

January Newsletter

ST THOMAS
♦
the Apostle
Claremont Parish



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

In December, we joyfully came together to celebrate the birth of Christ. Our Christmas celebrations began with the spectacular Road to Bethlehem event, which brought the story of Christ's birth to life. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated readers and 9.30am choir, whose beautiful voices helped us to deepen our understanding of the Word of God as we journeyed through Advent. Following the celebration, our community gathered to share panettone and fellowship.

Our 7.30am choir also visited Romily House, delivering gifts generously donated by our parish and singing carols for the residents. This meaningful visit brought joy and the true spirit of Christmas to those who needed it most.

On Christmas Eve, our parish shared Christmas cake after a beautiful Mass, enjoying time together in celebration and conversation. On Christmas Day, our hearts — and pews — were full, despite the summer heat, as parishioners gathered to rejoice in the birth of Christ. It was a powerful reminder of the strength of our faith community and the joy found in coming together to worship.

Looking ahead to January, our Finance Committee will meet to focus on essential church repairs, fundraising initiatives to support this work, and the implementation of new 'tap & go' donation points. We are seeking parishioners with building or project experience to join a small sub-committee, as well as volunteers to assist with fundraising efforts. If you feel called to support this important work, please contact the parish office.

Sacramental enrolments for Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation in 2026 are now open. We warmly invite families to consider this important step in their child's faith journey. First communion will be earlier in the year than usual so please ensure your child is enrolled asap.

We are also seeking a parishioner to assist with the arrangement of altar flowers and to coordinate the roster for this valued ministry. If you are able to help in this way, please contact the parish office — your support would be greatly appreciated.

Parish team

Road to Bethlehem

Our beloved 9.30am choir and readers once again delighted and inspired us with their outstanding Road to Bethlehem performances. Under the expert leadership of the wonderfully talented Professor Jane Courtney and John Kinder, the choir presented a truly moving and diverse program, showcasing carols sung in Latin, English, Georgian, Spanish, Neapolitan, Bavarian, and French. This remarkable range reflected the universality of the Christmas story and the rich traditions of the Church across cultures and centuries.

The music was beautifully interwoven with nine reflective readings, guiding us through the season of Advent and deepening our understanding of the journey toward the birth of Christ. Together, the music and readings created a prayerful and immersive experience for all who attended.

Following the performance, our parish community gathered to share panettone, enjoying fellowship and conversation as we continued to celebrate the joy of the season.



Events around the Archdiocese



Sat 7 Feb

Godly Women with Faith

Men and women of all ages are invited to join as we pray for healing, the Rosary and Adoration. Bring along your rosary, hat or Umbrella for protection from the sun and feel free to bring a folding chair for your comfort if standing is difficult.

Sat 7 Feb | 10.30am | Galup Car Park, Lake Monger

Register:

<https://bit.ly/4qd98kx>



Sun 18 Jan

Sinulog 2026

Come and celebrate the Feast of Santo Nino. Children are invited to wear angel costumes, adults welcome to wear Filipino/national costumes. Bring food and drinks to share and camping chairs. All Welcome!

18 Jan | 3pm | Schoenstatt Pilgrimage Shrine, 9 Talus Drive, Mt Richon



Tues 10, 17 & 24 Feb

Power of Choice in 3rd Stage of Life

A 3 session workshop presented by Lorraine Town on entering the Third Stage of Life with confidence and purpose. Find meaning and peace through reflection and receive support for courageous conversations with loved ones including Advanced Care Planning and making informed health and legal choices. The sessions are free, with morning tea provided.

Tues 10, 17 & 24 Feb | 10.30am-1pm | MercyCare Currumbine | 8/94 Delamere Ave Currumbine

Scan to register or email events@mercyCare.com.au



Sat 21 Mar

Change, Loss & Grief Seminar

Understanding Change, Loss and Grief is a 3-hour seminar for people interested in learning about what grief is, its potential triggers and impacts, strategies to manage it and move forward. The seminar is intended to be objective and educational (not for grief support). \$16pp.

All queries to 08 8422 7920

21 Mar | 9.30am | Catholic Pastoral Centre, 40a Mary St, Highgate



Fridays

Eucharistic Holy Hour

NEED SOME SACRED SPACE IN YOUR WEEK?

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:31)

Join us at St Thomas for Eucharistic Holy Hour every Friday before Mass.

11.30am | Every Friday | St Thomas the Apostle, Claremont



Prayer for the New Year

Heavenly Father,

We lift our hearts in gratitude for the countless graces You have poured into our lives throughout the year 2025. Thank You for Your constant presence in moments of joy and in times of trial, for blessings seen and unseen, and for the ways You have quietly guided us each day. We are especially grateful for the people we have encountered - their presence, support, and love have been instruments of Your grace in our lives.

We also thank You for the challenges we have faced. Though difficult, they have refined our hearts, expanded our understanding, deepened our faith, and strengthened our trust in Your loving will. Through these trials, You have taught us patience, humility, compassion, and enduring hope.

As we step into the year 2026, we ask for the gift of strength - not only to ensure, but to thrive according to Your purpose. Send Your Spirit to grant us wisdom to discern what truly matters, courage to respond faithfully to Your call, and generosity to place our gifts at the service of others. May our lives reflect Your love, especially to those who are weary, forgotten or in need.

Entrust us, O Lord, to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may learn to say "yes" to Your will as she did. May all that we do in the coming year give glory to You and contribute to the building of Your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe de Cebu, pray for us.
San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.
Señor Santo Niño de Cebú, have mercy on us.

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)

emhsmith01@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

contact Parish Office

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Henry Simmons 0417 985 992

Finance Committee

Leo McManus 0417 414 951

Safeguarding Officers

Jenni Hutton 0400 708 512

Margaret Carmen 0406 663 354

Counters

Jeannette O'Keefe 0431 501 989

St Thomas Primary School

Natalia Thomson - Principal

08 9286 9500

Thank you for reading!

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