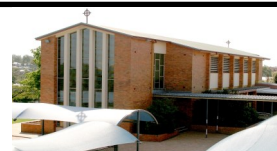


St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 2

Baptism of the Lord

10 January 2021

Sorry!
WE'RE CLOSED

Unfortunately due to the recently announced lockdown, the church will be closed this weekend and all 3 Masses are cancelled.

The Parish Office will be closed from 6pm Friday 9th January to 6pm Monday 11th January.

Mass will be webcast from the Cathedral of St Stephen on Saturday at 11.30am, Sunday at 8am and 10am and Monday at 8am. Click on this link to livestream Mass: [Live web cast - Archdiocese of Brisbane \(brisbanecatholic.org.au\)](https://www.brisbanecatholic.org.au)

Stay home and stay safe ... and hopefully we will have some good news next week!

Current government advice - People may leave their house only for these reasons:

- Shopping for essentials, food and necessary supplies
- Medical or healthcare needs, including compassionate requirements
- Exercise with no more than one other person, unless all from the same household
- Providing care or assistance to an immediate family member
- Work, or volunteering, or study if it is not reasonably practicable to work or learn remotely
- Child custody arrangements
- Legal obligations
- Visit for end of life
- Attend funeral (20 guests maximum) or wedding (10 guests maximum)
- Masks must be worn outside your residence, including in the work place
- Anyone who has visited, and left, the Greater Brisbane region since the 2nd of January must isolate for three days

Gospel Reflection *by Greg Sunter*

The baptism of Jesus in the gospel of Mark serves as a revelation of the identity of Jesus. Throughout this gospel there is secrecy about who Jesus really is. Whenever a person's faith reveals that Jesus is the Messiah or the Son of God, Jesus commands them to remain silent and not tell anyone else about him. However, through the baptism event, the reader is let in to the secret from the outset. Unlike the public announcements of Jesus as the beloved Son of God that occurs in other gospels, in the gospel of Mark, the voice is addressed to Jesus himself and there is no indication that anyone else hears it. The words used are, 'You are my Son' not, 'This is my Son.' But the reader is placed in the privileged position of knowing the truth about Jesus from the very beginning of the gospel. As they read further, they observe the disciples' growing yet imperfect understanding of this truth.

John the Baptist serves another particular function in the gospel story. Aside from fulfilling scriptural prophecy by proclaiming the one who is to come, he provides a point of contrast with Jesus. In many ways, John represents the Jewish religious belief of the time. For John, baptism is a ritual of purifying and forgiveness of sin that can be administered as often as required. The way to God is through strict observance of the Law and through ritual acts of prayer and purification. For Jesus though, the way to God is through love and through Jesus himself. The baptism that Jesus will give is a baptism of the Spirit – pouring out the Spirit on those who realise and accept the love of God in their lives.

Have you thought? – Baptism

Whilst today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it is also a reminder and celebration of our own Baptism. Today's gospel is a reminder that we are baptised with the Holy Spirit, not merely with water. To be baptised with the Holy Spirit means that we are drawn into communion with God and we are also empowered by that communion to make a difference in the world – to reach out a helping hand to those in need and to proclaim the good news of Jesus through our actions and our words.

Baptism of the Lord

1st reading: Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7 *Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased. .*

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38 *God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11 *You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Deanery Scripture Study Update

The Brisbane East Deanery Scripture Study Group is still running and was thankful to be able to complete the study of the Gospels of Matthew despite the Covid restrictions this year.

Over 30 people across the deanery are signed up for the next study which commences in January.

The group are also hoping to run the 8 week 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' course which is a simple course helping you to make sense of the Bible and how it relates to your everyday life.

Please keep an eye on the newsletter for more information as it becomes available..

Position Vacant – Youth Coordinator

Applications are open for the above position at the Sunnybank Parish.

The position is a part-time 20 hour role.

For additional information, please visit the Archdiocese of Brisbane website <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/> and to careers.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for workers to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children. Our commitment to these standards requires that we conduct working with children checks and background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children and young people (0 - 18 years) and/or vulnerable adults. The organisation is fully committed to child safety and has a 0 tolerance to abuse of children or vulnerable adults.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"We do not evaluate [the past year] only through the sufferings, difficulties, and limitations caused by the pandemic. We glimpse the good received in each day, as well as the closeness and benevolence of people, the love of our loved ones, and the goodness of all those around us." ~ Pope Francis ~

We wish each of you a happy and healthy year in 2021 and look forward to seeing you.

May we continue to be grateful for the blessings we have in our lives.

Thank you for your continued support.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to our many volunteers who helped make our Christmas Masses a success. It was wonderful to see the church full at Christmas (within Covid limits of course!) Special thanks to our Liturgy Team and PPC Chair who were instrumental in ensuring everything flowed smoothly. Our ministry volunteers were generous with their time. We also extend our thanks to each of our parishioners and visitors who celebrated Christmas Mass with us for following the protocols and guidelines well and keeping our church and parish safe.

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F: <https://www.facebook.com/StThomasCatholicParishCampHill/>

Office hours

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

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest - Fr Christopher Obi
obic@bne.catholic.net.au

Children's Ministry Coordinator

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

Parish Secretary

Ms Lisa Moroney
stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au



PARISH GIVING APP

Check out our Parish Giving app to make contributing to the parish easier than ever:

www.camphillcatholicparish.org.au/planned-giving.html

We remember in our prayers

The sick:

Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Joan Burlew, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Olive Kiely, Sue Douglas, Tom Grant, Lauren Balcombe, Fr Ted Houlihan, Lola Radford, Sonia Mendez, Fr Ron Mollison, Cletus Obi, Mark, Marjorie Cusack, Joe Sherlock, Sue Lamb, Peter Owen, Jacob Mu

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Desmond Neave, Norma Lucas, Mervyn Scanlan, Pauline De Leacy, James Brown, Margaret Jones, Ellen Clarke, Mervyn Dean, Dorothy O'Brien, Florence Harris, Kevin Gee, Leo Burton, Vivian Aguila, Kenneth Russell, Norm White, Andrew Fleming, Maud Shannon, Olive Dean, Charlotte Gordon, Evelina Puntill, Thomas Mackenzie, Lea Trainor, Glen Carter, John Barker, Leo Ryan, Dennis Scott, Catherine Goodwin, Filippa Zammit, Russell Fitzpatrick, Ernest Swan, Ronald Henry, Ronald Ellis, Victoria Mercie, Tim O'Neil, Mary Hall, Myra Dickson, Teresa Simento, William 'Bill' Spamm, Josephine Podesta and Bruce McCormack.

