



St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 50

Third Sunday of Advent

15 December 2019

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Office hours

8:30 am - 1:30pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday 5.30pm
Sunday 8.30am
Sunday 5.30pm

Weekday Eucharist

Monday 6.30am
Tuesday 6.30am
Thursday 9.00am
Friday 9.00am
Public Holiday 9.00am

Reconciliation

Friday 6.00pm
Saturday 5.00pm

Adoration and Benediction

1st Friday After 9am Mass

Anointing of the Sick during Mass

Thursday 5th December 2019
@10.30am

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest

Fr Christopher Obi

obic@bne.catholic.net.au

Children's Ministry Coordinator

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

Parish Secretary

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

SCHOOL:

St Thomas' School (P-6)

10 Stephen St, Camp Hill 4152
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W: stthomascamphill.qld.edu.au
Principal Mike Armstrong
APRE Letitia Lee

The theme for this Third weekend of Advent says that we must think concretely, about what is the correct vantage point from which to see Jesus Christ clearly. Now, I think the best position to take is to place ourselves at a spot where our hopes are not placed on the wrong signs. Yes, we may have doubts and questions like John the Baptist had while in prison. However, John was a man who loved silence. While undergoing his desert experience, he was able to reach into the deep recesses of his heart and identified the purpose of his mission and vocation.

Here again, another story from Anthony de Mello's *'The Song of the Bird'*. This time, it was about Jesus Christ attending a football match. He had never been to one. So his friends took him to one. It was between the Protestant Punchers and Catholic Crusaders. The game was ferocious. First, the Crusaders scored. Jesus cheered wildly and threw his hat high up in the air. Then the Punchers scored. Jesus cheered wildly and threw his hat high up in the air. But the puzzled onlooker sitting behind him, tapped Jesus on the shoulder and asked, "Which side are you rooting for, my good man?" "Me?" replied Jesus, very excited, "I'm not rooting for either side. I'm just enjoying the game." To this answer, the questioner turned to the person sitting beside him and sneered, "Hmm, an atheist!"

After the game, his friends took him up concerning the game. Does it mean that Jesus Christ was in the habit of not taking sides? But that's not true. Jesus does take sides with the people rather than religion; the side of human beings rather than solemn rituals. The lesson from the story is this, as disciples of Christ, perhaps, we need to try and keep being rooted in the joy of the master, Jesus, who sides with the people.

This implies, in turn, that there're ways of offering to help convince others that indeed the Messiah is here among us. By the help we give to the poor orphan; by becoming champions of the oppressed and ambassadors of prophet Isaiah's society, that is, a real paradise. On my side, this January, in the company of families, and with the assistance of faithful friends and Believers, I'll love to encourage and support the lay apostolate and nuns taking care of the mentally handicapped, orphans, and supporting the girl-child education in my community. In this way, we attest, in the words of Léon Bloy, that *"joy is an infallible sign of God's presence"* through building a relationship with Jesus Christ. For we, as collaborators with Christ, join in siding with human beings!

God Bless you,
Fr Christopher

Advent Candles.

The third candle of Advent symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies joy.

Please see back page for more on Advent...



Third Sunday of Advent

1st reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 *The desert will rejoice and blossom.*

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10 *You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 *Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*



We remember in our prayers

The sick: Betty Bendel, Jim Paterson, Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Matilda Elisabeth Swain, Joan Burlew, Betty Smith, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Olive Kiely, Sue Douglas, Jim Clifford, Tom Grant and Lauren Balcombe

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

Reconciliation during Advent

Second Rite of Reconciliation
Tuesday 17th December at 7pm

Individual Confessions
Wednesday 18th December at 7pm



Please Note!

There will be **no 6.30am Mass on Tuesday 17th December** as the Church floors are being cleaned and need time to dry,

We apologise for any inconvenience.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas from Friday 20th December and re-open on Monday 13th January.

DONATIONS NEEDED -

BY MONDAY 16th DECEMBER

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

This weekend, please consider throwing a single store gift voucher - Coles, Woolies, Kmart, Target etc - into your shopping basket for the SVDP Christmas Appeal. Any amount appreciated (min voucher value \$5). Cash/cheque donations also welcome.

Please place donations in the locked box on the wall at the main entrance or on the collection plate in a marked envelope. **Thank you!**

2019 NATIVITY PLAY

Children of St Thomas' parish are invited to join the Christmas Nativity at the Family Christmas Mass on **Tues 24th December 2019 at 5.30pm.**



Please call **Tammie on 0404 883 499 by 18th December.** We would also appreciate any help with the planning & preparation of the play.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to each of our wonderful volunteers for everything you do. All parish volunteers are required to meet certain Archdiocese of Brisbane Safeguarding requirements.

If you haven't yet started your registration, or would like to volunteer for something, please register via the link below and we will be in touch!



