St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish Camp Hill

No.16 Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A 10 May 2026

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Office hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri
8:30 am - 1:30pm

Sunday Eucharist
Saturday : **5.30pm**
Sunday : **8.30am & 5.30pm**

Weekday Eucharist
Monday & Tuesday: **No Masses until further notice**
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

Local Safeguarding Rep
Michael Williamson
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
Ph: 07 3398 6633
E:pcamphill@bne.catholic.edu.au
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There are two strong images in today's gospel: the law and love. In a few verses Jesus keeps moving between the two ideas because he knows how closely related they are.

This can seem curious to modern ears because we have been duped into thinking that the law is the enemy of love, and that only freedom and joy are love's fruits. But think for a moment of people or projects we love, ones to which we are committed. We don't need a rulebook to call us to the most generous and sacrificial behaviour in their regard. We respond 'above and beyond the call of duty' not because of the law, but because of love. Jesus teaches us today that obedience to his commandments is a sub-set of our loving relationship with him.

The word 'obedience' comes from the Latin word *oboedire*, meaning, 'to listen carefully'. That's a gentler way of understanding Jesus' call. The more obedient we are to Christ's commandments, the more we are listening to his Spirit's call in our lives. And what are these commandments to which we have to listen? Jesus said the whole law and the prophets could be summarised as 'loving God and our neighbour, as we love ourselves'. If this seems too general a statement, then St Paul helps us fill out the details. Like Jesus, St Paul tells us the law of love is not primarily revealed in what we say, or how we feel, but in what we do. Christian love is an intensely practical affair. When we are patient, kind and gentle with each other we are obeying the law of love. So too when we forgive each other, tell the truth and remain faithful, we are listening most carefully to Christ's commandments.

St Paul also tells us that another of the fruits of Christian love is self-control. Sacrifice and self-control are really where the law of love comes into its own. The secular world keeps peddling the myth that self-expression is the only way to happiness. Most of us can see how irrational this position is and how unliveable the world would be if everyone expressed all their feelings and desires as they wished. Sometimes the most loving thing is to do nothing. If we are very angry with friends, for example, abusing them physically or verbally won't help. If we are sexually attracted to our best friend's spouse, having an affair will end in tears. On a more positive note, if we are alert to the poverty in which others live in our world, making sacrifices so that they might have something will not take away from us at all. Self-control is the ally of love and it helps us sort out the appropriate time to undertake the appropriate action.

The path to true happiness is found in being self-controlled. The problem is that self-control doesn't come easily. We need to train ourselves in its art and practise it regularly and consistently so that we can enjoy seeing the benefits of winning smaller battles before we venture out on larger campaigns. If we cultivate an attitude of self-control, we can be sure that when we most need to exercise it, we are in charge of our emotional life rather than it being in charge of us.

May this Eucharist effect a change of heart in us. May we embrace sacrifice and self-control as the doors to an even greater practical experience of the Risen Christ's law of love.

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film

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: Richard Drum, *Stan Rejmer, Deborah Houghton, 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 Petrilia,Lynne Jordan and Lynn Toon, Ray Duncanson, June Simpson, Catherine Challinor, Hannah Parton.*

Recently deceased: *Mildred Duncan, Rick Rooke, Eleanor Hart (sister of Fr Jim Browne)*
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: *Blue Smith, Peter Ryan, Margaret Murray, Benjamino Giacomodonato, Anthony Volmer, Beryl Robinson, Justin Cosgrove, Gordon Bissett, Les Bertini, Savatore Vitale, John Leahy, Aileen Cokayne, Fr Bob Mitchell, Rita Leslie, James O'Connor, Darcy Dickson, Dorothy Vaughan, Marie Fitzpatrick, Mary Rafferty, Suzanne Ballinger, Geraldine Simento, Irene Matthews, Michael O'Connor, Des O'Toole, Sid O'Toole, Joseph 'Gerry' Cremin, Mona Costa, Margaret Simson, Bill Collins, Russell Lea, Tom Killian, Edie Coughlan, Bernadette Moy & Brian Harding (Senior) .*

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.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

