

St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish Camp Hill



No.45

2nd Sunday in Advent, Year A

07th December 2025

CONTACT DETAILS:

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StThomasCatholicParishCampHill/](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasCatholicParishCampHill/)

Office hours:

8:30 am - 1:30pm: M/T/Th/F

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday : **5.30pm**

Sunday : **8.30am & 5.30pm**

Weekday Eucharist

Monday & Tuesday: **7.00am**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday &

Public Holiday: **9.00am**

Reconciliation

Saturday : **5.00pm-5.20pm**

Adoration and Benediction

1st Friday After 9am Mass

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest

Fr. Dantus Thottathil
thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Sr. Analissa Balderama
cmc.stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

Local Safeguarding Rep

David Colch
Lsr.stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Secretary

Maria Palacio
stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Michael Williamson—Chair

Parish Finance Council

Anthony Oostenbroek—Chair

St Thomas' School

10 Stephen Street, CAMP HILL 4152

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Changing Our Hearts, Preparing His Way...

Once upon a time there was a king who ruled a prosperous land. One day he travelled to the distant places of his kingdom. It was a long journey, and the rough, stony roads left his feet sore and bleeding. Frustrated, upon his return, he immediately ordered that every road in the entire kingdom be covered with leather. The cost would have been extraordinary - thousands of animals and enormous labour all for the king's comfort. But one wise advisor spoke with courage: "Your Majesty, why spend so much to change the whole kingdom? Why not use just a small piece of leather to cover your feet?" The king was surprised, but he recognised the wisdom in the suggestion. And so the first "shoe" was made. We often say, I wish things would change.. I wish people would change. But true wisdom begins with a different insight: If we allow God to change our hearts, the world around us begins to change as well. Advent is precisely this season of interior renewal - a time to let God reshape our vision, soften our hearts, and prepare us to welcome Christ more deeply.

This Sunday, John the Baptist appears in the wilderness, calling us: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John does not tell us to fix everything "out there" first. He begins with the heart. Conversion is an inner work, like putting on the "shoes" of humility, patience, forgiveness, and hope so that we can walk through the difficulties of the world. Advent invites us to slow down and listen. In a season often overwhelmed by noise, shopping, and busyness, the Church calls us to step into a quieter rhythm. We light the second candle on the Advent wreath, the candle of Peace. It reminds us that true peace does not come from perfect circumstances but from welcoming Christ into the rough roads of our lives. How might we prepare the way of the Lord this week? By examining our hearts. Are there "rough places" where anger, pride, or impatience have taken root? By seeking reconciliation. A phone call, a letter, an apology, or simply a prayer for someone who has hurt us, can open new pathways of grace. By deepening our prayer. Spend a few quiet minutes each day with Scripture. Let God speak into our week. By acts of charity. John's message is always practical - share what you have, care for those in need, and lighten another person's burden.

Jesus comes not only at Christmas but into every moment where a heart is open. The king in our story realised that real change begins with small, simple steps. So it is with us. We do not need to fix the whole world before Christ arrives; we only need to prepare a place for Him within ourselves. May this Advent be a time of renewed hope, deeper peace, and a joyful readiness to welcome the Lord who comes to save us.

Blessings,
Fr. Dantus Thottathil.

We at St Thomas' Parish acknowledge the Yuggera people, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather. We pay our respects to elders - past, present and emerging, who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years.

Parish News & Notices

We remember in our prayers

The sick: Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Tom Grant, Lauren Balcombe, Lola Radford, Sonia Mendez, Megan Bowden, Carmel Horn, Judith Angela, Jan Effiney, Alex Stegman, Kui Liu, Eileen MacDermott, Lorraine O'Leary, Rod Grove, Sr Belen, Trish Buckle, Elizabeth Rejmer, Evelyn Neave, Michael & Anne Murphy, Kay and Paul Bertini, Anne & Peter Kelleher, Leo Plowman, Margaret Jermanus, Lachie James Edwards, Aldo, Michael Colch & Giuseppa Petriilia, Lynne Jordan and Lynn Toon, Ray Duncanson, June Simpson, Catherine Challinor, Mildred Duncan & Paul Duncan.



Recently deceased: Dorn & John Robson Petch, John Nye Boustead, Elizabeth.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Francis Cosgrove, Arthur Gorski, Leslie Dossetto, Benjamin Longland, Allan Rogers, Margaret Catchpole, Olive Dean, John Milford, Kathleen Jessop, Madge Sapsford, William Peake, Daniel Barry, Marjorie Croft, Nancy Downing, Fred White, Margaret White, Barry Harding, Susan Ballinger, Jack Ballinger, Theresa Hourigan, Patrick Radford, John McKenna, Ken Murray, Ruby Johnston, Mary McNamara, Margaret Goakes, Patricia O'Leary, Betty Smith & Fay Thomas.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please consider giving to our Planned Giving Program. Your continued support for our Parish is much appreciated. Collections & Planned Giving: BSB:064-786 / Acc: 100012966 Baptisms/Sacrament Programs/ Donations/ All other deposits:- Name: Camp Hill Parish BSB:064-786 Acc: 100005597
* We also have Tap n Go facility in the Church premises.

