

St Thomas the Apostle

Catholic Parish, Clyde North

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Dear Parishioners and friends,

Greetings to you, and may God continue to be close to us as we endure this long Covid pandemic lockdown. I write with wonderful news in the midst of these challenging times.

It is less than ten years since the new Church of St Thomas the Apostle celebrated its Foundation Mass with Bishop Prowse at the Clyde North Campus of St Peter's College, Clyde North. Earlier this year we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the establishment of St Thomas the Apostle Parish by Bishop Patrick O'Regan.

It has been our dream to build our first church and parish offices and that dream is now about to become a reality. During this past week a building contract has been signed with Melbcon Pty Ltd for the construction to commence. The builder will begin work at the site in this coming week and the project will take something over a year to complete.

This is most exciting news for our parish, and I wish to thank all those on parish committees who have worked hard to get us to this stage and all the parishioners of our parish for their generous financial support and persistent prayer. Clearly, there is a lot to happen over the coming year and I particularly urge parishioners to renewed prayer for our project and financial support, especially for the Liturgical elements of the church. I thank the many parishioners who have responded promptly and generously to my recent letter seeking financial support for the liturgical furnishing of our church and I renew my appeal for further support.

During the last week our parish received another very important announcement. On Wednesday Bass MP Jordan Crugnale announced that St Josephine Bakhita Catholic Primary School in Clyde North will receive \$5million from the Victorian Government for the development of the new school, including the construction of an administration building, a teaching and learning centre comprising 10 general learning areas, and other associated spaces. Parishioners will know that St Thomas the Apostle Primary School has grown rapidly to an enrolment of over 700 students, and it is great news that the project to establish the second Catholic Primary School for our parish has now commenced. I write with gratitude for God's blessings upon our parish.

Yours sincerely,

Fr Denis O'Bryan (Parish Priest)