



ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16TH AUGUST 2026 YEAR A

LITURGY CALENDAR

MONDAY 17TH AUG.
No Service

TUESDAY 18th AUG.
10.00am Mass
10.30 am Rosary

WEDNESDAY 19th AUG.
10.00am Mass
10.30am Mass at St.
Thomas' Retirement
Village

THURSDAY 20th AUG.
10.00 am Mass

FRIDAY 21ST AUG.
10.00am Mass

SATURDAY 22ND AUG.
10.00am Reconciliation
6.00pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 23rd AUG.
8.30am Mass
10.30am Mass
5.00pm Mass

Dear Parishioners,

A Gospel Reflection by Nick Brodie- Liturgy Help Resource

Dining with around two hundred poor and vulnerable people in the Borgo Laudato Si', a garden inspired by Pope Francis' teaching on care for creation, Pope Leo showed the world's media that the state of the earth and the welfare of vulnerable people are entwined. Care for one goes in hand with care for the other.

Pope Leo opened the event with remarkable unscripted words. 'I have come without a prepared speech,' he said, 'but with hunger. A hunger for justice, a hunger for genuine charity.'

The Pope expressed his 'hunger for a Church that truly knows how to open its doors, to welcome and receive everyone. A Church where there is love for all, where no one is an enemy, and where we all know how to live in reconciliation, forgiveness, and peace.'

'Whenever we come together,' he emphasised, 'whenever we share this spirit of encounter around the same table – the one table where Jesus is also present with us – we are truly building a different world: a world of hope, a world that is light.'

'Let us work together', he concluded, 'and always strive to live this experience of Church, of justice, of peace, and of love.'

[Quotes from Greeting at "Lunch with the Pope", 11 July 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/july/documents/20260711-pranzo-castel-gandolfo.html>]

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**





A Vocation View

It is so easy to push people out of our lives. But the Lord knows no boundaries, races, or colours. Spread the Good News that we are all God's people.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Sick:

Faye Winter, Louise Crowe, Maria & 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.

Sr Anne Burn CJ

Anniversaries:

Patricia Rutzou, Piri Catona, John Murray & Sr Mary Ursula Caine

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,
There are Prayer Cards in the Narthex for our First Eucharist Children, who will be making this Sacrament next weekend. Please take one or two to pray for them on their Faith Journey.

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

The MSC Mission Appeal raised over \$3530.70, with donations still coming in. Our very grateful thanks to the people of the parish of St Thomas' for their generosity. It will help many people out for a better life. Fr Roger Purcell msc

10:30 HOSPITALITY GROUP:

Thank you to everyone who has offered to provide support to the hospitality roster. The roster will come out in the next few weeks.

If you have offered to go on the roster, could you please send me your email address so I can send the roster to you. anne.marmion@icloud.com Thank you. Anne

Melbourne Synod 2026: Parish Consultation

Melbourne Synod 2026: Parish Consultation

Further to the Eastern Region Synod Consultation on 8 August, where Ray Johnson and Anand Rego represented our parish, we invite parishioners to join a Parish Synod Working Group on Saturday, 22 August, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon at the church Narthex. This group will provide input into a Parish Submission for the Melbourne Synod to be held in Dec 2026 and plan a wider Parish Forum in October 2026. To join the working group, kindly add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex this weekend or speak to Ray (0432 295 627) or Anand (0412 027 193).

ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN APPEAL IS THIS WEEKEND DONATION ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SEATS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. THANK YOU.

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.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
16th August 2026—Yr A

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 21ST Sunday in Ordinary Time
23RD August 2026—Yr A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 66: 2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8
SECOND READING: Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 4:23
GOSPEL: Matthew 15: 21-28

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19-23
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 137: 1-3, 6,8. R. v. 8
SECOND READING: Romans 11: 33-36
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 16:18
GOSPEL: Matthew 16: 13-20

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time 22 nd /23 rd August 2026- Yr A	6.00PM	8.30AM	10.30AM	5.00PM
Commentators/Lectors:	C- School 1 st Euch. L- School 1 st Euch.	C-Philip Collins L-Maureen Munro	C- School 1 st Euch. L- School 1 st Euch.	C- Susan Collins L- Martina Tonti-Filippini
Extraordinary Ministers:	Marie Ransom	Maureen Munro	Mary Crossan	Help if you can
Money Counters Team 4		Piety Stall: Team 2	Flower Roster AUGUST Regina Ri	No Children's Liturgy: 1 st Eucharist Mass

4TH SUNDAY MEAL SHARE AFTER 5PM MASS:

Reminder that there will be a light meal will be offered to parishioners after 5pm Sunday mass on Sunday 23rd August. All are welcome. Any queries contact Chris Ying on 0404 452 501 or through the Parish office.

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

21. Synodality and joy

True synodality requires conversion of hearts, attitudes, and sometimes structures. It asks us to let go of habits that no longer serve the mission.

TO ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS - IMPORTANT.....

THE ARCHDIOCESE HAS ROLLED OUT A NEW PLATFORM FOR THE **ONLINE SAFEGUARDING MODULE** CALLED **TRIBALHABITS**. EVERYONE WHO UPDATES 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; A NEW 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 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

PARISH EMAILS:

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

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.melbcatholic.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:

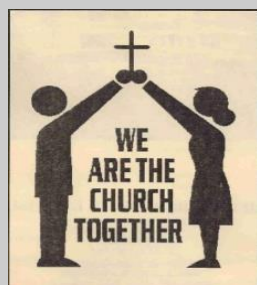
P: 9878 8268

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 **4th September at 10am for Mass and after a cuppa and a chat. All are most welcome.**

SCRABBLE NIGHT...

Our next scrabble will be on **Thursday 3rd September 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 13th August.** 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.melbcatholic.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.