St Thomas' Safeguarding Representatives:
Name: Michael Williamson Phone: 0439535654
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 1300 304 400 Email AOB@stopline.com.au

The Week Ahead	
Sun– 10 May	**Six Sunday of Easter Year A** Mass @ 8.30am & 5:30pm
Mon - 11 May	No Mass until further notice
Tue - 12 May	No Mass until further notice
Wed—13 May	Mass @ 9.00am
Thu - 14 May	Mass @ 9.00am Feast of St Matthias, apostle Eucharistic Adoration 6-9pm
Fri - 15 May	Mass @ 9am
Sat - 16 May	Devotion of the Holy Rosary@ 7.30am – Church Vigil Mass @ 5.30pm
Sun– 17 May	**The Ascension 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 09 May – 5.30pm	Michael Williamson	Amanda Yeates	Irene Poh	Amanda Yeates	Mary Harris
Sun 10 May– 8.30am	Amanda Sheridan	Mary Rejmer & Mary-Louise Shearer	Mary Rejmer	Mary-Louise Shearer	Amanda Sheridan
Sun 10 May – 5.30pm	Caroline Sarra	Oostenbroek Family & Caroline Sarra	Oostenbroek Family	Caroline Sarra	Caroline Sarra
NEXT WEEK					
Sat 16 May – 5.30pm	Tammie Davis	Paul Bergin	Paul Bergin	Irene Poh	Tammie Davis
Sun 17 May– 8.30am	Iubu Kelly	Amanda Sheridan & Paul Mead	Amanda Sheridan	Paul Mead	Tess Paolucci
Sun 17 May – 5.30pm	Zuzanna Horniak	Oostenbroek Family & Caroline Sarra	Kathryn Flint	Zuzana Horniak/ Erica Brauer	Zuzanna Horniak

PENTECOST
sunday

Join us for St Thomas' multicultural celebration and Family Mass!

Sunday 24th May
8.30am

Come in traditional dress
Bring morning tea to share!

Urgent Call for Volunteers

We are very greatful for the wonderful team of committed volunteers who help out at Masses each week, and are hoping to find more people to join the team.

We are seeking more volunteers for our roster of Mass organisers, readers, and Communion ministers.

Could you help out one weekend a month?

If so, please contact the parish office for more information: stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

Volunteers - Children's Liturgy of the Word

Would you like to be involved in facilitating our Children's Liturgies?

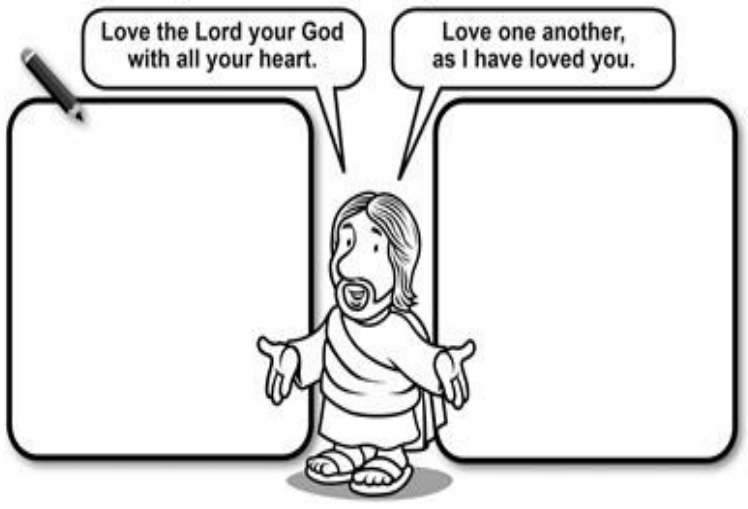
We are looking for people willing to run CLOW once per term during the Sunday morning Mass alongside another volunteer

If this sounds like something you are interested in, please contact the parish office for more information: stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

We wish all the Mothers in our Parish a Happy Mother's Day. May the Lord shower you always with His blessings and goodness.

For the Children...

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments". Draw pictures that show you following these commandments.



The Ascension
Year A

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to

Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!**
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'