



St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 48

Second Sunday of Advent

06 December 2020

On the Gospel...and Sr Analissa.

This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the season of Advent. There are so many symbols as we prepare for Christmas ...Christmas Trees, coloured lights, carols, decorations and, of course, presents. But all of these symbols are just temporary. As soon as Christmas is over, they get cleaned up and packed away for next year. They are important though. These symbols help us to really experience Christmas. They are what Christmas sounds like, what it tastes, smells, looks and feels like. But the *Spirit of Christmas* is something entirely different. The Spirit of Christmas is what John the Baptist is talking about: Jesus. John baptises with symbols, like water that you can see, taste, smell, touch and hear, but Jesus... Jesus baptises with the Holy Spirit. Jesus fills us and the world with hope, faith, joy, love and peace that is everlasting. We might just need to try a little harder to notice the presence of the Holy Spirit but it's always there.

John promised that Jesus was the one people had longed for, the chosen, the light in darkness. Jesus walks with us on the journey if we let him. John prepared the way for Jesus. How are we preparing our hearts for Jesus' coming at Christmas? This week as we light the candle of Peace let us remember the words of Pope Frances.

"Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls".. Fratelli Tutti, 284

What's most exciting, is that the Holy Spirit isn't packed away after New Year's until next year with the rest of the Christmas symbols, it remains! So, we can experience and share the Holy Spirit all year round. (Caroline Sarra)

It took the zealous help of mystics and missionaries of the fifteenth century to bring about a vibrant spiritual growth envisioned by the Council Fathers of Trent [1545]. Both St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits and St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscans, believed we must live our lives by integrating personal prayer and daily activities in some measures. Their interest was on the spirituality of service experienced in the understanding that who God is, is not to be in any way excluded from who we are as persons and who we are to become.

As a Parish, we have been fortunate to host missionary orders as priests and religious over the years, but in recent times, a Franciscan Immaculata nun has been working for us. Sr Analissa has been a gift for our parish and a rare one at that. She is an instrument of peace in our office, bringing a sense of calm to all those she encounters. Her time and commitment to the sacramental preparation in our parish is priceless. Her contributions and physical presence in the parish confers practical legitimacy upon this truth that Christian followership is, of course, more of searching out genuine truth and love rather than when priests or religious try to safeguard their position. This week we are celebrating twenty-five years of her service to humanity, of dedication to God and a life of prayer. Though she may not want attention, this is the truth: she deserves to be celebrated on her Silver Jubilee. Kudos, Sister! .

The way of humility is the path lent to us in this Second week of Advent as shown in the ministry of John the Baptist: the less we think of ourselves, the greater the presence of Christ in us. On another level, the more the Christ in us, the lesser we become egoistic. The Gospel this weekend wants us to discover avenues of responding with God's love in our hearts and at the same time become reliable agents in the 'business' of administering the affairs of God's people within every day experience of living. John's message is a pointer to this kind of hope because he wants us to discover what possibly can help us build a new humanity, which he thinks lies in our accepting Jesus, the gift of hope God gave us.

Have a Blessed week, *Fr Christopher*



Advent. Did you know...

The second candle of Advent, the Bethlehem candle, represents peace. It symbolizes the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child. Jesus came to bring peace; to bring people closer to God and to each other.

Parish News & Notices



Closed

Please note:

The Parish Office will be closed
from 9th to 11th December.
There will be no newsletter next
week. Thank you.

*Peace is a gift of God,
but requires our efforts.
Let us be people of peace
in prayer and deed.*

Pope Francis



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.

Second Sunday of Advent

1st reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Prepare the way for the Lord.

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 *We wait
for new heavens and a new earth.*

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 *Make straight the
paths of the Lord.*

St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal

Donations of single store gift vouchers from Coles, Woolies,
Aldi, Kmart, or Best & Less are gratefully received. Please
place in the labelled box at the church exit door.

Alternatively a monetary donation is most welcome via
direct transfer to Name: SVDP ST Thomas Camp Hill. BSB:
064786. Acc no: 100026595. If you donate this way and
would like a receipt, email the parish office with name,
address and amount.

If you prefer to donate cash or cheque,
please place in an envelope marked with
SVDP Christmas Appeal, your name and
address, and place in the marked box. Un-
fortunately a tax receipt can't be given for
voucher donations. We appreciate your ongoing support.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

5.30pm - Christmas Family Mass

7.30pm - Christmas Vigil Mass

11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8.30am - Morning Mass



RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL

Please book via this link bit.ly/Christmas-Mass

(or contact the Parish Office):

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please note: Our 5.30m Family Mass is nearly at
full capacity.

Please contact the Parish Office regarding this Mass.

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

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Benjamin Longland, Francis Cosgrove, Arthur Gorski, Leslie Dossetto, Allan Rogers, Margaret Catchpole, Olive Dean, John
Milford, Kathleen Jessop, Madge Sapsford, William Peake, Daniel Barry, Marjorie Croft, Fred White, Margaret White, Barry
Harding, Susan Ballinger, Jack Ballinger, Theresa Hourigan, Nancy Dowling, Patrick Radford, John McKenna, Ken Murray,
Ruby Johnston, Mary McNamara, Margaret Goakes, Patricia O'Leary





St Thomas' Parish wishes many blessings to Sr Analissa as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of her profession of vows to the Franciscan Immaculatine Sisters.

Her devotion and faithful service to the Lord - and our parish - has touched many of our hearts. She is a blessing to all of us and we are honoured to celebrate with her.

Sr Analissa, May the Lord continue to bless you and bring you His peace and joy.

Praise with Song

Our St Thomas' Music Ministry invite you to join us each Sunday morning from 8am for 15-20 minutes of 'praise with song' before Mass.

We will be singing new hymns and old favourites. This is not a choir - everyone is welcome to join us to prepare for worship with uplifting and prayerful song.

We hope to see you there!



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.cathedralofstephen.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/>

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We now have a dedicated email address for our Local Safeguarding Rep (LSR), David Colch. If you have questions, comments or wish to make a confidential report, please email

lsr.stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au

For more information on Safeguarding within the Archdiocese of Brisbane, go to their website: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

CONTACT DETAILS:

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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



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 wish our St Thomas' school families and staff a very happy Christmas and a safe and restful break,

We thank you them for their support in 2020 and send special blessings to those families who are leaving the school. Our door is always open to welcome you.