

July Newsletter

ST THOMAS
♦
the Apostle
Claremont Parish



What's happening in our Parish?

As we move into the second half of the year, there is much happening in our parish community.

We are pleased to advise that the church repairs are moving forward, with work expected to commence in August. While we hope there will be minimal disruption to Masses and parish activities, there may be occasions when changes are necessary. If so, please check our parish website and weekly bulletin for updates.

Our church repairs fundraising campaign continues to make wonderful progress. Thanks to the generosity of our parish community, we have now raised \$119,695 towards our \$150,000 goal. The response has been both humbling and inspiring, and we sincerely thank everyone who has contributed. Your generosity is helping preserve our church for future generations.

We thank the Year 5 students from St Thomas' School for leading the Saturday evening Mass on 13 June. It was a joy to witness the reverence and enthusiasm with which they embraced their ministries. Thank you also to the teachers and families who supported them.

Congratulations to our Year 4 students from St Thomas' School who celebrated their First Holy Communion in June. We pray this special sacrament will deepen their relationship with Christ and strengthen them on their faith journey. We also thank their families, teachers and sacramental team for their support.

On 28 June, our parish celebrated the Festival of St Vincent, where new members of the St Vincent de Paul Society were commissioned into their ministry. Following Mass, parishioners gathered for morning tea with our local St Vincent de Paul members. We thank all members of the Society for their compassionate service and wish the new members every blessing.

As the July school holidays begin, we wish all our families a safe, restful and joyful break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the weeks ahead.

Parish team



Caritas - Venezuela Appeal

On the evening of 24 June 2026, two major earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5, struck northern Venezuela within minutes of each other. The impact was felt across the capital, Caracas, and throughout central and coastal regions. Buildings, homes and infrastructure have collapsed and been severely damaged, and there has been widespread disruption to essential services. Rescue efforts are slow, hampered by damaged infrastructure and limited resources.

More than 2,200 people are confirmed dead, with tens of thousands still missing. Your support can help provide emergency support to communities affected by this disaster. Visit www.caritas.org use the QR code to donate now.



Church Repairs Fundraising

We are currently seeking donations to support essential structural repairs to our church, helping to preserve our sacred space for generations to come. Special Church Repair donation envelopes are available at all entrances. Donations can also be made by direct deposit to **BSB:086006 ACC: 458537432**. Please ensure that you label the deposit 'repairs'.

To help support our church repairs you can also purchase a custom engraved paver for \$200. Each paver can accommodate 3 lines of text, with up to 16 characters per line including spaces. Envelopes are available at the entrances to our church. To purchase online use the QR code.



Christian Life Community Feast of St Ignatius Mass 9.30am on Sunday 2nd of August

Join us on Sunday, 2nd of August, as we celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus) and the inspiration behind the Christian Life Community (CLC).

Following the 9.30am Mass, everyone is warmly invited to stay for morning tea. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet members of the Christian Life Community, learn more about the group, and ask any questions you may have.

The Christian Life Community (CLC) is a worldwide lay association within the Catholic Church, with communities in more than 60 countries. Rooted in the spirituality of St Ignatius and his invitation to "find God in all things," CLC encourages members to discover God's presence in the ordinary experiences of daily life through prayer, reflection, and community.

The first CLC in Australia was established in Adelaide in 1976, and today there are groups across every mainland state. Within the Claremont Parish, several CLC groups meet fortnightly for prayer, Christian reflection, and faith sharing. Whether you are simply curious or looking to deepen your spiritual life through Ignatian spirituality, we invite you to come along, enjoy a cuppa, and discover more about this vibrant faith community. Everyone is most welcome.

For more info visit www.clcaustralia.org.au or click on the QR code.



