

# September Newsletter

ST THOMAS  
the Apostle  
Claremont Parish



## Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

Welcome to our new St Thomas monthly newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the latest news in our parish, and happenings around the archdiocese.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our donors and volunteers who have stepped in to help while the parish was without admin support, and while Father Garner was settling in. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to keep the lights on and the parish running!

We have recently welcomed our new parish secretary, Jackie de Jong, she will be in the parish office on Tuesdays between 8.30am and 2.30pm, and on Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm if you need to contact her.

As you will have noticed, our lovely church facade requires some much needed repairs. The structural engineers have reviewed the work and have a

plan. We expect these repairs will take a few months to be completed, until then, please keep outside of the cordoned area and enter the church via the side wings and the southern front entrance.

We've also noticed that the paving area around the church has settled or lifted in some areas, please be extra cautious as you enter and leave the church to avoid tripping. We have obtained quotes to rectify the paving and are hopeful that we will have a solution soon. In the meantime, please give a helping hand to any of our parishioners who are not as steady on their feet.

Finally, we will be holding a working bee on September 27 to help us spring clean and spruce up the gardens, please come along to help us out, remember, many hands make light work!

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Community Updates

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Fundraising Initiatives

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Stories of Impact

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Volunteer Spotlight

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Upcoming Events

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Parish Happenings

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*Parish Team*



## Meet Father Garner

Father Garner Vergara Jr was born in Cebu in the Phillipines and moved to Australia in 2008 as a teenager. He studied at Notre Dame University in Fremantle and completed his seminary studies at St. Charles' Seminary in Guildford and was ordained in 2015.

In his spare time (rare these days!) Fr Garner enjoys going for hikes in nature and playing badminton.

Father Garner is celebrating his birthday on September 13 and warmly invites everyone to join him for a **casual picnic gathering in the church gardens following the 9:30 AM Mass on September 14.**

While some light refreshments will be provided, feel free to bring along some snacks to share, as well as a picnic blanket or chairs for comfort.



### Troubadours of a Golden Age: Singer Songwriters of the 1960s and 1970s

Part Two

#### THE BRITISH ISLES

Sun 14 Sept

## Troubadours of a Golden Age

Presented by the talented Tim Burrows, we invite you to join us for a afternoon filled with timeless musical treasures. Enjoy a nostalgic journey through the unforgettable sounds of the British Isles during the 1960s and 1970s. It's the perfect way to relive the magic of the past and celebrate the music that continues to inspire today.

- Date: **14 September 2025**
- Time: **3pm**
- Location: **St. Thomas School Hall**



## Working Bee

Please join us to help spruce up our church and gardens, and also to clean out some of the church's back rooms.

- Date: **27 September 2025**
- Time: **12pm - 3pm**
- Location: **St. Thomas Church**
- All are welcome to participate and volunteer.
- Please let the parish office know if you are able to bring along any equipment (ladders, paint, paint brushes and rollers, tools, gardening equipment etc.)



## Verdi Requiem

Several of our 9.30am mass choristers are singing in this rarely performed requiem. Perth Symphonic Chorus and Perth Philharmonic Orchestra perform the Verdi Requiem conducted by James Pratt, with WA opera stars Naomi Johns, Ashlyn Tymms, Paul O'Neill, and James Clayton.

- Date: **6 September 2025**
- Time: **7.30pm**
- Location: **Winthrop Hall UWA**
- Tickets: <https://bit.ly/4mLC2GM> or call 08 6488 2440 (12-4pm weekdays, no booking fees)

## Events around the Archdiocese



Fri 5 Sept

### Confirmations @ St Thomas

You're Invited!

Join us in celebrating as 41 young candidates receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Let's come together to support and warmly welcome them into our parish community.

**5 Sept | 6.30pm | St Thomas**



Sun 14 Sept

### Ecumenical Thanksgiving

The Council of Churches WA will hold an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, celebrating, love, hope and unity.

**14 Sept | 2.30pm | Church of the Resurrection**, 105 Shenton Road, Swanbourne. Afternoon tea provided. RSVP by 1 Sept to [admin@churcheswa.org.au](mailto:admin@churcheswa.org.au). Further info; 08 6186 6039 or 0423 355 801.



