

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS:

We take this opportunity to welcome all new parish members. We hope that you find St Thomas the Apostle a friendly parish community. Please join us after the 7.30am and 9.30am Masses for a 'cuppa' in the parish centre. Say hello to Father, meet some new/old friends, sit down and have a chat. Please become part of the family of St Thomas the Apostle. See you there!



This week's Sanctuary Lamp burns for;

Eduard von Perger

If you would like to have the lamp burn for a week, please put the details and \$10 in an envelope and hand to Fr Wayne in the Sunday collection or to the parish Office or in the mail box.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all parishioners and their families all the best for the New Year of 2024 and many blessings. **May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.** May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow

upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year. May St Thomas watch over us and protect us, and may Our Lord walk with us on our journeys this year. Fr Wayne

We welcome into the parish community through the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend:

Tommy Bailey

We ask for God's blessing upon him and his family as they journey through life, with Jesus beside them.



Thank you for your wonderful contributions to our Christmas Hampers appeal. With your help plus great support from St Thomas School and John XXIII College we were able to distribute 72 hampers to families in need over Christmas. Could I ask that you continue with regular donations now please as we have now delivered all the Christmas Goodies.



Maureen Gardner and the Romily House Team would like to thank all parishioners for their generous donations of presents for Christmas, and to those who sang and played at the Christmas carols. Well done everyone

SOLEMN PROFESSION OF SR MARIE CHRISSIE OF TRINITY

You are invited to the Solemn Profession of Sr Marie Chrissie of Trinity on Saturday, 20th January 2024 - 10 AM at Carmelite Monastery, 100 Adelma Road, Dalkeith. Archbishop Costelloe will preside. Light refreshment will follow the Ceremony and Mass.

Next Weekend's Readings 2nd Week in Ordinary Time

1Sam 3:3-10,19 !Cor 6:13-15,17-20 Jn 1:35-42



Parish Priest: Fr Wayne Davis

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MASS TIMES THIS WEEK:

Tue: 9.00am Mass

Wed: 9.00am Mass

Thu: 9.00am Mass

Fri: 9.00am Mass

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm Children's Mass

Sunday: 7.30am, 9.30am

RECONCILIATION: Sat: 4.30-5.00pm



**Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
Year B Jan 6-7 2024**



My dear parishioners, this weekend we celebrate the coming of the Magi, the wise ones from the East. Astrologers, sages, wise men. They came following a star, not knowing what they would find. They searched and and found the infant Christ child. In finding him they were transformed as were their lives. So too with you and I. we search for the Christ child, and sometimes we find Him in places we never expected and in people and circumstances we never expected. For me, I have found Him in my family, friends and you the parishioners. You have

shown me the face of Jesus in so many and wonderful ways, and for that I am thankful and blest. I saw my specialist today, and though he is happy with my progress he is worries anout the low white cell count. So I have to be really careful about infections etc for the next few weeks. My next round of Chemo is on Thursday 11th, which I am not looking forward to but know it is necessary. I just pray that it doesn't knock me like last time. Be safe and well all of you, love those around you. Like the wise ones, follow the star and you never know where you will be led to encounter Christ. Fr Wayne



On entering the house they saw the child with Mary, His mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11



Have you thought? Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewishness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

PLEASE remember to turn you phone off or on silent when in the church. Thank you.



We welcome back to the parish Rossana who will be here looking after the office on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.00am until 2.00pm. I am sure you will make her welcome.

I AM THE NEW YEAR (Bible Illustrator)

I am the new year, an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life in the last twelve months. All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search for it, but with more determination. All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant you when you have fewer conflicting desires. All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped for but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, *"Behold, I make all things new."*

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate *Stars and Seekers after Truth*

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem. They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child. Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth. As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth. We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.



An Australia Day Mass will be held this Friday, 26 January 2022 at 8.00am in the Church. All welcome as we pray for this great country of ours, and her peoples.

Prayer to St Thomas the Apostle

Almighty and everlasting God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with sure and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Granny Davis's Cherry Cake

Ingredients: 2 ½ cups chopped glace cherries + 1/4 cup plain flour 1 ½ cups butter 2 cups sugar 3 eggs
2 tsp vanilla extract 2 tsp almond extract 3 cups plain flour 1 ½ tsp baking powder
1 cup lukewarm, undiluted evaporated milk

Method: Rinse the cherries in a colander to remove any syrup that they may have been stored in. Pat them dry between layers of paper towels. This step helps prevent the cherries sinking into the batter as well. Depending on their size, cut them into halves or quarters and set aside for later. They will get tossed in 1/4 cup of flour later but not until just before they are folded into the batter. Cream together the butter and sugar well. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition until light and fluffy. Beat in the vanilla and almond extracts. Sift together the 3 cups of flour and baking powder. Fold dry ingredients into the creamed mixture alternately with the lukewarm milk, beginning and ending with the dry ingredients. Fold in the chopped glace cherries that have been tossed at the last minute in the 1/4 cup flour. Bake in greased and floured spring form pan, tube pan or two 9x5 inch loaf pans, lined with parchment paper. Bake at 180C for 45 minutes - 1 hour depending upon the size of your cake pan/s. Baking times vary greatly on this recipe so rely on the toothpick test to ensure that it is properly baked. When a wooden toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, it's done. Be careful not to go past this stage or the cake will be dry. Let the cake cool in the pan/s for 10 minutes before turning it out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM: Are you in the St Thomas' Parish Planned Giving Program? Would you like to join the Program? When you join, you will assist the Finance Committee in planning for the Parish's future on-going costs. If you would like to lend your support in this way, please phone Prue at the Parish Office on 9384 0598 during office hours, or fill in one of the direct debit forms available at the back of the church. **REQUEST. Direct Debit Forms are available from the parish office, or the back of the church. Please email me to forward one to you. Thanks Prue**

Do we have your email address? If you have changed your email address, please let us know by contacting us at our email address: claremont@perthcatholic.org.au If you would like to receive the parish bulletin each week please email us and we will place you on the list. The bulletin is emailed out each Friday Afternoon. By having your email we can send you the latest information on Covid19 and how it affects us in the church.

APOSTLES' CREED.... I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. **Amen.**

GLORIA.... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS...

First Reading A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.



Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way. **The Gospel of the Lord.**