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE
The Face of the Catholic Church in South East Queensland

Welcome



To complete your
Volunteer Registration

Go to <http://archbne.org/welcome>

JOY is a gift from God.
It fills us from within.

~ Pope Francis ~

St Thomas the Apostle Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve ~ TUESDAY 24th December *

5.30pm - Christmas Family Mass

7.30pm - Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day – WEDNESDAY 25th December

8.30am - Christmas Morning Mass

Christmas Carols will be sung 20 minutes before each Mass on Christmas Eve.

New Year's Day - WEDNESDAY 1st January
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Mass at 9am

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Coorparoo Qld

invites applications for the part-time position of **Finance Officer**

(10 hours per week : 6 hours one day and four the next)

The successful applicant will:

- Demonstrate ability in providing reception services and administrative support.
- Knowledge of BAS reporting and accounting software packages preferably MYOB or QuickBooks.
- Well-developed written and oral communication skills and interpersonal skills for providing customer service.
- Demonstrated capacity to work both independently and with others.
- A willingness to work within the Mission and Vision of the Catholic Church.

Specific responsibilities include:

Banking, financial management, database entry, document preparation, photocopying and filing.

For a the position description and to apply for this position, visit <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers/> .

Applications should include two (2) referees one of which preferably should be a Parish Priest.

Applications close Wednesday 8th January 2020.

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.

Liturgy Roster

The Week Ahead

Sun - Dec 15	Third Sunday of Advent
Mon - Dec 16	Church Floor Cleaning
Tue - Dec 17	No 6.30am Mass
Wed - Dec 18	
Thur - Dec 19	
Fri - Dec 20	Parish Office Closed
Sat - Dec 21	
Sun - Dec 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent

21 & 22 December	Saturday Vigil	Sunday Morning	Sunday Night
Mass Organisers	Maria Loyola	Annette Bongriorno	Brian & Chris Harding
Altar Servers	Annabelle Yeates	Riley Gaffney Erin Gaffney William Dolphin	-
Readers	Diane Kearney Charlotte Yeates Eliza Yeates	Damien Rossi Trish McGrath Terry McGrath	Brian Harding Melissa Zulpo Lara Zulpo
Communion	Amanda Yeates	Amanda Sheridan Lyn Kasatchenko Letitia Lee	Chris Harding A Marinucci-Kelly Tim Stephens
AV Operators	-	-	-

Advent: Did you know...the meaning of Poinsettias?

You will notice some beautiful red poinsettias being used in our Liturgical decoration for Advent. The shape of the poinsettia's flower and leaves resemble the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Magi to the Christ Child. The red colour reminds us of Christ's Blood, shed for our salvation. Some poinsettias have white leaves, which remind us of Christ's purity. Green symbolizes life and hope.



There is an old Mexican legend about how the poinsettia and Christmas originally became connected: *Once, there was a poor Mexican girl named Pepita who had no present to give the Baby Jesus at Christmas Eve Mass. As Pepita walked, sadly, to the chapel, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. "Pepita," he said. "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy."*

Still not knowing what she could give, Pepita picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a bouquet. Having only this small present to give Jesus made Pepita embarrassed. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had told her. Feeling a bit better, she knelt down and laid the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene.

Amazingly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that Christmas Eve forward, the bright red poinsettia flowers were known as the "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy Night."

Sun 15th December Third Sunday of Advent	<i>Add more decorations to your Christmas tree and light three candles including the rose candle.</i>
Mon 16th December	<i>Encourage someone you see struggling today.</i>
Tues 17th December	<i>Jesus, Mary and Joseph were refugees. Take some time to pray for immigrants and refugees.</i>
Wed 18th December	<i>Make a Christmas themed video to send to family and friends.</i>
Thurs 19th December	<i>Investigate Christmas traditions of another country and pray for the people of that country.</i>
Fri 20th December	<i>Have some family time and watch your favourite Christmas movie together.</i>
Sat 21st December	<i>Investigate the town of Nazareth. What is it like today? Who lives there?</i>



PARISH PICS



On Thursday 5th December, St Thomas' Care & Concern Group hosted it's annual Christmas Lunch.

The day began with a Healing Mass at 10.30am, followed by a delicious hot lunch in the parish hall and amazing sweet treats to follow.

Guests were entertained by St Thomas' Prep classes who sang for us. There were also lots of lucky door prizes and raffles - no one went home empty handed!

Lola Radford shared with us that St Thomas' Care & Concern Group first started 32 years ago as a joint initiative with the local Anglican parish.

What a wonderful group they created!



All are welcome!

If you know anyone who might like to come along next year, please let the Parish Office know and we'll make sure they get an invitation.



Special thanks to the Care & Concern team who worked tirelessly to prepare and serve the lunch (only some of who are pictured here!).