as developing guidelines for Liturgy Preparation Groups, Lectors & Commentators, Special Ministers, Altar Servers and Church Music, the Liturgy committee also has the responsibility of making sure that church maintenance and decoration –wall hangings, flowers etc, are up to standard. Rosters for the various participants in Liturgy are maintained where appropriate and special events on the Liturgical Calendar such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost require careful planning. At present there are fourteen members of this committee. We are fortunate to have a number of experienced liturgists within the group and we would welcome new members who would like to participate. Maureen Johnson (Chair) 9800 2626.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy program in the parish is held on most Sundays at the 10.30am Mass during the school year. At the beginning of Mass, the priest invites children to attend children's liturgy in the meeting room at the back of the church. 2 parents run the program - reading the children's gospel, joining in some prayers, a simple discussion, and an activity to highlight the gospel story. The children then bring up the offertory gifts and return to the church congregation. It's an opportunity for younger children in particular to understand the gospel. Parents are more than welcome to accompany little children. Parents, grandparents or younger persons are welcome to join our team. For more information, please call the parish office. Jeanette Mannix 9893 5449.is coordinating this activity.

THE SACRISTY GROUP

Attends to the liturgical paraphernalia associated with the routine celebration of the liturgy. Such things as provision of hosts, altar wine, laundering of altar cloths and maintenance of vestments are attended to by Sr. Margaret Burchell, , **Bryant Daniese, Jan Gaffy, Therese Harkin, Barbara O'Hagan, Pat Peake and Marie Ransom**

CHURCH FLOWERS

Organized by Joan Morgan, 9877 3472.

CHURCH DECORATIONS (Banners)

Organized by Jan Gaffy.

ORGANISTS

10.30 Mass -Maureen Johnson, 9800 2626. 8.30 Mass-Barbara Box, 9898 4223, Sandra Pinto 8832 3547 .

WELCOMING GROUP

A group who offer the connectedness of being part of a community in the context of a Christian way of life by welcoming new parishioners, encouraging social interaction before and after liturgies and provision of tea and coffee after Mass. Coordinator Ray Johnson. 9800 2626.

THE PARISH CHOIR

Rehearses every Wednesday evening at 8.00 pm and puts special energy into preparation of music for Masses at Easter and Christmas. The Choir sings at 10.30 am Mass on at least two Sundays a month. Our Choir Director is Sr. Anne Byrne IBVM, 8832 0472. New members are always needed and especially welcome. Just come along.

FAMILY MASS MUSIC

On the First Sunday of the month at 10.30am there is the Family Mass at St **Thomas' and, during the school year, different classes prepare and participate in** this Mass. We have a small group of musicians who have been playing and singing away for about 5 years now and we warmly welcome anyone interested in sharing this prayerful time. We have a little practice before and enjoy a cuppa with all the other mums, dads, children and parishioners afterwards. Contact: Lynne Shaw, 9878 6051

SUNDAY 5.00pm. MASS MUSIC

_5.00pm Mass Music is organized by Anand and Navaz Rego 9273 0974

FAMILY MASS AND LUNCHEON

On the first Friday of the month, from February to December, Mass and lunch are organized for parishioners and friends. Mass begins at 12.00 noon followed by lunch and entertainment in the Parish Hall. We end the year in December with a catered three course lunch with volunteers serving tables and entertainment with a Christmas theme. Contacts: Dympna Lodge, 9877 3346. Wendy Ashton, 9803 0451. and Evelyn Tan, 9877 5548.

THE PIETY STALL

In the foyer of the Church, this stall provides a variety of religious items and magazines. A group of volunteers manage the stall at each Sunday Mass. Proceeds from the Piety Stall go to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Patricia Northrop, 9878 0681. Lynn Watson, 0409432613. Verna Hawkins, 98782252 .

THE PARISH LIBRARY

Also in the foyer of the Church the Parish Library loans religious books on an honesty basis. Sr. Margaret Burchell, 9878 0818.

ST. THOMAS' PARISH WEBSITE

www.StThomasTheApostle.org.au contains information on the Parish Calendar, Parish Activities, copy of Parish Publications and links to other Websites of religious interest. Webmaster Chris Raisin, 9877 7213.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The Parish Newsletter provides a summary of Parish notices and Liturgical responses. Material must be submitted by Wednesday prior to publication to Parish Secretary Susan Collins, 9878 0818.

