



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

25TH JULY, 2021

YEAR B

LITURGY CALENDAR

MONDAY 26th JULY

9.30am Mass

TUESDAY 27th JULY

10.00am Mass

10.30am Rosary

WEDNESDAY 28th JULY

9.30am Mass

9.50am Adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament

10.30am Mass at

St. Thomas' Retirement
Village

THURSDAY 29th JULY

No Service

FRIDAY 30th JULY

10.00am Mass

SATURDAY 31st JULY

10.00am Reconciliation

6.00pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 1st AUGUST

8.30am Mass

10.30am Mass

5.00pm Mass

USE THE QR CODE TO
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.stthomastheapostle.org.au



Dear Parishioners,

MIRACLE OF LUNCHBOX

Reflecting on the gospel of this 17th Sunday in Ordinary time (John 6:1-15), I tried to recall my past years homilies. In those homilies, I used to focus on two things; the first one is the compassionate acts of Jesus, both internal (feeling sorry for the crowd) and external (multiplication of bread and fish); and the second is the disciples' doubt and later being commissioned to feed the crowd. I missed to think about the origin of the bread and fish.

While thanking God for being compassionate and his invitation to us to be compassionate as he is, I may invite you to pay attention to the "origin of the five loaves and two fish". Andrew the disciple could say anything he wanted, like: "There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this", but without the generosity of this little boy, Jesus and the disciples couldn't do anything.

I suppose that behind the generosity of this little boy who handed over everything in his lunch box to Jesus, there's a mum who packed this lunch box for him. She was simply taking care of her boy, and she couldn't know that Jesus would turn that silent work of her hands, the gifts from her kitchen, and her faithful love for her son, into one of his greatest miracles.

The message is clear, God doesn't do miracles out of nowhere. He performs miracles out of his generosity and our willingness to share from what we have (limitedness of our lunch boxes). You never know that simple things we provide with love and hand them over generously may create big miracles which have great impact on others' lives.

Have a blessed Sunday, stay safe and healthy.

Blessings

Fr. Alo, msc

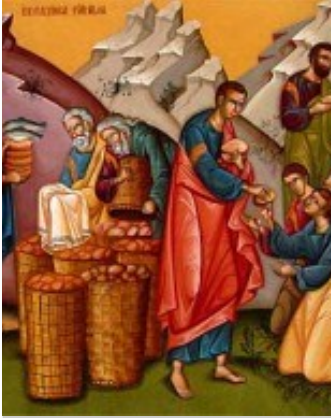
DUE TO THE CURRENT EXTENSION OF LOCKDOWN 5.0 RESTRICTIONS,
UNTIL 11.59PM TUESDAY 27TH JULY, 2021

THERE WILL BE **NO IN-PERSON MASSES**

THIS WEEKEND'S ONLINE MASS CAN BE VIEWED VIA LINK ON
OUR WEBSITE:

<https://stthomastheapostle.org.au/>

*St. Thomas the Apostle Parish strives to create an environment
where all children and vulnerable adults including Aboriginal, special needs and persons of
cultural diversity are safe, respected and cared for.*



A Vocation View

Today we are reminded by St Paul that there is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. The challenge before us is to 'bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience.' That is an essential part of our vocation: lead a life worthy of these attributes.

Please remember the following in your prayers...

Sick: Sr. Bernadette Ziesing IBVM, Rose Francisco, Rita Paxton, Bryant de Niese, Margot Edgar, Thi Le, Margaret Grandy, Les Plummer, Maureen Franklin, Timothy Sloane, Ann Humphris, Sr. Marie Hanger RSJ, Brian Law (brother of Kit Law in Canada), Betty McConnen (Ireland), Br. Bernie Gartland, Bridie Lennon, Margot Pettingill, S.J. Potter, Kevin Guilders

Recently Dec'd:

Anniversaries:

Charles Kee (father of Bernie Kee); Celia Tolentino

Safeguarding Children: Our Commitment to Children and young people

At St Thomas the Apostle Physical contact: Creating a child safe environment does not mean no physical contact with children and young people. When working with children and young people, appropriate and non-intrusive physical contact may occur e.g. whilst playing sport, holding a baby at playgroup, providing first aid, or holding hands in a prayer activity.

