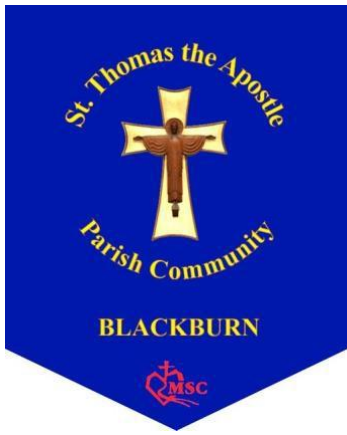




ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

13th SEPTEMBER 2026 YEAR A

LITURGY CALENDAR

MONDAY 14TH SEPT.
No Service

TUESDAY 15TH SEPT.
10.00am Mass
10.30 am Rosary

WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPT.
10.00am Mass
10.30am Mass at St.
Thomas' Retirement
Village

THURSDAY 17TH SEPT.
10.00 am Mass

FRIDAY 18TH SEPT.
10.00am Mass
**11.30am Funeral for
Bill Kortekaas**

SATURDAY 19TH SEPT.
10.00am Reconciliation
6.00pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 20th SEPT.
8.30am Mass
10.30am Mass
5.00pm Mass

Dear Parishioners,

Safeguarding Sunday: Prayer of Commitment –"Love Protects"

God of compassion, you know each of us by name and hold every child close to your heart. Your love is patient and kind, not jealous or boastful, not rude or self-seeking; it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and it always protects.

Today we renew our commitment to safeguarding in our parish: to listen when someone finds the courage to speak, to act without delay when there is a concern, to tell the truth even when it costs us, to never to confuse mercy with silence, and to reach out in practical care to those most easily overlooked – the children, the newcomer, the housebound, the elderly, the person living alone, the person with a disability, and anyone made vulnerable by their circumstances.

Give us Sirach's wisdom to set aside the pride that hides wrongdoing, Christ's compassion that goes out to the wounded first, Paul's vision of a love that always protects, and the Psalmist's confidence that you, O Lord, redeem what is broken and crown the humble with kindness.

That word, **protects**, is not an afterthought in Paul's list. It sits right alongside patience and kindness as one of the things love simply *does*. And it is worth saying plainly, in this church, on this day, a parish that truly loves its children, its young people, and its most vulnerable members is a parish that actively protects them – not by good intentions alone, but by vigilance, by training, by listening, and by refusing to look away.

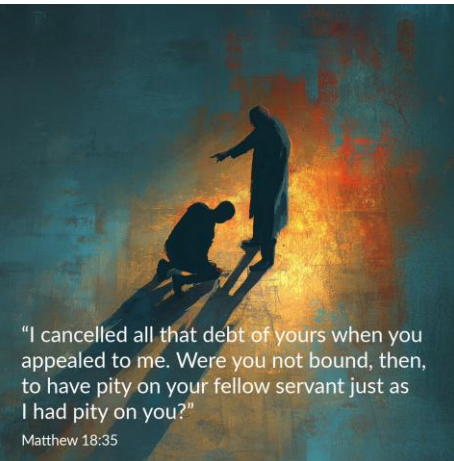
May this parish be a true sanctuary, safe for the smallest among us, attentive to the most vulnerable, honest with the truth, and faithful to the God whose love always protects.

With God's blessings,
Fr Aloysius Lamere msc
Parish Priest

A Prayer for Priests

God, grant them the joys of their vocation, health of mind, body and spirit; a strong faith and a light heart to do the Lord's work in this world; and the love and support of their friends, family and parishioners. Holy Spirit, guide them and give them grace. *Amen*





"I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?"

Matthew 18:35

A Vocation View

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness, and selflessness!

Please remember in your prayers the following:
Sick:

Dorothy Murray, Louise Crowe, Peter Deayton, Teresita Torres, Isabelle, Maureen, Tracey & Peter L., Jacqui Collins, Norma Broek, Ray Bartling, Charles, Felicia Holland, Jim Leverett, Joyce Turner, Gill Dixon, Ann Leonard, John Philp, Rose Talbot, Lyle Hovenden, Dominic Phan, Joan John-ston, Dorothy Venosta, Tom Tierney, Lan Le, Binh Le, Teresa Bayne, Natasha Barrett, Sarah Hamilton, Fr Brian Gallagher msc, Pat Peake, Luke Douglas, Monica Djojoiswanto, Gregory Woo, Julio Trinidad, Shirley Leverett, & Emma Rivet.

Recently Dec.

