



St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 44

First Sunday of Advent

28th November 2021

From Fr Kevin Smith

Today the Church begins a new year with the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting in hope. Our Scriptures celebrate Christ's coming in history two millennia ago, his coming into our present lives and needs and his future advent when God's plan for our salvation reaches its fulfilment. The readings for each Sunday set before us all three modes of Christ's advent.

Jerimiah's prophecy presents a divine promise brimming with hope for the future arrival of a just leader bringing the chosen people safety and security. This prophecy carries even more weight when we consider that it was spoken at one of the darkest and lowest periods in Israel's history. The people are not even in their homeland. They have been deported to Babylon and the Temple levelled. The prophet's message is one of hope: "The days are coming."

People today experience dark days as well as a sense of loss and isolation for various reasons: illness, issues with aging, economic struggles, weakened or broken relationships. As Christians this can increase when we experience our voices dismissed as irrelevant or ridiculed as we offer a way of hope and respect. What guides us always is the knowledge that God's promise is already fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

A very sincere thank you to all who organised the recent Anointing Mass and luncheon. It was a wonderful day. Guests enjoyed a beautiful meal and valuable time together. To Fr Roger who presided at the Mass and to those who welcomed and served so generously, our heartfelt thanks. While this coming year brings to St Thomas's the arrival of your new Parish Priest, Fr Dantus, we must always remember the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit acting in the lives of the baptised and all people of good will. Fr Dantus will have gifts and experiences that are indeed unique but these build upon and join the life of faith that already exists in this community. The belonging we celebrate in our prayer, worship and service is needed as much now as ever before.

God bless and a happy Church new year,
Fr Kevin. Adm.



Christmas Mass Times 2021

Christmas Eve*

Friday 24th December

No 9.00am Mass

5.30pm ~ Family Mass

7.30pm ~ Christmas Vigil

Christmas Day

Saturday 25th December

8.30am ~ Christmas Mass

No 5.30pm Mass

Sunday 26th December

*Christmas Carols 20 minutes prior to Mass

We are taking bookings this year to get an idea of what numbers to expect at each Mass, however we will be utilising our outdoor space and everyone should be able to attend their Mass of choice.

Please book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2021-christmas-masses-tickets-215415201667>

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you.

First Sunday of Advent

1st reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 *I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 *When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36 *Your redemption is near at hand.*

PLEASE NOTE:

The Parish Office will be closed from **Friday 3rd December** to **Friday 10th December** inclusive.

We will reopen **Monday 13th December**.

If you need a priest urgently during this time, please contact Fr Kevin Smith at Bulimba Parish on 3399 2386. Sr Analissa will be available during her usual hours if needed.



Parish News & Notices

FOR A SYNODIAL CHURCH: COMMUNION PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

Last month dioceses around the world launched local preparations for the Synod of Bishops. The Catholic Church in Australia is inviting the People of God from every diocese to make submissions via an online portal open until 27 February.

All submissions received will help the Australian Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. This is not to be confused with the Australian Plenary Council which focusses on the Church in Australia; the Synod focusses on the Church globally.

The three dimensions of the Synod are Communion, Participation and Mission; the pillars of a Synodal Church. There is no hierarchy between them. Rather, each one enriches and orients the other two.

All group and individual submissions will be focused on one of the three dimensions. Participation can be via a small group process utilising the Listening and Discernment Adult Guide or individually with the Individual Reflection Guide. Copies of these guides can be found here: www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch

You can make your submission anonymously or you can provide your details at the end.

Submissions can be made here: https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2hoonYFZGcJRfdc



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL ENDS SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER

We ask for your support of our St Thomas' St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, offering a hand to those in our community who need assistance.

There are again a number of ways you can contribute:

- ♥ direct transfer to BSB: 064786/Acc no: 100026595. Please send an email to the parish office - stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au - once completed with name, address and amount, for your receipt.
- ♥ credit card or cash donations can be placed in the Appeal envelopes available from the stand near the exit to the church or use a clearly marked envelope with same details. Envelopes can be placed in the marked box near the exit door.
- ♥ single store gift vouchers from Coles, Woolworths, Aldi, Target, Kmart, or Best and Less - or we can, with discernment, utilise group gift cards from Coles/Myer or Woolworths group. Vouchers can also be placed in the labelled box near the exit door.

Donations of \$2 and over tax deductible (unfortunately vouchers are not tax deductible)

Thankyou for your continued support.

Position Vacant – Administration Assistant

Applications are open for the full-time 37.5hr position of Administration Assistant in the Archbishop's Office.

For information, please go to <https://clientapps.jobadder.com/68451/aob-internal-career-opportunities/398833/administration-assistant>

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.

The Week Ahead

Sun - Nov 28th	First Sunday of Advent Mass @ 8.30am & 5.30pm
Mon - Nov 29th	Mass @ 7am
Tues - Nov 30th	Mass @ 7am
Wed - Dec 1st	-
Thurs - Dec 2nd	Mass @ 9am
Fri - Dec 3rd	Mass @ 9am Final day of School Parish Office Closed
Sat - Dec 4th	Mass @ 5.30pm
Sun - Dec 5th	Second Sunday of Advent Mass @ 8.30am & 5.30pm



We remember in our prayers

The sick: Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Sue Douglas, Tom Grant, Lauren Balcombe, Lola Radford, Sonia Mendez, Fr Ron Mollison, Sue Lamb, Megan Bowden, Camel Horn, Fr Ian Wren, Lynn Toon, June Colch

