

First Reading

Zep 3:14-18

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Second Reading

Phil 4:4-7

The Lord is very near

The 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

Lk 3:10-18

'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

NEW, RELOCATING or LEAVING THE PARISH?

New Parishioners – please register @ <https://stthomasap.org.au/new-parishioner-registration/>
Relocating or Leaving Parishioners – please call the parish office

DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH – TAP POINT TERMINALS: these donations are NOT combined with the Planned Giving Stewardship donations. To join or donate to the Planned Giving Stewardship Program please contact the parish office.

SAFEGUARDING – Please always supervise your child/ren in the church and in the toilets. Our parish is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. Our Safeguarding Officer, Ann Rode, can be contacted via email: clydenorth.safety@cdsale.org.au or call 5998 0947

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES: In immediate danger CALL 000 | Orange Door: 1800 319 354 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm) | Safesteps: 1800 015 188 or safesteps.org.au – any time | 1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732 or 1800respect.org.au – any time | MensLine: 1300 78 99 78 or mensline.org.au – any time | Djirra: (Aboriginal Support Service): 1800 105 302 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 10pm) For more information head to <https://safeandequal.org.au/>

We kindly ask that you keep the house of God clean. NO Food & Drinks in the Church and check that you have not left any belongings behind before leaving Church.

NOTICES

Message from our Parish Priest

Dear Parishioners,

Sr Julie Ogbole of the Sisters of the Nativity has been working in St Thomas the Apostle School 2 days a week for the past 5 years as part of her role as a Parish Pastoral Associate. As the parish continues to grow with the addition of St Josephine Bakhita School, and a new primary school, Blessed Carlo Acutis School in 2027, Sr Julie's workload is getting bigger. For this reason, from the end of this year, Sr Julie will no longer work in St Thomas the Apostle School during the week.

Instead, Sr Julie will continue to support parents and students with sacramental preparation and pastoral care through her full-time role in St Thomas the Apostle Parish.

Sr Julie has been a wonderful presence in St Thomas the Apostle School, for students, staff, and families. We thank her with heartfelt appreciation for her years of ministry there and her witness of Religious Life. Well done Sr Julie!

Fr Denis

ADVENT PARISH RECONCILIATION

Wednesday 18th Dec at 7pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday 24th Dec : 7pm & 9pm

Wednesday 25th Dec : Midnight, 9am & 10.45am

NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Tuesday 31st Dec : 7pm

Wednesday 1st Jan : 10am

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DAILY REFLECTION BOOK – on sale now at the Piety Shop! \$6 / book.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY – We wish Deacon Michael many blessings on his 2nd Diaconate Anniversary. Thank you for your help and assistance in this parish.

FUNDRAISING WITH FOOD –The Social Club is calling on you again to support our Aussie themed Grill and Bake sale. There will be a sausage sizzle and baked food on sale after the 9am and 10.45am Masses on Sunday 15th December. Please do come and support us, get to know other parishioners and enjoy the food. We would greatly appreciate your support in helping to spread the word.

FIRST RECONCILIATION 2025 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN – any families in the parish with children Gr 3 and up who would like to enrol for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2025, please scan the QR Code to register.



ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL - Our Conference will again be distributing Christmas presents to those most in need within the Cranbourne/Clyde area. We ask for your generous donation of toys for children 0-14 years of age. Please bring unwrapped toys 30 mins prior to each Mass on the weekend and hand it to a St Vincent de Paul representative. Last day for collection is Sunday 15th Dec before the 5pm Mass. Please DO NOT leave donated toys in the church if representative is not present.

OFFICE CLOSURE DATES - The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year period from 21st Dec 2024 and reopen on 4th Feb 2025. For any urgent matters and if you need to communicate with the office, please send an email or drop your Mass Intention envelope (with your contact email or mobile number) in the Parish Office Box in the foyer.

VOLUNTERS NEEDED – If you can help with cleaning the church, please contact Ani Tom on 0432 565 588.

APPOINTMENT OF DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICER – Bishop Greg has appointed Lorraine Jennings as the new Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Lorraine has over 35 years of professional experience in human resources, safeguarding and community engagements. Lorraine will oversee the implementation of safeguarding frameworks, deliver training to clergy, staff and volunteers and empower stakeholders to continue to foster a culture of safety and trust throughout the Diocese.

ST VINNIES FOOD BIN – donate non-perishable food to St Vinnies to help those in the community that are in need. St Vinnies Food bin is in the foyer. Thank you for your generous donation.

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO READ THOMAS AQUINAS? The Melbourne Thomistic Institute in Camberwell is offering a series of short modules designed to introduce you to the thought of Thomas Aquinas and gradually take you through his Summa Theologiae. After a successful start this year, the series will start again early in 2025. For more information, limited copies of the flyer in the foyer, or go to www.mti.op.org.au

AUSTRALIAN NATIVITY SCENE (ANS) AT ST ELIZABETH'S PARISH, Dandenong north.

Event display: Monday, 9 December, 2024 to Friday, 10 January, 2025

Where: St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Baker Rd, Dandenong North

Viewing time: After mass times

Website: <http://www.australiannativityscene.org/> | <http://www.facebook.com/AustralianNativityScene/> | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_scene#In_Australia