Events around the Archdiocese



Book Launch - Fr Frank Brennan SJ

Join us for an evening of reflection and conversation as Fr Frank Brennan SJ launches this important new collection of Sir William Deane's key speeches as Governor-General of Australia. Both The Hon. Kim Beazley AC and Kate Chaney MP will be attending and speaking. Bookings essential. **6-8pm | Tues 21 July | Thomas More Exhibition Centre, John XXIII College | Free**



Catholic Singles - Mini Golf

Join us for a fun evening of mini golf with other Catholic young adults from around Perth! Whether you're aiming for a hole-in-one or just keen for a relaxed night out, this is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and enjoy some friendly competition in a welcoming, low-pressure setting. See you there! **Sat 11 July | 5pm | Hey Caddy, Balcatta | \$28pp**



Knights Leadership Breakfast

Experience a Leadership Breakfast featuring one of Australia's greatest sporting legends, Margaret Court AC MBE - a champion on the court and a woman of profound faith whose life story is a testament to purpose, perseverance and grace. **7 - 9am | Thurs 9 July | Frasers, Kings Park | \$65**



Christ in the Community

Just as Jesus was fully present with others, our presence with people can also be life changing. Fr Richard Smith will lead this interactive session with a focus on Christ in the community. RSVP by 20 July to outreach@perthcatholic.org.au or 9422 7920 **Sat 25 July | 9.30-11.30am | Catholic Pastoral Centre, 40a Mary Street, Highgate**



July Faith Enrichment Courses

The following courses are available in July

- **After Life:** The Eschaton – Our Living Hope
- **This is My Body Given for You:** Theology of Eucharist
- **After Life:** The Eschaton – Our Living Hope
- **Theology Essay Writing**
- **Introduction to the Sacraments**
- **Understanding the Old Testament**



LUMI Catholic Youth Camp

Get ready for an epic weekend with CYM at Eagles Nest in Gidgegannup! 🔥 Expect lots of games, big laughs, and plenty of time to chill with your friends (and meet new ones along the way). Step away from the usual routine and jump into something way more exciting. **3pm 10 July - 3pm 12 July | Eagles Nest Youth Formation Centre | 1406 O'Brien Rd, Gidgegannup | \$120 | 12-17yrs**



Deacon's Diary

Dear Parishioners

A Parish Deacon... 20 Years Later

On 29th June 2006 together with thirteen other men from the Archdiocese of Perth, I was ordained as a permanent deacon. Now twenty years later and appointed as the deacon for St Thomas the Apostle Parish, I would like to share some insights into the ministry.

What is a permanent deacon? He is an ordained minister who remains a deacon for life, unlike transitional deacons who are ordained as a step toward priesthood. The term "deacon" comes from the Greek diakonos, meaning "servant" or "helper," reflecting the deacon's mission to serve the Church and the community. Permanent deacons assist bishops and priests, proclaim the Gospel, preach, administer certain sacraments, and engage in charitable works. They are considered a "living icon of Christ the Servant" and embody the Church's call to service.

After Vatican II the diaconate was restored as a permanent order and is open to both married and single men. Ordained to be Ministers of the Gospel, deacons are called to evangelise, to spread the good news of God's saving love, to introduce the entire world to Christ, the Word of God. Through baptism, all the faithful are called to be evangelists. All are anointed with Christ's Spirit of true servanthood, supremely witnessed by Christ, the original and true deacon.

It's a privilege to serve in St Thomas the Apostle parish. I'm blessed to have the prayers and support of this community and of course of my wife Charmianne, for her loving patience and understanding over these twenty years of my ministry.

Blessings

Deacon Paul

Ministry Contacts

Acolytes

John Cranfield 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 Carman 0406 663 354

Counters

Ray Ryan 0404 480 540

St Thomas Primary School

Natalia Thomson - Principal

08 9286 9500

The origins of the ministry of Deacon can be traced back to the days of the New Testament and were well-established early in the life of the Church. From the earliest decades, ordination by the laying on of hands was conferred on deacons, presbyters (priests) and bishops, these orders being three grades of one sacrament of Holy Orders. Over the years, however, as the priesthood grew in prominence, the diaconate declined. Eventually, in the Latin Church, the diaconate became a mere formality on the path to priesthood.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

08 9384 0598

www.claremontparish.com

2 College Rd, CLAREMONT WA 6010