A gentle reminder to parents that your children are to be supervised at all times during Mass and it is advisable to accompany them to and from the restrooms.

PIETY STALL

**All proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul

Monastique Cosmetics

Rosaries, Baptism Gifts, Candles

Br. James CD's available \$25.00ea

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

MSC Books :

'A Quiet Place Within' by Fr Khoi Nguyen-\$19.95
"Hearts Burning Within Us" by Fr Peter Malone-\$24.95
'A Time to Hope' by Fr Paul Castley-\$19.95
'No Greater Love The Human Experience of God' by Fr Brian Gallagher-\$18.95
'Alive with Disability' by Fr. Khoi Nguyen-\$22.95

SCRABBLE.....will be on **Thursday 8th August at 7.30pm**

Contact: Maureen Munro on 9884-4376 or Chrissie on 9899 9675

CARDS GROUP..... will be **Thursday 12th August, 2021 at 1.00pm** in the Quiet Room of the Church. Preferred game is SOLO. Contact: Pat & Don Peake on 9878-4790
All present and any newcomers are welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Dear Parishioners, If you wish to make a donation, receipts will be issued on request in the Church Narthex. If you wish to donate by bank transfer our details are: **BSB 063 003 Account 1008 1787 code 442 Account Name: Society of St Vincent de Paul PL.**

The students of our school are collecting grocery items for distribution along with our food vouchers to people in need. Also if you wish to donate food, we have placed a plastic tub in the Church Narthex for collection of non perishable items of food. St Phillips' Parish and School are also collecting donations and grocery items as we are but one Conference in the work of St Vincent de Paul.

Wal Stevens, Co- President, Blackburn Conference.

ST THOMAS' BLACKBURN PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

The Parish Financial Report is compiled at the end of the Calendar year to coincide with the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese End of Year Financial reporting system. This will then be publicised in our bulletin each year in the early part of the new year, to update parishioners on our financial status.

HEART OF LIFE CENTRE: MOMENTS THAT ARE GRACE: Retreat in daily life spans 5 weeks -3rd

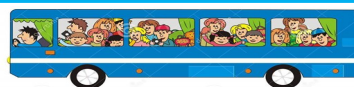
Aug. 1.15pm concluding with closing reflection 31st Aug at 1.45pm. This at-home retreat, invites you to spend some time in prayer at home each day pondering your experiences of the day, and to be accompanied by a retreat-companion on how God might have been present for you. If interested please apply before 28th July 2021—98901101 or

info@heartoflife.melbourne

Small donation will be welcome: <http://www.heartoflife.melbourne/bookings/donate>

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Will be commencing on **Wednesday 28th July 2021**. Come and join us for some quiet time in prayer and reflection. We meet at the church on **Wednesdays after the 9.30am Mass** for 30 minutes. (Start time approx. 9.50am)



ST THOMAS SOCIAL GROUP SEPTEMBER BUS TRIP - ITINERARY NOW AVAILABLE

After nearly 2 years of not being able to trip around the countryside, we have our next trip planned for **20th-23rd September 2021**. This time we will travel to the Eildon region. If you are interested in coming along to enjoy some fun and friendship, whether you have been before or this will be your first time, please book with Yvonne on 9877 3360 no later than 16th August.

Copies of the itinerary are available in the church foyer.

Sunday 25th July, 2021

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

2 Kgs 4:42-44

*A reading from the second book of the Kings
They will eat and have some left over.*

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING

Eph 4:1-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

There is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 6:1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

(CONT.)

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

**NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:
18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Sunday 1st August, 2021
First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4,12-15
Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17,20-24
Gospel: John 6:24-35**

YOUTH NEWS.....

Youth Group - Friday 30th July Friday 6pm

Come along and join us.....if you have not been before, I encourage you to give it a try - bring along a friend and try it out. Hope to see you there!