THE APOSTLE MAGAZINE

The Parish Magazine is published every couple of months, with articles of general parish interest and information. It helps keep all parish members up to date and reaches out to everyone in the parish. Our editorial team invites any interested parishioners to join them in this important task. Articles of interest and event reports are always welcome. Call the Parish Office for information. Editor: Neal Crossan, 9877 3217. Committee: Fr. Terry Bowman, Sr. Marg. Burchell, John, Fay & James Uren, 98771863. Collation & Distribution: Alan Rutzou.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

If you are interested in learning more about the Bible, come along to St Thomas' Biblical Study Group which meets at 7.30pm every second Thursday in the Presbytery. This is an opportunity to discuss and reflect on Scripture so that together we can come to a deeper understanding of the Bible. The process is designed to be informative and simple. No academic qualifications are necessary.

Coordinator: Quentin Bailey, 9877 5906.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS – RCIA

St. Thomas' RCIA group offers an informal program of discussion for inquirers interested in discovering something of the issues surrounding our faith life. The group acts on behalf of the Parish community to welcome, instruct, and initiate new members into the Church. The group meets every two weeks as an informal discussion group, in a journey which will take about twelve months and **concludes at Easter, though there isn't a rigid timetable. One of the RCIA team** leads a Scripture discussion, and another presents a topic important to our faith and the life of the Church, e.g. What are the Scriptures? Understanding the Sacraments; Faith; Prayer; Caring Parish Communities; and question time. Our evening concludes enjoying Parish hospitality over tea or coffee. And there are no late nights. Participants invariably find the small group program rewarding. Quentin Bailey 9877 5906.

ST. THOMAS' ROSARY GROUP

A group of parishioners who meet at the church on Monday nights at 7.00pm to say the Rosary. Contact: Kevin Gleeson 9877 6134.

St. THOMAS' PRAYER GROUP

Meet on a monthly basis to read and reflect on the Gospel. An opportunity for individual prayers of thanks and petition. Joan Morgan 9877 3472

SACRED HEART BOOK CLUB

This group meets on the fourth Friday of the month (February to November) to discuss various religious and spiritual books, with the aim of using the lives of

others to deepen our relationship with God. Enquiries can be made to the Parish Office.

ST. THOMAS' MEDITATION GROUP

This group meets in the quiet room in the Church every Tuesday at 7.30pm. The one-hour meeting includes quiet music, a recorded talk on meditation by a Benedictine monk, Father John Main(1926-82) and other meditators including his successor, Father Laurence Freeman, 25 minutes of silent meditation, followed by a brief discussion period. For further information please contact Philip Collins on 0410 668 140 or email chrn.ed3130@gmail.com PASTORAL CARE and Jenny Hunt (afternoons) 9802 2078

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE

Has over fifty members, meets 1030am every Monday at the Presbytery, and is among the parish's most important "works of mercy", assisting the disadvantaged across Blackburn, Blackburn Nth., Forest Hill and East Burwood. The work **is often challenging, but strongly supported via the State Office of the "Vinnies"** in Box Hill. Our gospel oriented activity covers emergency food, clothing, furniture and other material assistance to all in need, plus a weekly bread run, visiting the sick and frail, and support for asylum seekers and refugees. Gary Harkin President Ph: 9898 1051

ST. THOMAS' CARING GROUP

Under the heading of Confidentiality, Acceptance, Reliability and Empathy, the Caring Group of volunteers provide occasional help to parishioners in need by prayer, support and emergency meals. They also supply, on request, a catering service for bereaved families following requiem Mass.

If you are aware of a particular need, our co-coordinators welcome your personal contact or a phone call. Fay Uren 9877 1863. Bereavements. Marie Dillon 9878 0319 and Jeanette Mannix (School Liaison) 9893 5149.

ST. THOMAS FAMILY PLAYGROUP

Playgroup provides an opportunity for families with young children aged 0-5 years to get together in a relaxed, friendly environment. It allows parents - usually mothers (occasionally we have some dads) - to get to know other parents of young children so they can share and swap ideas and experiences. It gives children an opportunity to be with other young children and to begin the first difficult steps in socializing with others. Most importantly, it is a fun time for both adults and children. We meet each Wednesday of school term from 9 to 11am in the parents portable on the right hand side of the school driveway. There is a duty roster to provide morning tea and set up the activities. Cost is \$23 Playgroup Victoria membership and \$10 per term per family playgroup membership.

Contact Julie O'Donnell 0434 408 122

VISITATION OF PARISH FAMILIES

This is co-ordinated by Sr. Margaret Burchell. 9878 0818

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL Ph: 9878 8268

Principal Mrs. Dianne Redford

Our Catholic Primary school offers an excellent education in a caring environment and is a vital part of our parish life. There are about 340 students and we aim to provide a Catholic atmosphere in which all students can grow in knowledge, talents, belonging and responsibility. You are welcome to inspect the school at any time, and special school tours are conducted on Tuesday mornings by appointment. A brochure is available from the school office – just call: 9878 8268.