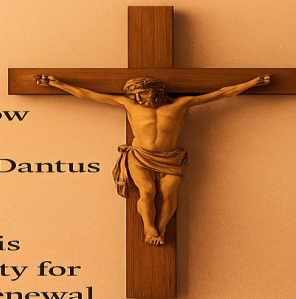
St Thomas' Safeguarding Representatives:

Name: David Colch
Contact: lsr.stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au
This parish is Child Safety Aware and complies with Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Safeguarding policy is situated on the Notice Board outside of the church. STOPLINE CONTACT: Phone 1 300 304 400 Email AOB@stopline.com.au

Opportunity for Individual Confession – Advent Preparation

Prepare your heart for Christmas by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- Every Saturday 5.00 pm – 5.20 pm
- Thursday, 18th December, 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm, Fr. John Barlow will be available and 7.00 pm – 7.30 pm, Fr. Dantus will be available.



Take this opportunity for spiritual renewal as we await the birth of Christ.



The Week Ahead

Sun– 07th Dec	Second Sunday of Advent Year A Mass @ 8.30am & 5:30pm
Mon– 08th Dec	Mass @ 7.00am Solemnity The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue– 09th Dec	Mass @ 7.00am
Wed– 10th Dec	Mass @ 9.00am
Thu– 11th Dec	Mass @ 9.00am Eucharistic Adoration @ 6pm to 9pm
Fri– 12th Dec	Mass @ 9.00am Memorial St Lucy, virgin, martyr
Sat– 13th Dec	Devotion of the Holy Rosary @ 7.30am – Church Vigil Mass @ 5.30pm
Sun– 14th Dec	Third Sunday of Advent Year A Mass @ 8.30am & 5:30pm

Liturgy Roster

THIS WEEK	Mass Organisers	Welcome/ Prayers of the Faithful	1st Reader	2nd Reader	Communion Minister
Sat 06th Dec – 5.30pm	Mary Harris	Brian Kilmartin & Caitie Duncan	Brian Kilmartin	Caitie Duncan	Mary Harris
Sun 07th Dec– 8.30am	Required	Kathleen Armstrong	Carmen McCrone	Bryanna Witehira	Lyn Kasatchenko
Sun 07th Dec – 5.30pm	Angelique Cahill (Rejmer)	Georgia Bergen & Brian Harding	Brian Harding	Georgia Bergen	Chris Harding
NEXT WEEK					
Sat 13th Dec – 5.30pm	Michael Williamson	Irene Poh & Amanda Yeates	Irene Poh	Amanda Yeates	Mary Harris
Sun 14th Dec– 8.30am	Amanda Sheridan	Mary Rejmer & Mary-Louise Shearer	Mary Rejmer	Mary-Louise Shearer	Required
Sun 14th Dec – 5.30pm	Zuzanna Horniak	Zuzanna Horniak & Caroline Sarra	Zuzanna Horniak	Caroline Sarra	Zuzanna Horniak



COME JOIN THE
CHRISTMAS
Choir

ALL WELCOME AT PRACTICE

TUESDAYS | 2ND, 9TH & 16TH | AT 7 PM
 DECEMBER

IN THE CHURCH, ST THOMAS, CAMP HILL

Let's celebrate together!



Join us for a special morning
 tea to say
*Thank You
 and Farewell*
 to Sr. Analissa

for 10 years of faithful service to our
 St Thomas Parish Community

When: Sunday 21st December
 after 8.30am Mass
 Please bring a plate to share



ST THOMAS' PARISH
 CHRISTMAS CAROLS
 AT CAMP HILL AGED CARE

DECEMBER
 SATURDAY 20 4 PM

REGIS CAMP HILL AGED CARE CENTRE,
 15 ORWELL ST, CAMP HILL

Please help us bring some cheer!

RSVP: Tammie Davis: 0404 883 499



All Welcome
**Christmas Nativity
 Play**

If any children would like to
 participate in the Nativity play at
 the 5.30pm Christmas Eve
 Children's Mass, please email:
 Tammie Davis at:
tammie.klinge@gmail.com

St Thomas Christmas Raffle



Our parish Christmas Raffle is underway! Tickets are available before and after each Mass.

All proceeds will support our parish hall maintenance and church roof repairs.

Prizes include festive surprises.

Draw: Sunday, 21st December after 8:30am Mass.

Thank you for your generous support in caring for our parish home!

Readings

Second Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

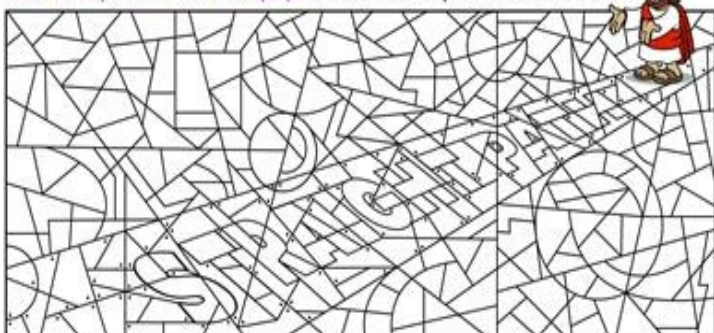
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

For the Children...

Color the shapes that contain dots purple. Fill the other shapes with different colors.



Third Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?