Starfish (Gardening Group) - Saturday 14th August 10am

If you are keen to get involved in a community based outreach program, come and join us at Starfish where we do some light gardening duties for the residents in St Thomas Retirement Village - 97 Hawthorn Road, Forest Hill.

Catechetics

If you are keen for your child to learn the Sacraments for next year's program, please contact the office and register your interest with us. Our classes are run every Tuesday from 4 to 5pm with Reconciliation in Term One, Confirmation in Term Two and First Eucharist in Term Three. **Thanks Caren - caren.garlick@cam.org.au, 9878 0818**

Altar Serving

We are in need of servers for the 10.30 am Mass so if you are thinking about joining and would like to try it out, I encourage you to get in touch with me. Altar Serving is a special ministry to be involved with. All children have the opportunity to serve at weekend masses, school masses and special masses that we celebrate. If your child is in Grade 3 or higher and is interested, please get in touch with me - caren.garlick@cam.org.au **Thank You. Caren Garlick**

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

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr. Aloysius Lamere msc

FORMATOR/ASST. PRIEST:

Fr Khoi Nguyen 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:**

Anne Marmion

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

Youth Group: Caren Garlick

9878 0818

Starfish: Caren Garlick

9878 0818



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*

CURRENT COVIDSafe GUIDELINES:

*Face masks must be worn inside and outdoors: everywhere except your own home.

* 5 Reasons to leave home: - shopping for necessary goods and services (one person per household, once per day, a support person can accompany if required; within 5km); - caregiving or compassionate reasons; - authorised work or permitted education, or work interstate (if you can work from home, you must work from home); - exercise (up to two hour two hours, with one other person or members of your household; within 5km); - receive a vaccination.

* Private and public gatherings will not be permitted: Single person bubbles will be allowed.

PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES: No in-person gatherings permitted. Livestreaming and Broadcast is permitted with a total of 5 people present including technicians. * FUNERALS: (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 10 people * WEDDINGS: (indoor and outdoor): Not permitted unless end of life or for deportation reasons. Involves only 5 persons

DONATIONS BOX

If any parishioners wish to 'donate' items such as plant seedlings, fruit & vegetables grown at home etc - a plastic box has been placed under the table in the Church Foyer. Kindly please leave your items in box supplied for all to enjoy!



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.)

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TERM 2: CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During 10.30am Mass

1st AUGUST: JANETTE

8TH AUGUST: MONICA

VOLUNTEER MASS GROUPS

31ST JULY/1ST AUG. 2021

Commentators & Lectors:

6.00pm – Peter W

8.30am – John U; Bride S

10.30am – Owen S; Yvonne R

5.00pm – Peter N ; Helen N

Special Ministers:

6.00pm – Leon D; Jan G

8.30am – Marg B; Maureen M; Louis S

10.30am – Mary C; Neil C; Andrew L

Money Counters: Team 4

Piety Stall: Team 1

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS—SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Parish Social Justice Group have started a new initiative. There will be a regular Social Justice bulletin notice on the Notice Board in the Church Narthex.

Why not wander over before or after Mass and check it out?

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE MELBOURNE

JOB VACANCIES.....Further details of positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

PARISH ACTIVITIES

ST THOMAS PARISH/SCHOOL ARCHIVES

Archival material always welcome, please include dates and names when possible. Contact Parish Office Ph: 9878 0818

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

****TBA—CHRISTIAN MEDITATION EVENINGS:**

Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Presbytery Front Meeting room.

Contact Phil Collins on 0410 668 140 or e:chrmed3130@gmail.com

New comers most welcome.



****TBA—FIRST FRIDAY PARISH MASS & LUNCHEON:**

First Friday of the month Mass starts at 11.30am

****TBA—ST. THOMAS' PLAYGROUP:**

Every Wednesday morning during the School Term, from 9.00am-11.00am. Please bring a piece of fruit.

ALL PRE-SCHOOLERS ARE WELCOME. No cost to attend. Hope to see you there!

Contact Tatiana Gibbs-0490 005 691