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Harold Homann, Margaret McCann, Helen Malcolm, Leonardo Mariano, Leonard Smith, Mary McMahon, Arthur (Jim) Poole, Leo Shipperley, Cliff Dennis, Marie Holdsworth, Harold Gilder, Margaret Kilmartin, Joyce Ire-land, Patricia Hodges, Anna Graham, Patricia Peake, Norman Corrie, Reg Gamble, Shelia O'Donoghue, Brieon Down, William Bozier, Moira Murphy, Rose Knauth, Genevieve Phelan, Grace Spann, Stephen Lam, Robert Rafter, Luigi Marinucci, John Fry, Janina Pokoj, Eugene Vidulich, Elva Hargraves, Celie Cosgrove & Basil Nolan

CHRISTMAS HELPERS NEEDED

As we begin the Advent Season leading up to Christmas, we are again looking for volunteers to help at all three Christmas masses. This includes:

- * Mass organisers
- * Readers
- * Collectors
- * Communion Ministers
- * Cleaning teams (to wipe down seats etc.)
- * Setting up/putting away speaker/outside seating (Christmas Eve family mass)



It is a long-standing St Thomas' Parish tradition to involve our young children and families in retelling the Nativity as part of our Christmas Eve Family Mass. For this to go ahead again this year, it would be wonderful to have a couple of parents to co-ordinate the process, once we know if families are interested in participating.

Please contact the Parish office (stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au) or Amanda Sheridan, Liturgy Team Chair (asheridan@bne.catholic.edu.au) if you or members of your family can volunteer for any of the Christmas masses or would like your children to participate in the Nativity retelling.

CONTACT DETAILS:

31 Perth Street, Camp Hill 4152
PO BOX 685 Coorparoo QLD 4151

T: 3398 1154

E: stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

W: camphillcatholicparish.org.au

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

Office hours

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

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 8.30am

Sunday 5.30pm

Weekday Eucharist

Monday 7.00am

Tuesday 7.00am

Thursday 9.00am

Friday 9.00am

Public Holiday 9.00am

Reconciliation Call Parish Office

Adoration and Benediction

1st Friday After 9am Mass

Anointing of the Sick during Mass

Thursday 18th Nov @ 10.30am

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Administrator

Fr Kevin Smith

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Sr Analissa Balderama

cmc.stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Secretary

Ms Lisa Moroney

stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

**JOIN US FOR A
NIGHT
OF CAROLING!**

5:30pm Friday, December 17th 2021

**Laugh, Sing, Ring Bells and enjoy a Pizza Dinner
at St Thomas' Parish Church Hall.**

**Don't miss this memorable family event!
Come in Christmas bling!**

***RSVP 14th December for catering.
Tammie Davis 0404 883 499
(COVID safe plan in place)***

HOPE

sees the invisible,
feels the intangible
and achieves the impossible.

FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><u>28/11</u> First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Set up a nativity scene in your house but don't add baby Jesus just yet!</p> 	<p><u>29/11</u> ★</p> <p>Learn how to make origami stars. Every time you complete a daily task add a star to your nativity scene</p> 	<p><u>30/11</u></p> <p>Consider collecting gold coins, or buying a gift card, to donate to the Vinnies Christmas appeal</p> 	<p><u>01/12</u></p> <p>Who are the people who have helped you this year? Teachers, doctors, nurses, family. Pray for these people.</p> 	<p><u>02/12</u></p> <p>Share a smile and say hello to as many people as possible today.</p> 	<p><u>03/12</u></p> <p>What is the Christmas story? Make a book telling the story of Christmas and share it with somebody.</p> 	<p><u>04/12</u></p> <p>Look for ways you can be extra helpful around your home.</p> 



Did You Know?

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'arrival', signifying the arrival of Jesus Christ. It begins the new liturgical calendar and is a season of hope and spiritual preparation; focusing our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming and to the anniversary of His birth.

The liturgical colour for the season of Advent is violet or purple, symbolising preparation and repentance. Candles are an important symbol of Advent, representing hope and everlasting light. Traditionally there are four candles, each represent an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. The first candle is the Candle of Hope. Hope is a light that can brighten a dark place. We put our hope in Jesus as our Saviour.

Craft 4 Causes – Farewell

It is with deep sadness that we announce the conclusion of Craft for Causes (C4C).

Twelve years ago, we came together as a group of young Mums, hoping to raise money through craft and baked goods, for our beloved parish; our community. In those days we had babies on our hips and little preppies at St Thomas'. Parishioners, young and old, embraced our little idea and supported us through their talented creations and endless purchases. For this, we are truly grateful.

Over the years our Craft for Causes activities grew to include Fund Raising Morning Teas, Multi-Draw Raffles, Second Hand Book Sales, Linen Drives, Dignity Supplies, and of course our annual Christmas Stall which turned into a 3-day event!

Our goals were primarily to offer financial assistance to St Vincent De Paul who provide for those in need in our local community but ultimately C4C were able to donate much needed supplies to many other charities supporting our most vulnerable; the homeless, the hungry and victims of domestic violence.

Too many charities to individually name here, but we are proud to say that we donated over \$25,500.00 to St Vincent De Paul since we began and proudly supported over 30 other local charities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our bakers, sewers, preservers, crafters, gluers, shoppers, raffle ticket sellers and buyers, promoters, money counters, bankers, husbands and stall sellers. Thank you also to Lisa and Robin in the Parish Office who have given us endless assistance.

Now our little ones are big ones, in high school and driving cars. Our paths have altered, we now work full time and along came Covid. The time has come to close Craft for Causes and our fundraising efforts. We are very grateful for your support and we know that you too are proud that we have had this opportunity to bring our community together, to provide for those less fortunate than ourselves.

As we part, we have one last donation of \$2,500.00 for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal for 2021

We hope that you have a happy, Holy and safe Christmas.

Ange, MJ, Shelley and Michelle