5 - 7 Sept

### Legion of Mary Rosary Bouquet

Join the Annual 48 Hour Rosary Bouquet from 6pm Friday to 6pm Sunday. Pledges will be offered at the 12:10pm Mass on Monday, 8 September at St Mary's Cathedral. Send pledge forms to: Legion of Mary, 36 Windsor St, East Perth or email: [rosarybouquet13@gmail.com](mailto:rosarybouquet13@gmail.com) More info: Legion of Mary – (08) 9328 2726.

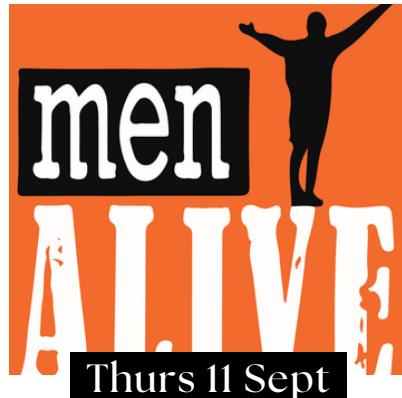


Sun 21 Sept

### Daughters of Mary Mother-Daughter Program

Girls aged 12–17 and their mums are invited to grow in faith and connection through Mary.

**21 Sept | 11:30am–2pm | Schoenstatt Shrine**, 9 Talus Dr, Mt Richon Linda: 0414 273 624 / [lindafoot1@gmail.com](mailto:lindafoot1@gmail.com) Sr M Luka: 0439 537 843 / [srmluka@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:srmluka@schoenstatt.org.au)



Thurs 11 Sept

### ALIVE: Catholic Man Breakfast

Join Catholic men for breakfast with Chief Justice Peter Quinlan, hosted by Bishop Don Sproxton and sponsored by menALIVE.

**11 Sept | 7-9am | Duxton Hotel**

Register:

<https://app.tickets.org.au/MA/MBSper25>

More info: Ray Gourlay – 0408 923 068.



30 Nov - 2 Dec

### ACYF Registrations Open

ACYF is a 3-day national gathering of young Catholics from 30 Nov to 2 Dec to grow in faith, connect, and celebrate the Church in Australia. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Melbourne. <https://www.cym.com.au/acyf.html>



## Spotlight: Wednesday Lunch

Wednesday lunches in the parish meeting room have been a long-held tradition at St Thomas, each week up to a dozen or more parishioners come together for Rosary and Mass followed by a communal lunch.

The lovely tradition was started some-time around 2008, when a group of parishioners decided to start a rosary group. It was winter, and so a simple

lunch of soup and french stick was offered up in the tiny back room of the presbytery. Over time this has evolved into a vast array of lovingly shared tidbits along with warm fellowship and comradery.

If you haven't yet made it along, please join us on Wednesdays after the 12.30pm mass for a lively light lunch.

## Safeguarding Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of at least 2 or 3 community volunteers to become safeguarding officers.

Safeguarding officers play a key role in ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected within the church and that National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

(NCSS) are maintained.

Volunteers will need to undergo training and be committed to upholding the NCSS.

For more info:  
<http://bit.ly/4lOzC9h>

To volunteer please contact the parish office.

*Thank you for reading!*

## Ministry Contacts

### Acolytes

John Cranford 0412 912 769

### Readers

Margaret Sweetman 0488 938 539

### Extraordinary Ministers

Margaret Sweetman 0488 938 539

### Musicians

Eric Hudson-Smith (7.30am Mass)  
emhsmit01@outlook.com

Jane Courtney (9.30am Mass)  
0419 241 450

### Sacramental Preparation

Silvia Kinder  
silvia.kinder@cewa.edu.au

### Weekly Rosary

Stephanie Tew 0408 798 174

### Altar Flowers

Gabrielle Knox 0433 117 048

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Henry Simmons 0417 985 992

### Finance Committee

Leo McManus 0417 414 951

### Safeguarding Officers

Silvia Kinder  
silvia.kinder@cewa.edu.au

### Counters

Jeannette O'Keefe 0431 501 989

### St Thomas Primary School

Natalia Thomson - Principal  
08 9286 9500

## A Few Notes

- If you have Planned giving envelope number 12, 37 or 49 please get in touch with the parish office.
- If you would like to join the planned giving program please let the parish office know.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

08 9384 0598

[www.claremontparish.com](http://www.claremontparish.com)

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