

St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish Camp Hill



No.46

3rd Sunday in Advent, Year A

14th December 2025

CONTACT DETAILS:

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F: [https://www.facebook.com/
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

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Rejoice in the Lord always....

This weekend is traditionally called Rejoicing Sunday – Gaudete Sunday. As we gather around the Advent Wreath, we notice that today the candle is pink, not purple, reminding us that our waiting is not gloomy or heavy, but filled with joyful expectation. The colour invites us to pause and smile, because the Lord is very near. It may seem strange to speak of rejoicing when our world is so busy, distracted, and often troubled. Many people rush through these days focused on shopping lists, end of year pressures, work deadlines, and family obligations. The noise of the season can easily drown out the quiet joy of Advent. Yet, as Catholics, we are called to a different kind of joy, not the joy that comes from gifts or perfect plans, but the joy that comes from knowing that God is with us. We rejoice because Christmas is not simply an anniversary. It is a living mystery. Christ comes to us again into our hearts, our homes, our parish, and our world. Even in uncertainty, even in hardship, God has not abandoned us. That is why our joy is deeper than excitement; it is rooted in hope.

What, then, should we focus on in these final days of Advent?

First, we are invited to return to prayer. Even a few quiet minutes each day with Scripture, or in silent conversation with God helps us remember what this season is truly about. We are not merely preparing a celebration; we are preparing a place in our hearts.

Second, let us focus on acts of kindness and mercy. A phone call to someone lonely, patience with a difficult person, forgiveness within families, generosity to those in need, these are powerful ways of welcoming Christ. Joy grows when it is shared.

Third, we are encouraged to prepare our souls through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Nothing lightens the heart more than the experience of God's mercy. True Christian joy flows from a clean heart.

Finally, let us slow down. Even in the busyness of life, we can choose to be still, to breathe, and to remember that Emmanuel, "God with us," is close. This Gaudete Sunday reminds us: we do not rejoice because everything in the world is perfect, but because God is faithful, God is near, and God is coming to meet us.

May our hearts be filled with peace and quiet joy as we continue our Advent journey together.

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, Evelyn Neave, Michael & Anne Murphy, Kay and Paul Bertini, Anne & Peter Kelleher, Leo Plowman, Margaret Jermanus, Lachie James Edwards, Aldo, Michael Colch & Giuseppa Petriia, 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 Rejmer, Margaret O'Donnell.

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

PLEASE HELP TO SUPPORT THE PARISH. THE SMART TERMINAL IS AN EASY WAY TO DONATE AND TO HELP US CONTINUE OUR WORK.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

Quote of the week

Be happy

Enjoy every moment of your life.

Life is too short to waste on grudges.

Laugh when you can,

apologize when you should

and let go of what you can't change...

The Week Ahead

Sun- 14th Dec	Third Sunday of Advent Year A Mass @ 8.30am & 5:30pm
Mon- 15th Dec	Mass @ 7.00am
Tue- 16th Dec	Mass @ 7.00am
Wed- 17th Dec	Mass @ 9.00am
Thu- 18th Dec	Mass @ 9.00am Eucharistic Adoration @ 6pm to 9pm Individual Confession 6:00 pm— 7:30 pm
Fri- 19th Dec	Mass @ 9.00am
Sat- 20th Dec	Devotion of the Holy Rosary@ 7.30am – Church Vigil Mass @ 5.30pm
Sun- 21st Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A Mass @ 8.30am & 5:30pm

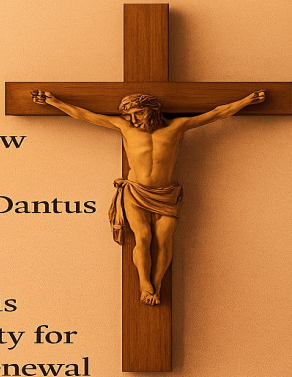
Liturgy Roster

THIS WEEK	Mass Organisers	Welcome/ Prayers of the Faithful	1st Reader	2nd Reader	Communion Minister
Sat 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
NEXT WEEK					
Sat 20th Dec – 5.30pm	Tammie Davis	Os Cotta & Yannick Cotta	Os Cotta	Yannick Cotta	Tammie Davis
Sun 21st Dec– 8.30am	Iubu Kelly	Amanda Sheridan & Paul Mead	Amanda Sheridan	Paul Mead	Tess Paolucci
Sun 21st Dec – 5.30pm	Kathryn Flint	Oostenbroek Family & Kathryn Flint	Oostenbroek Family	Kathryn Flint	Kathryn Flint

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.

St Thomas's Catholic Parish, Camp Hill
Christmas Mass Times 2025

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Christmas Eve: 24 December
5:30 pm: Christmas Family Mass
8:00 pm: Christmas Night Mass
Christmas Day: 25 December
8.30 am: Christmas Day Mass

Happy and Holy Christmas

ST THOMAS' PARISH
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
AT CAMP HILL AGED CARE

DECEMBER
20 4 PM

SATURDAY

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 Parish – Sacramental Coordinator Position

St. Thomas Parish is seeking a dedicated Sacramental Coordinator to join our parish team. This important role supports the faith journey of children, families, and parishioners by coordinating the preparation and celebration of the sacraments, including Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. Interested in this role?

Please apply through the following link:

<https://www.seek.com.au/archdiocese-jobs/in-All-Brisbane-QLD?jobId=88871939&type=standard>

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!

Third Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

For the Children...



Jesus told John the Baptist's followers to tell him all they had seen and heard.
Draw a picture of one of the following:



- ▶ Jesus heals a blind man
- ▶ Jesus heals a man with leprosy
- ▶ Jesus brings a dead girl back to life

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.