



## First Reading

Micah 5:1-4

**He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord**

The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

## Second Reading

He 10:5-10

**God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will**

The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!** I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

## Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

<b>NEW, RELOCATING or LEAVING THE PARISH?</b> New Parishioners – please register @ <a href="https://stthomasap.org.au/new-parishioner-registration/">https://stthomasap.org.au/new-parishioner-registration/</a> Relocating or Leaving Parishioners – please call the parish office
<b>DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH – TAP POINT TERMINALS:</b> 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.
<b>SAFEGUARDING – Please always supervise your child/ren in the church and in the toilets.</b> 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: <a href="mailto:clydenorth.safety@cdsale.org.au">clydenorth.safety@cdsale.org.au</a> or call 5998 0947
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES:</b> In immediate danger CALL 000   Orange Door: 1800 319 354 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)   Safesteps: 1800 015 188 or <a href="https://safesteps.org.au">safesteps.org.au</a> – any time   1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732 or <a href="https://1800respect.org.au">1800respect.org.au</a> – any time   MensLine: 1300 78 99 78 or <a href="https://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a> – any time   Djirra: (Aboriginal Support Service): 1800 105 302 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 10pm) For more information head to <a href="https://safeandequal.org.au/">https://safeandequal.org.au/</a>

*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,  
On behalf of Christine, Fiona, Ann, & Manni from the parish office, and Fr Jithin, Deacon Michael & Pam, Sr Julie, and myself, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year. May Christmas be a time of joy and peace for all our families and a time when we appreciate anew that Jesus has been born into our world and is alive among us revealing God's great love for us and our world.  
New Year's Day is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Mary, as Our Lady of Perpetual Help, is the patron of our Diocese, and we implore her intercession for us all as we enter a new year. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace, and how urgently we need to pray for peace in our world. For the Sale Diocese, New Year's Day is also the beginning of the Jubilee Year which we are called to celebrate as Pilgrims of Hope. All parishioners are invited to participate in the Mass to be celebrated at 11.00am by Bishop Greg Bennet in St Mary's Cathedral, Sale, to open the Jubilee Year. There will also be a special Mass in our church.  
Thank you to all of you whose prayers and worship, participation in parish groups and volunteering, make this such a wonderful parish. God bless you all, Fr Denis*

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES (Carols before Mass)**  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec : 7pm | 9pm | Midnight**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec : 9am & 10.45am**

**NEW YEAR MASS TIMES**  
**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec : 7pm**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan : 10am**

**A big THANK YOU to everyone who generously supported our Fund Raising with Food event and donated to St Vinnies Christmas Toy Appeal. Look out for notices in the bulletin for Fund Raising with Food event in 2025.**

**CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL 'THANK YOU'** – CatholicCare Victoria and the families they support are very grateful for the donation of \$1381.20 from St Thomas the Apostle Parish community towards this appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

**STEWARDSHIP RECEIPTS & ENVELOPES** – For parishioners giving via envelopes, your receipts and new set of envelopes are ready for collection. They are arranged in surname order. For parishioners giving via Direct Debit & Credit Cards, receipts are available upon request. Please send us your request via email [parish@stthomasap.org.au](mailto:parish@stthomasap.org.au).

Do note that the office is closed for Christmas & New Year and will reopen on 4th February.

**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.



**OFFICE CLOSURE DATES** - The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year period from 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024 and reopen on 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FIRST FRIDAYS ADORATION** - Join us every first Friday of the month (starting from 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025) for a sacred evening of worship, prayer, and reflection at our church, 7pm - 8pm. It's an opportunity to spend time with our Lord through Eucharistic adoration, music, and moments of peace. All are welcome.

**BLESSING OF CHALK ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY** – The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk will be blessed on this feast day, 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, for you to take home. Chalk & prayer sheet are provided. Do remember to take home a prayer sheet.

### SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE XVI ASSEMBLY

On 26 October 2024, members of the Second Assembly of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops voted on and approved the final document. The Final Document can be found on the website of the General Secretariat of the Synod at <https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html>

### PILGRIMS OF HOPE

In 2025 Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of Jubilee. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Join us as we celebrate the opening of this year-long journey of hope and faith at St Mary's Cathedral, Sale on 1st Jan 2025. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet, will begin at 11:00am and all are welcome. Following the Mass, light refreshments will be available. There will be an opportunity for you to pray and reflect on the diocesan themes for the year as well as considering how you can be a pilgrim of hope in 2025.

**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.

### VANUATU EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Vanuatu has experienced two earthquakes within 24 hours impacting over 116,000 people and causing significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. The main hospital in Port Vila has sustained extensive damage and is overwhelmed by the mass casualties. This appeal will provide support to our on the ground partners who are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements by providing emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support, and recovery efforts.

Please Donate today: <http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>