



St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 47

First Sunday of Advent

29 November 2020

I laughed so hard when I recently visited the Year 3 students. They were investigating various professions and wanted to know what priests do. These children were nothing but smart and intelligent. From 'What do you do, Father Christopher?' to 'Do you have a pet?' 'What favourite pet would you love to have?' 'Are you lonely in your house?' 'If you live alone, do you miss your family?' 'Are you paid?' 'How do you spend your spare time?'... The questions kept coming and it was so amusing.

To be sure, we do not gain a good knowledge of each other in one quick encounter or few minutes. It does take some time for two friends to understand each other before they are able to chart a course of life together. I think this is how it is with our knowledge of Jesus Christ. We cannot be presented everything about him in one single liturgical year and so there is need for the liturgical cycles, A, B, and C. We want to understand how significant Jesus' example and way of life is for us. The end is to help us understand the gospel more deeply, so as to allow its contents to transform and shape our trajectory.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions put strain and stress on us throughout this year. Our eyes saw terrifying scenes of a world beyond imagination. But we cannot have our hearts stuck on the twists and turns of the COVID for too long. So Advent lays open for us an immensity of perspectives. From the first reading, we heard a very beautiful name given to God from of old: "You, Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer is your name from of old." This is so true because there is no situation or crisis God cannot free or redeem us. He can improve on every situation and this is why this year Advent season is so special. For our heart intends to stay alert and remain open, fixed on our redeemer.

Have a Blessed week, *Fr Christopher*



Did You Know?

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'coming' and is the beginning of the liturgical calendar - a season of 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. The four candles mark the four weeks before Christmas. Traditionally three candles are purple with the candle for the third, or "Gaudete", Sunday being rose. Traditionally each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus 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.



DON'T MISS OUT!

Registration for our Christmas Masses is essential. Details are over the page. **Please note**, the 5.30pm Family Mass is filling quickly so don't forget to book your tickets ASAP. Please contact the Parish Office with any problems or questions.

PLEASE NOTE:

9am Mass on Friday 4th December is cancelled as Fr Christopher will be presiding at the end of year School liturgy at St Thomas' school.



St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal

Dear Parishioners, St Thomas St Vincent de Paul Conference is now collecting for our **Annual Christmas Appeal** with a number of options for contributing.

Ideally we would love to receive **single store gift vouchers** from Coles, Woolworths, Aldi, Kmart, or Best & Less. If you can't find any single store cards, group gift cards from Coles/Myer or Woolworths can still be used with discernment. These can be placed in the labelled box at the church exit door.

Alternatively a monetary donation is most welcome. This can be by **direct transfer** to our bank account: Name: SVDP St Thomas Camp Hill. BSB: 064786. Acc no: 100026595. If you donate this way and would like a receipt, please email the parish office with name, address and amount given.

If you prefer to donate **cash or cheque**, then please place in an envelope clearly marked with SVDP Christmas Appeal, your name and address, and place in the marked box. Unfortunately a tax receipt can't be given for voucher donations.

We are very appreciative of any donations and grateful for your ongoing support of our work. **THANK YOU!**

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF CAROLING!

5:30pm Friday, December 18th 2020

Laugh, Sing, Ring Bells and celebrate Christmas
on the lawn at St Thomas' Parish.

Carol singing will be recorded to spread the message
of Peace, Joy and Hope to the
Parish/School Community (optional)

Practice sessions – Friday 4th & 11th Dec
at 5:30pm at St Thomas' Parish Hall

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

RSVP 11th December to Tammie Davis 0404 883 499
(COVID safe plan in place)



Reconciliation during Advent

The Second Rite of Reconciliation
will be celebrated
at St Thomas' Church
on Wednesday 16th December at 7pm

Individual Confession will be available on
Thursday 17th December at 6pm.

*Advent is the spiritual
season of Hope...
and in this season the
whole Church is called
to be hope,
for itself and for the world.*

Pope Benedict XV

Special Celebration

Earlier this year, Sr Analissa
celebrated the
25th Anniversary of her
profession of vows to the
Franciscan Immaculate
Sisters.

Unfortunately she wasn't
able to go to the Philippines
to celebrate, as planned.

Hopes of getting there later
in the year have been dashed
so we'd like to celebrate this
special occasion as a parish.

Join us for Mass on Sunday
6th December followed by a
special morning tea.

We hope you can make it.



Christmas Eve

5.30pm - Christmas Family Mass

7.30pm - Christmas Vigil Mass

11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8.30am - Morning Mass

As numbers are limited,
we ask you to register
for Mass via the link below
(or contact the Parish Office):

bit.ly/Christmas-Mass

We look forward to
seeing you there!

First Sunday of Advent

1st reading: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64:1, 3-8 *Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *The revelation we looked for, Christ*

We remember in our prayers

The sick: Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Joan Burlew, Betty Smith, 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

Recently Deceased: John (Vince) Earl, Maureen Twomey

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 Ireland, 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



Songs of Advent Joy

SONGS OF ADVENT JOY

Each Thursday in December (Dec 3, 10 and 17) commencing at 7:30pm, the Cathedral of St Stephen will again be filled with sound to celebrate the Season of Advent. Come and explore hymns, prayers and motets rejoicing in the coming of Christ at Christmas, all led by the Cathedral Schola.

Entry is by donation 'notes for notes' (with all money raised supporting the Cathedral Music program). Registration for the three evenings is via the Cathedral website:

<https://www.cathedralofststephen.org.au/christmas.html>

Songs of Advent Joy will be live-streamed for those who are unable to attend in person.

These will be accessible via <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast/>

Thank you to our wonderful Care & Concern group who put together a beautiful Healing Mass and Christmas Morning Tea last Thursday for our senior parishioners. After Mass they were treated to a concert from our littlest and oldest St Thomas' students (Prep & Grade 6 combined), while enjoying beautiful home baked goodies. Everyone was sent home with a delicious take home lunch pack with a ham and vegetable lunch, special gingerbread biscuit, Christmas pudding, Christmas cracker and a St Thomas' Christmas bookmark.

Special thanks go to Veronica, Terri, Teresa, Kay, Susette, Nicole and Liza for the time, energy and generosity they give all year to prepare these events. We are very grateful for the job they do. Thanks also to Laura, Amanda, Irene and Mary who assisted on the day to make it a special morning; to Virginia, Aurio, Mary Ann and Yannick for leading the singing at Mass; to Debbie, Brodie, Carly, Sarah and Maddie for their amazing baking; and to our school staff and students – it is always a delight to have them there!



CONTACT DETAILS:

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E: stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

W: camphillcatholicparish.org.au

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

A VOCATION VIEW:

*It's Advent; almost Christmas! A Season of dreams comes true. Be on guard.
The Lord may call you to follow Him.*

To talk to someone about your vocation, contact Vocation Brisbane:



1300 133 544

vocation@bne.catholic.net.au

vocationbrisbane.com.au