SCHOOL BOARD

The School Board meets with the Parish Priest and School Principal about monthly in the school, with representatives of various sectors of the school community. It advises on policy, programmes and directions to be taken by the school in all its aspects. Call the School office for any inquiries. 9878 8268

ST. THOMAS PARENTS & FRIENDS

This group of parents get together frequently and are very important in organizing fundraising events for the school and help out on other school and social events. They have a variety of things to be involved in such as the Easter raffle, Mothers Day stall, entertainment, books, chocolate drive, Art Show, Fathers Day stall, trivia nights, fashion parades, sausage sizzles, pie drives, bush dance - with different parents doing each event. The Uniform Shop and The School Trader Newsletter are also coordinated by parents. We strongly encourage people with ideas to come along and share them with each other – so join us while **you're at St Thomas'. The School office knows when the next meeting will be held** and it is published in the School Bulletin. President Sonia Arthur 9878 8268

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL HALL

The hall was renovated and extended in 2005. It is fully heated & air-conditioned & includes a stage area (audio visual equipment available), a new kitchen & bar area, new bathroom facilities and a large entrance foyer. Ample parking is available in the school grounds. 200 people can be seated at round tables. If a function includes dancing, 150 guests can be catered for. The hall is well suited to cater for dinner dances, wedding receptions, engagements concerts and community events. It will not be hired out for 18th or 21st birthday parties. Bookings are made through the School Contact person is Dianne Atwell 0409 020 523

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

ST. THOMAS' SPRINGTIME FAIR

The Annual Springtime Fair is the major fundraising and family event in our parish calendar. It is held on a Saturday in late October it is a great event enjoyed by all the community. A new committee is formed each year and help is sought **throughout the parish. There's no role too small for anyone to take on. This** event is truly a family occasion to look forward to at the end of the year, and there is no better way to meet your fellow parishioners.

Conveners Peter Ciardulli 9877 7838 and Michelle Stapelfeldt 0413 791 664

ST. THOMAS' SOCIAL GROUP

Our emphasis is on providing affordable enjoyable opportunities for social and community life in our parish. Events such as Day Trips, Walking Groups, Lunches, Film & Theatre Nights, Book Clubs, Card Nights, & Art Groups are all coordinated by this group providing many opportunities for parishioners, young and old, to meet together and form friendships. Feel free to talk to any of our contact people if you have any queries or suggestions. Our social group is set up for you, the parishioners. Details in Apostle Magazine and Parish Newsletter

Film Night – One of our most popular events is coming up in March. Watch for details in the weekly newsletter and get in early with your bookings.

Transport can be arranged if necessary. Dorothy Murray 9893 3341

Day Trips- We are in the process of planning our first day trip and it will be advertised in the weekly bulletin so watch for details. Transport is shared on the day, as necessary, and costs are kept to a minimum so everyone can join in. Rhonda Neumann, 9894 0176.

Open Garden visit—Autumn is a good time for gardens and we hope to arrange a visit then. Watch for details or let us know your ideas. Alan & Dympha Lodge, 9877 3346. Peter & Yvonne Crowe, 9877 3360.

Walkers- The Tuesday Walking Group has begun for the year. We meet at the Blackburn Lake car park on Central Road at **8.30am** and walk for approximately 45 minutes or to suit the group on the day. The walks are not strenuous and anyone is welcome for the walk and a chat. Joan Morgan, 9877 3472.

Card Nights- 2nd Thursday of each month. We meet in the Parish Hall on the night for a friendly game of Solo and a good chat. A supper of tea, coffee and biscuits is provided. We start at 7.30 and finish around 10.30pm. Transport can **be arranged. Everyone is welcome, there's plenty of room! Contact us for more** details. Don and Pat Peake, 9878 4790.

SPOT- Is a friendly group of people who meet monthly to "Sketch & Paint Out Together"- often choosing to stay indoors, depending on the weather and our mood. We do our own 'thing', practise different techniques and display our 'homework' to each other for friendly critique and encouragement. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 4 Wellington Avenue. We welcome enquiries. Marie Dillon 9878 0319

Book Clubs 1 and 2 - Meet on a monthly basis in members' homes. There is plenty of friendly discussion and costs are kept down by using the local library to source the wide range of reading material. Vacancies occasionally occur, so let the contacts know if you are interested in joining. If enough people are on the waiting list, there is the possibility of a third group being formed. Ursula Waide, 9878 5328 (1), Patricia Harrison, 9878 9852 (2).

