



CLAREMONT WA

**Parish Priest:** Fr Wayne Davis

**Secretary:** Prue Pupazzoni

**Priest Administrator:**

Fr Richard Rutkauskas

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**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:** 9.00am 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 CANDLE BLESSING AND PRAYER**

**Fr Wayne :** O God, bless this Advent Candle, 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.

[Third candle is lit.]

**All pray:** Jesus, we want your coming to make a difference in how we live and love. Open our hearts to hear your words telling us how we can bring peace and joy to others. Come Lord Jesus.



**PLEASE NOTE** the Wednesday mass time is now 9.00 am from the 20th December until further notice. Please note this change in your diaries and on your calendars etc.



**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

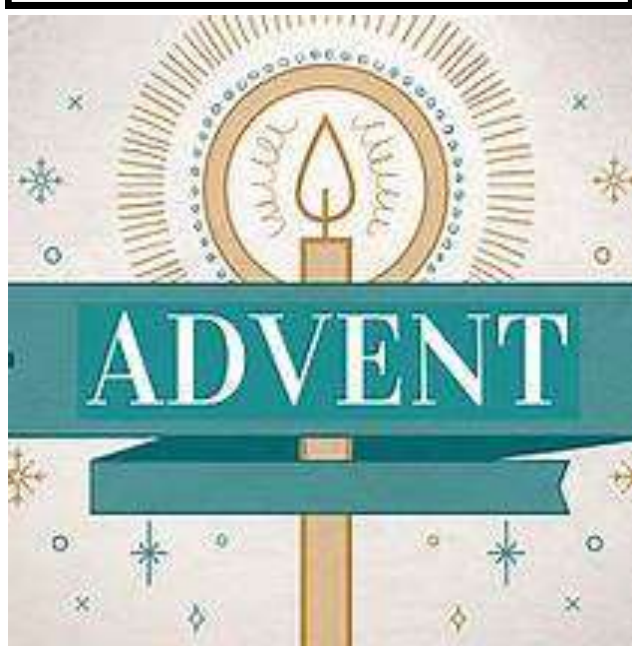
**Saturday, 30 December** 5.30pm Mass

**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.



**The 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B  
DECEMBER 16-17 2023**

**Next Weekend's Readings:** 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-39

**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.

### TOMATO SOUP PASTA BAKE

**Ingredients** 440 g tin of tomato soup 1 1/2 cup short pasta 4 bacon rashers finely chopped 1 onion diced 1 cup tasty cheese grated 1/2 cup milk 1 cup cheese

**Method** Preheat oven to 180C. Boil pasta until it is cooked through. Fry onion and bacon in pan until both are browned. In a bowl, mix the tomato soup, tasty cheese and milk. Add the bacon and onion. Add the cooked pasta and mix all ingredients well. Pour into a greased lasagne dish. Top with the extra cheese. Bake for 45 minutes. Serve with a garden salad.



This week's Sanctuary Lamp burns for;  
**Mario Conversano**

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.

### 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.

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



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the choir for a wonderful evening of sacred music and singing last week with the Road to Bethlehem. Well done all the singers and readers, you did yourselves proud. **Fr Wayne**

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



On Your Anniversary of  
Ordination To The Priesthood



Congratulations to our Fr Wayne on the 30th anniversary of Ordination, December 18th, at St Mary's Cathedral by Archbishop Hickey, after training at St Francis Seminary in Adelaide.

Thank you for your ministry and service to God's people and to us here at St Thomas's. From us all. We hope that you have a wonderful day on Monday. Your parish family.



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](mailto: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. Thank You.



Christmas offering envelopes are now available at the entrances to the church. On the back table and the side tables.





**Witness to the Light** St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb. We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death. As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives. We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

**Fr Michael Tate**



**Dear Parish Family,** "You are a difficult case" and "You have a hard road ahead". Those were the words from my hematologist on Monday. Life is interesting. He also mentioned that the large lymphoma in my hip had shrunk slightly. So I'm taking that as a win. The next round of chemo is next week on Thursday. So Christmas will be a quiet affair as I usually feel very tired and lack energy for the week after. But as they say, "it is what it is". I want to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and may the light of the Christ Child shine in your hearts and homes. Be safe if you are travelling. Rest, take your time. Let us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas this year in our lives and homes, that "God so loved the world, loved you, that He sent His Son into the World. "

The parish office will be closed over the holiday period, and Prue and her husband Paul are heading to Italy on holidays. I wish them a happy, wonderful time, and ask that you light a candle for us all in a church somewhere on your journey. Prue will be back at the end of January 2024.

**Fr Wayne**



We offer our sympathy and condolences to **Silvia Kinder** and her family on the passing of her father **Mario Conversano** in Milan on Thursday this week. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all. Love your parish family.



The third Sunday in Advent is called **Gaudete Sunday**; the Sunday of Joy! How can we share our joy for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas?



Whilst Prue is off on holidays, **Rossana** our previous secretary is going to look after the office for us and me. She will be in the office on Wednesday and Friday on 10th—19th January 2024. From 10am until 2pm. I know that you will make her welcome again into the parish. Her presence will make my life easier. Fr Wayne



**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@iinet.net.au](mailto:gardnerm@iinet.net.au)

## THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS....

### First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

**Word of the Lord**

### Responsorial Psalm (R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R.)**
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

### Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

**Word of the Lord**

### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring  
Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

**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.**