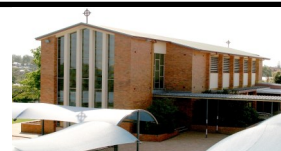


St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 50

Nativity of the Lord, Holy Family & Epiphany

25 December 2020



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ST THOMAS' PARISH



Christmas is a time of sharing, a time of joy and family reunion. Though this year has been an interesting one, we have drawn new vigour from our faith. May this Christmas bless and bring us and our loved ones joy, peace, and fresh strength from our Lord Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Fr Christopher

On behalf of St Thomas' Catholic Primary School, I'd like to extend my best Christmas wishes to all members of our faith filled community. This year, our school deepened our Catholic identity by exploring the value of FAITH. Our 2020 theme, 'Faith Gives Us Wings', has helped guide us through a challenging year. We used the symbol of the butterfly to remind us that FAITH GIVES US WINGS, as we encounter the struggles and challenges that accompany the challenges in our lives. We were also reminded that St Thomas encourages us to keep hope in things we cannot see. We look forward to nurturing our relationship with the Parish in 2021, as we explore the value of Justice as a school community.

Travel gently. Mike Armstrong (Principal)

Pope Francis espouses "To lead a life as a gift to others is the best way to change the world". 2020 has most certainly been a time where we have had to manage many changes to our lives in many ways. We should never be afraid of change! Here at St Thomas the Apostle Parish I have witnessed us together embrace change and move forward in hope. It is true to say we have been blessed with many gifts! On behalf of the PPC I would like to thank all the people who work in our ministries, our office staff and our parishioners for the kindness, support and generosity they have shown to one another during a year like no other. Your giving of yourselves ensures that our parish is a vibrant one where the message of Jesus Christ is witnessed to in a whole variety of ways. Your hearts and presence make such a huge difference to our parish.

May God be with you all during this Christmas season and as we go forward. May he fill our hearts with peace and hope and may you all experience his presence during this joyous season. I look forward to sharing time with you all throughout 2021.

Caroline Sarra (PPC Chairperson)

This year has been challenging on many levels. Notwithstanding the significant challenges we've had, I am very grateful for the continued financial support of the Parish during this time. While we have endured a loss of cash giving, notably at Mass, we have been supplemented by Jobkeeper (until 30 September) and the continued giving of many parishioners via direct debit and credit card. We have ended the year in a sound financial position. We will need to continue work together as a parish community over the coming year to develop a clearer understanding of the enduring impact of the pandemic on the parish's finances. Thank you to the members of the Finance Council for their support this year. On the Council's behalf, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Anthony Oostenbroek (PFC Chairperson)

When Jesus came on the first Christmas more than two thousand years ago, He was given a cold/indifferent welcome. The Nativity story told us Mary had to give birth to baby Jesus in the stable because there was no room in the inn. But was there really no more room in the inn? If we find out there is no more room in the inn of our hearts, are we willing to make room? Are we willing to open the door of our hearts, let Him enter, give him a warm welcome and let him fill us with his blessings? Hopefully these weeks of Advent help us prepare for Jesus' coming not only this Christmas but everyday and every moment of our lives.

On behalf of the Sacramental Team, Altar Servers and Children's Liturgy Team I wish you, your families and loved ones a Blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!

Sr Analissa, Children's Ministry Coordinator

2020 will be remembered for many things; a year where so many people here, and around the world have experienced grief, anxiety and enormous challenge. However, it has also been a time of connection, where we have witnessed acts of great kindness, love and compassion (people paying for others' groceries, chalk drawings and messages on footpaths, teddies in windows). It's been a time of reflection and thinking creatively about how we do things differently. This has been evident in the way we have celebrated mass, organised Care and Concern events and reached out to those in need in our parish. On behalf of the Parish Liturgy Team, I'd like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to our volunteers for contributing to making St Thomas' the wonderful welcoming community to which we belong.

Amanda Sheridan, Liturgy Team



Please note:
The Parish Office will be closed from
Thursday 24th December and will
reopen on Thursday 7th January.
Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2021 **DATE CLAIMER**

Preparation for **First Reconciliation** will commence early in 2021. Please note the following dates:

6/7 February - Enrolment Weekend/Parent Info Session
13/14 February - Commitment Weekend
20/21 February - Activity Weekend
27/28 February - Activity Weekend
6 March - Workshop
14 March - Actual Celebration of First Reconciliation

Sr Analissa will be in contact with school families who are eligible in January.
Please contact cmc.stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au if you have any questions.