Our Mid Year Lunch- will be on again at the Manhattan in June- always a good day. Peter & Yvonne Crowe, 9877 3360

Social Lawn Bowls Evening- Our first big get together for the year, held in February is always a great night of fun, friendship and some very ordinary bowling! But the small group of experts who give help are always very helpful and supper ends the evening on a good note. Don Peake, 9878 4790.

ST. THOMAS' TENNIS CLUB

St Thomas the Apostle Tennis Club is one of the oldest groups in the parish. Founded in the early 1950's, the club has participated in the Victorian Catholic Lawn Tennis Association ever since. We field teams, both Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles, in VCLTA. In conjunction with the school, we have set up lunch-time coaching sessions and now have almost one hundred youngsters in the coaching program run by our accredited coaches. As well as our formal competition activities, we also run a social tennis program. We are always on the look-out for new members, particularly playing members. Interested people can contact the Club's President, Darren O'Loughlin on 9894 8205.

ST. THOMAS' WOMEN'S GROUP

St. Thomas the Apostle Women's Group is alive and well within our community. A number of social events are arranged throughout the year. The Women's Weekend away has established itself as an annual event in September. It is an informal weekend and a great chance to meet other women in our community in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. We continually seek suggestions for new activities. For more information on upcoming events, please contact the school office 9878 8268

ST. THOMAS' MEN'S GROUP

Parish men have begun a group to arrange and participate in a range of activities each year to grow a vibrant spirit within the parish community, including: - Men's Weekend, Dads'n'Kids Camping Weekend, , guest speakers, games and

sports nights, family weekend and participation in parish events such as the Annual Fete. The range of activities is varied and is at various times to maximize the chance of catering for as many parish men as possible. We welcome new parishioners/members and your involvement in any way you can. Please contact the school office 9878 8268.

ST THOMAS' NETBALL CLUB

The St Thomas Netball Club was originally founded over forty years ago and was integral in the establishment of the Whitehorse Netball Association. We play in the Whitehorse Netball Association at Sportlink, Hanover Road, Vermont South and currently field 23 teams. We have a membership of 230 girls coming from 180 families of whom 140 children have come from St Thomas Primary School. We happily welcome children and young adults from neighbouring schools. Please feel free to visit our web site at <http://www.stthomasnetballclub.org.au> or contact us on info@stthomasnetballclub.org.au Owen Shaw (President)

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Thomas' Parish has an extensive youth ministry. Please contact the Parish Office for enquiries on 9878 0818

CATECHETICS

On Tuesday afternoons 4.00 to 5.00pm, a team of catechists teach religion to Catholic children who do not attend a Catholic Primary School. The children are prepared for Sacraments and parents are assisted with the formal religious education of their children. We encourage participation in the life of the parish and the formation of friendships with other Catholic children.

Six2Eight Youth Club

Our Parish Junior Youth Group for children in Years 3-6, meets fortnightly on Friday evenings, during school terms, from 6pm to 8pm (hence the name of the Club). A varied range of activities are organised by Navaz Rego and Andrew Dyer. Enquiries can be made at the Parish office_

STARFISH PROJECT

Adults and youth (from Year 3 and above) meet monthly on Saturday mornings, to do gardening at the St. Thomas' Retirement Village for Villagers who can't do their own gardening. Contact Maria Bardsley

ALTAR SERVERS

Parish children aged 9 and above are trained to serve at the altar. Training for St. Thomas Primary School children takes place during Tuesday lunch time, whilst children who do not attend the Parish primary school can be trained **outside of school hours. Children are rostered to serve at Friday morning's Mass** as well as at weekend Masses.

SOME DIOCESAN SERVICES

CATHOLIC CARE

An organization dealing with all types of family problems but having particular sections dealing with:

Adoptions and Pregnancy Counseling.....	Tel 9689 3888
Alcohol and Drug Related Services	Tel 8417 1200
Family Counseling.....	Tel 9349 1244
Marriage Guidance.....	Tel 9287 5516
Separated, Divorced and Widowed	Tel 5221 7226
Employee Assistance Program	Tel 9662 3929
Critical Incident Response	Tel 5221 7226

AGED CARE

St Vincent de Paul.....	Tel 9895 5800
Southern Cross.....	Tel 8564 1800

OTHER SERVICES

Eastern Palliative Care	1300 130 813
Catholic Social Services Victoria.....	Tel 9287 5566

For contact details with respect to : Aboriginal Services, Accommodation Services, **Children's Services, Disability Services, Migrant/Refugee Services, Youth Services**, Prison Chaplaincy, Catholic AIDS Ministry, Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation.