



CLAREMONT WA

Parish Priest: Fr Wayne Davis

Secretary: Prue Pupazzoni

Priest Administrator:

Fr Richard Rutkauskas

Address: 2 College Road
Claremont WA 6010

Telephone: 9384 0598

Email: claremont@perthcatholic.org.au

Web: www.claremontparish.com.au

Office Hours: Tues, Wed & Fri
9.00am-2.00pm

Safeguarding Officers—Contact Nos:

Mr Ralph Goodman: 0419 740 443

Ms Janet Payton: 0438 212 053

Inclusivity Co-Ordinator

Louise Davenport: 0428 752 913

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK:

Tue: 9.00am Mass

Wed: 12.30pm Mass

Thu: 9.00am Mass

Fri: 9.00am Mass

Saturday: 5.30pm Family Mass

Sunday: 7.30am, 9.30am Mass

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30-5.00pm

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING AND PRAYER

Fr Wayne : O God, bless this Advent Wreath, may it help us prepare to welcome Jesus, your Son into our world and lives, may the light of his love shine through us, for ever and ever. Amen.

[Second candle is lit.]

All pray: Come Lord Jesus. Warm our hearts with your love. Help us prepare for your coming. Help us to see the good things we can do. Help us to see the good things others can do. Come Lord Jesus.



This week's Sanctuary Lamp burns for;
Patrick Marsh

If you would like the lamp for a week, please put the persons details and \$10 in an envelope and hand to Prue in the Parish Office or in the mail box.

Please keep taking precautions by washing your hands with the sanitizer provided in the church. If you are feeling unwell please wear a mask.



THE ROSARY IS RECITED IN ST THOMAS' CHURCH at 12.00 noon each Wednesday. If you have a special intention, please phone Stephanie 0408 798 174. You are very welcome to come and join us in prayer to Our Lady.



**THE WEDNESDAY LUNCH
CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13:**

Come & join us after the 12.30pm Mass on Wednesdays for a light lunch

& friendly fellowship in the parish centre. All welcome to come along. Please ring the office to let us know your coming for catering purposes.



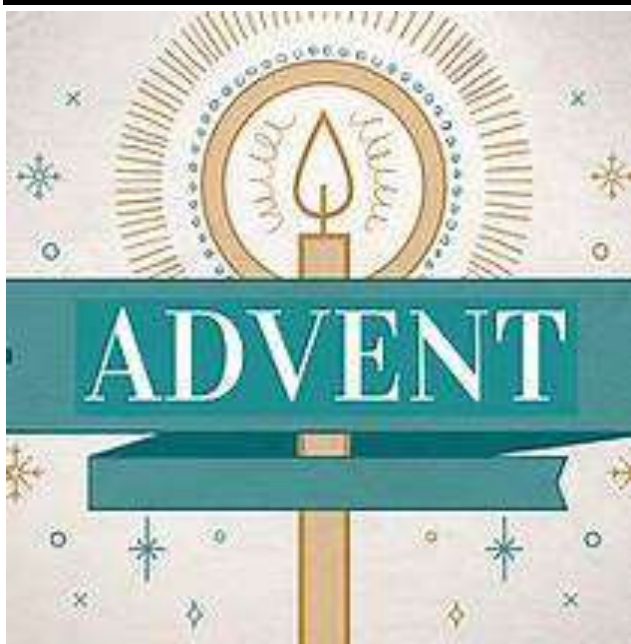
Wishing all the children, teachers and staff a wonderful summer break. Be safe, rest and relax, enjoy the time with family and friends wherever you may be. Travel safe and we will see you all in 2024.

**Please use only the RED PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES.
Please dispose of your OLD green envelopes.**

**The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B
DECEMBER 9-10 2023**

Next Weekend's Readings: Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2. 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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 here!