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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

CATHOLIC LEADER
MATILDA POWICK,
LOVED FROM HEAD
TO HER LITTLE TOE

Christmas special

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the Archdiocese of Brisbane



Important Notice: Masses in January

Fr Christopher will be on leave from 28th December.

There will be no weekday Masses from 28th December through to 22nd January inclusive **except for New Years Day (Friday 1st January) when Mass will be celebrated at 9am.**

We extend a warm welcome to Fr Pan Jordan will be celebrating Mass on the weekends of 2/3 January, 9/10 January and 16/17 January.

SUDP Christmas Appeal

Our Christmas appeal is now closed. Thank you for your generous donations.

Thank you also to Terri Butler, Federal Member for Griffith, for supporting our appeal.

*Merry Christmas from
St Vincent de Paul, Camp Hill Conference*



The Nativity of the Lord

1st reading: Isaiah 9: 1-7 *A son is given to us.*

2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11-14 *God's grace has been revealed to all people.*

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14 *Today a saviour has been born for you.*

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1st reading: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14 *Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 *Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40 *The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

We remember in our prayers

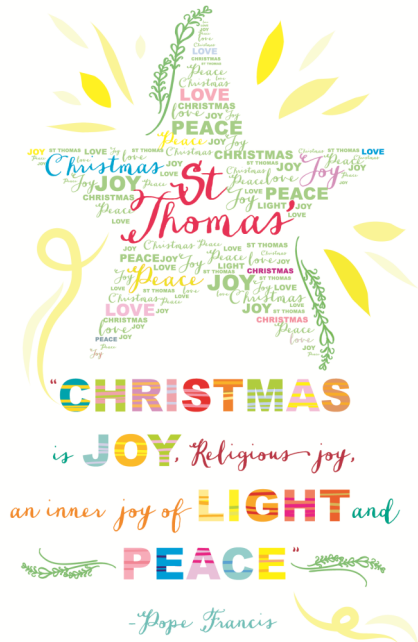
The sick: Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Joan Burlew, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Olive Kiely, Sue Douglas, Tom Grant, Lauren Balcombe, Fr Ted Houlihan, Lola Radford, Sonia Menendez, Fr Ron Mollison, Cletus Obi, Mark, Marjorie Cusack, Joe Sherlock, Sue Lamb, Peter Owen,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

Recently Deceased: Betty Smith

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





From the Parish Office:

This time last year who could have predicted how Christmas would be looking this year! In a year of much change, fear and disappointment it has been a challenge to keep moving and stay positive. However, this pandemic has also shone a light on how important it is to keep faith and be thankful for what we have. I have learnt a lot this year - about practical things like setting up a Facebook page, managing bookings for Mass and cleaning the church - but mostly how lucky we are to have a community that has adapted so well to change, has looked after each other and above all has been hopeful. I knew we had a pretty special community here already but this year has confirmed it in spades!

Heartfelt thanks to our amazing volunteers who make my job so much easier, and to all our parishioners who have supported us in many ways. I wish you all a joyous and peace-filled Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2021!

Lisa Moroney, Parish Secretary

Please note: this will be our final newsletter until weekend of 9/10 January.

ST THOMAS' CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Despite having to move to the Parish Hall, our Christmas Carols last Friday night were a great success and a lovely way to get in the festive spirit. Thanks so much to Neisha, Tammie and their band of musicians who pulled it off and to everyone who helped make it happen. Thank you especially to those who came along to enjoy the music in a Covid-safe way!



PARISH GIVING

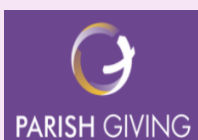
We thank our parishioners for your ongoing financial support this year. If you are unable to give at Mass, we have a Parish Giving app which makes contributing to the parish very easy.

You can also choose to give by Credit Card or Direct Debit.

Please visit our website for details:

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

Thank you!



Don't forget to Like our Parish Facebook page to keep up to date with parish news and events,

Search for
St Thomas the Apostle Parish
Camp Hill
or [click here](#)

St Thomas' Prayer Wall

When Covid-19 hit we created a Prayer Wall for our parish community to share prayers virtually, while we were apart.

We are now able to gather again however we invite you to continue to share prayers on our Prayer Wall as we enter this joyful time of celebration at Christmas - the perfect time to give thanks for what we have and pray for those less fortunate.

Please feel free to visit the wall and leave a prayer:

<https://padlet.com/>