Maria Deayton
Willy (Bill) Kortekaas

Anniversaries:

Cecilia Contreras
Jim Ryan & Ursula Clifford

PIETY STALL

*ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELP OUR ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY BLACKBURN

BAPTISM CANDLES, STOLES & GIFTS
CHILDREN'S BIBLES & ROSARIES

EL SALVADOR CROSSES, SAINTS PRAYER

CARDS, BIRTHDAY & SYMPATHY CARDS
MONASTIQUE COSMETICS

FRIENDS OF SAME EAST TIMOR
GROUND COFFEE @ \$9.50ea

BR. JAMES CD'S AVAILABLE @ \$25 ea

MSC BOOKS FOR SALE:-
'COMPASSION' (New)

By Fr Brian Gallagher

"Just 2 Minutes., & 10 Minutes More"
Gospel reflections suitable for groups or individuals.

By Fr Peter Malone msc
\$17.50ea

ENQUIRE AT THE PIETY STALL

Dear parishioners,
Faye Winter would like to thank you all for your prayers and to let everyone know that she has come out of Rehab., and is staying with her daughter to recuperate for a couple of weeks, before returning home.

FUNERAL: Willy (Bill) Kortekaas will be on Friday 18th Sept. at 11.30am.

Our parish is piloting a **Women's Group** to foster friendship, faith and spiritual growth among the women of St Thomas. This pilot initiative will provide an opportunity to reflect on Scripture, share life's journey, support one another, and grow together as disciples of Christ. If this is something you might be interested in, we'd love to hear from you. Please register your interest with Angela Pillai at angepillai@gmail.com or via the parish office.

Safeguarding Children: Our Commitment to Children and young people

Any issues contact us via email: BlackburnSafeguarding@cam.org.au

A gentle reminder to parents/guardians that your children are to be supervised at all times during Mass and is advisable to accompany them to and from the restrooms.

COMPANION NEEDED:

A parishioner has asked if there may be someone in the parish who might be able to assist her with clothes shopping and have the odd coffee or lunch with her. If you feel you could help this lady please call 0421 205 062 for further information? Thank you

CHRISTMAS

APOSTLE EDITION

ARTICLES NEEDED...



HELLO EVERYONE,

We are seeking articles, so put on your thinking caps and send in those thought provoking and Inspiring stories, community achievements, humorous etc.. to the Parish Office email blackburn@cam.org.au or hand into the Parish Office. Thank you.

More volunteers needed to help with the Money Counters. Contact the Office if interested in joining. Thank you.

The Parish Secretary will be away next week and returns on 24th Sept. There will be no parish bulletin for next weekend. Apologies for any inconvenience.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: 24TH Sunday in Ordinary Time
13TH September 2026—Yr A

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 25TH Sunday in Ordinary Time
20TH September 2026—Yr A

FIRST READING: Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8
SECOND READING: Romans 14:7-9
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 13:34
GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 21-35

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:6-9
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 144: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18
SECOND READING: Philippians 1:20-24, 27
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: cf Acts 16:14
GOSPEL: Matthew 20: 1-16

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 th /20 th SEPT. 2026- Yr A	6.00PM	8.30AM	10.30AM	5.00PM
Commentators/Lectors:	C— Sheena Barber L— Samy Albert	C- John Uren L-Fidelma D'Souza	C-Angela Cotter L-Dickson Young	C- Sub Needed L- Angela Pillai
Extraordinary Ministers:	Jan Gaffy	Sub. Needed	Owen Shaw	Help if you can
Money Counters Team 4		Piety Stall: Team 2	Flower Roster SEPTEMBER ANGELA PILLAI	Children's Liturgy: SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TERM BREAK

IT'S NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 6-12TH SEPT. LET US RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN, THAT WE ARE A WELCOMING, RESPECTFUL AND CARING ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY AT ST THOMAS'.

PARISH SYNOD CORNER: WILL APPEAR EACH WEEK LEADING UP TO THE MELBOURNE SYNOD

26. Synodality and the Holy Spirit

At the heart of synodality is trust in the Holy Spirit. Without prayer, synodality becomes mere strategy. With prayer, it becomes a path of grace.

TO ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS - IMPORTANT.....

THE ARCHDIOCESE HAS ROLLED OUT A NEW PLATFORM FOR THE **ONLINE SAFEGUARDING MODULE** CALLED **TRIBALHABITS**. EVERYONE WHO RENEWS THIS MODULE WILL FIRST NEED TO LOG IN AND **REGISTER** AS A **NEW USER** AS ALL PAST SIGN IN HISTORY WILL NO LONGER EXIST. THE MODULE CONTENT STAYS THE SAME. THANK YOU

TO ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS; FOR THE YEAR 2026.....