Thankyou for your support this year. We are about to distribute 74 Christmas hampers of food and toiletries to our needy clients following donations from; parishioners, Iona Presentation College, St Thomas School, Carmelite Convent, John XXIII College and boxes placed in IGA stores and Cottesloe Golf Club. We now have enough pasta in the pantry to feed Italy for a week but continue to need other staples. Any excess to requirements will go to the Moora Parish". God bless all. Vinnies team.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ROMILY HOUSE.... As in previous years, we are once again asking for donations of wrapped Christmas gifts for Romily House noting the gender. There are 40 men and 10 females. Please place your gifts in the basket in the foyer of the Church. We invite parishioners to join our little choir on Friday December 22 at 4.30pm at Romily House 19 Shenton Road, Claremont . Enq: Maureen Gardner 0435836647 or

gardnerm@inet.net.au

ALMOND SHORTBREAD BALLS [easy children's recipe]

Ingredients: 2 cup (285g) plain flour 200 gram butter, chopped 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract 1/3 cup (75g) caster sugar 2/3 cup (100g) finely chopped blanched almonds or roughly chopped slivered almonds caster sugar, for dusting

Method: Preheat oven to 160°C (140°C fan-forced). Line an oven tray with baking paper. Place flour in a medium bowl; rub in butter. Add remaining ingredients and knead together on a clean surface until mixture comes together. Roll into balls the size of walnuts. Place on prepared tray, bake for 15 minutes or until light golden brown. While short bread balls are still hot, toss in caster sugar.

On Your Anniversary of
Ordination To The Priesthood



We congratulate Fr Richard on the celebration of his 36th Anniversary of Ordination 5th December. Thank you for your ministry and service to God's people and to us here at St Thomas's.

Parish Prayer to St Thomas the Apostle

O St Thomas, the Apostle, Father of our faith, you spread the light of Christ in the hearts of all. You humbly confessed "My Lord and My God" and sacrificed your life for love of him. We pray to you to strengthen us with love and faith in Jesus Christ so that we may dedicate ourselves totally to the cause of the kingdom of justice, peace and love. We pray that through your intercession we may be protected from all trials, dangers and temptations and be strengthened in the love of the Triune God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I am doing volunteer work for a group called "Fostering Hope" this group support foster carers in providing clean clothes, baby toys, prams, cots, car seats, formula and all sorts of baby/child equipment for foster families. If you have any of the above in good condition and wish to donate please contact me at the Parish office. The organisers of Fostering Hope insist that foster children are entitled to good up to date quality gear. **The Fostering Hope team wish to thank parishioners from Claremont for your kind and generous donations.** Thank you , Prue Pupazzoni



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





Christmas Mass Schedule

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES— DECEMBER 2023

Saturday 23rd December 5.30pm Mass
Sunday Morning 24th December 7.30 and 9.30am Mass
Sunday Evening 24 December—CHRISTMAS EVE:
 5.00pm Christmas Carols 5.30pm Children's Mass
 7.30pm Christmas Carols then 8.00pm Family Mass
Monday 25 December—CHRISTMAS DAY:
 7.30am Family Mass and 9.30am Family Mass

Saturday, 30 December 5.30pm Mass

Sunday 31st December— New Years Eve 7.30, 9.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass

Monday 1st January— NEW YEAR'S DAY: 8.00am Mass

Please Note: There will be no weekday masses from 2nd January through to 5th January to allow Fr Richard a bit of a rest. Mass will return on Saturday 6th for the 5.30pm evening mass.

Gospel Reflection By Greg Sunter

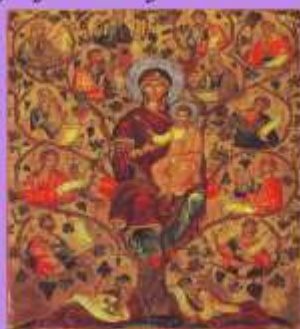
This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the **celebration** of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry. John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

Blessing for Christmas Crib: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy, peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this crib, may they remind us of the humble birth of Jesus and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, who lives for ever and ever. **Amen**



The Road to Bethlehem

Nine Readings and Carols in
preparation for Christmas



Thursday 7 December 2023 at 7pm
and

Sunday 10 December 2023 at 2pm
St Thomas the Apostle Church
College Road Claremont



What are three things you can do to be ready
for Jesus during this second week of Advent?



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
email list. The bulletin
is emailed out each
Friday afternoon.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS....

First Reading A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes. **Word of the Lord**

Responsorial Psalm (R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace. **Word of the Lord**

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia, alleluia!*

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit. **Gospel of the Lord**



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.**