*****IMPORTANT TO CHECK THAT YOUR SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS ARE CURRENT AND UP TO DATE.**

- ◆ WE ASK THAT YOU CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR WWC CARD EXPIRY DATE AND UPDATE ONLINE IF NECESSARY. ALSO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE LINKED ST THOMAS' PARISH TO YOUR WWC CARD. THE OFFICE CAN SEND YOU INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS.
- ◆ IF YOU CAN CHECK IF THE CODE OF CONDUCT HAS BEEN SIGNED AGAIN WHICH NEEDS TO BE RENEWED EVERY 3 YEARS FOR VOLUNTEERS.
- ◆ ALSO IF YOU ARE NEEDING TO COMPLETE/RENEW THE ONLINE SAFEGUARDING MODULE (WHICH ALSO NEEDS RENEWING EVERY 3 YEARS FOR VOLUNTEERS). THE OFFICE CAN SEND YOU A LINK YOU CAN FOLLOW ON YOUR COMPUTER.

PLEASE SEE SUSAN AT THE PARISH OFFICE WHO WILL GLADLY HELP YOU.

A reminder to parents with children who Altar Serve to accompany your child while in the Sacristy changing into their Altar robes before and after Mass. As requested by the Safeguarding Unit of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Thank you.

*St. Thomas the Apostle Parish strives to create an environment
where all children and vulnerable adults including Aboriginal, special needs and persons of cultural diversity are
safe, respected and cared for.*

**ST THOMAS THE
APOSTLE PARISH
57 CENTRAL ROAD
BLACKBURN Vic
3130**

(PO Box 5084, Laburnum Vic 3130)

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr. Aloysius Lamere msc

SUPERIOR TO VIC. & TAS.

Fr Dominic Gleeson msc

FORMATOR:

Fr Dominic Gleeson msc

RETREAT DIRECTOR:

Fr Chris McPhee msc

PARISH PHONE:

9878 0818/9877 7693
(If Urgent mob. 0483 750 564)

PARISH EMAILS:

blackburn@cam.org.au
BlackburnSafeguarding@cam.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.melbatholic.org/s/blackburn

PARISH SECRETARY:

Susan Collins

PARISH ACCOUNTANT:

Maurice Gartland

PARISH PASTORAL

COUNCIL CHAIR:

Anand Rego

ST THOMAS' SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL:

Marcus Gill

SCHOOL PHONE:

P: 9878 8268

SCHOOL EMAIL:

office@stblackburn.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

www.stblackburn.catholic.edu.au



**ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
PARISH ACTIVITIES**

FIRST FRIDAY MASS & CUPPA:

Our next First Friday will be on **2nd October** at **10am** for Mass and after a cuppa and a chat. All are most welcome.

SCRABBLE NIGHT...

Our next scrabble will be on **Thursday 1st October** at **7.30pm** in the Church Narthex. Contact Chrissie 9899 9675 or Maureen 0408 000 794. All are most welcome, come along and check it out.

CARDS-(Solo)...

Our next get together will be on **Thursday 10th September**. We meet in private homes. New players are most welcome to come along. Contact Geraldine Ph: 9877 2087 for our next venue.

**ST THOMAS PARISH/SCHOOL
ARCHIVES**

Archival material always welcome, please include dates and names when possible. Contact Parish Office Ph: 9878 0818

**ST THOMAS' LECTIO DIVINA
TUESDAYS**

We meet every Tuesday morning at 10am via Zoom. For more information contact Bernard.marmion@icloud.com

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sundays at 10.30am Mass. **During School Terms only.**

ST. THOMAS' PLAYGROUP:

THIS GROUP IS NOT RUNNING AT PRESENT. CONTACT THE SCHOOL on 9878 8268.

ST.VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY:

Call Centre for assistance – 1800 305 330
Free Call Weekdays 10am-3pm.
Vinnies Centre Ringwood Ph. 9870 9124,
Unit 1B/76-82 Maroondah Hwy,
Ringwood.
For Furniture & Whitegoods pickup—Call
Eastern Emergency Relief who will
pickup for St Vincent de Paul - week days
9am-1pm . Ph. 9874 8433.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL BLACKBURN
CONFERENCE DONATION OPTION**

On behalf of the Conference **THANK YOU**
for your donations. Alternatively, if you
wish to donate directly, our Bank
Account details are:
BSB: 063 003 | Account No: 1008 1787
Donation Reference: 442.
A/c name: Society of St Vincent de Paul
Pty Ltd. Grace Mizzi- President
Patrick Danaher contact on Mob: 0411
804 635



FIRST AID EQUIPMENT

Attn Parishioners:

The DEFIB is located outside
the Sacristy door.

A First Aid Kit is also in the Kitchen

Broom Cupboard. First Aid items (blankets
etc.) which are provided by the Church are stored in
a large plastic tub in the Crying Room (right sliding
cupboard.)



GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS.....

Br James' CDs are available at
Piety Stall. **'Hidden Within The**
World' \$25, **Heart voice** (double
CD) \$25 **Gospel of Love** (double CD) \$25.

USE THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR
WEBSITE:

www.melbatholic.org/s/blackburn



St Thomas the Apostle Parish acknowledge the
Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional
owners of this land. We pay our respects to their
Elders past, present and emerging.

