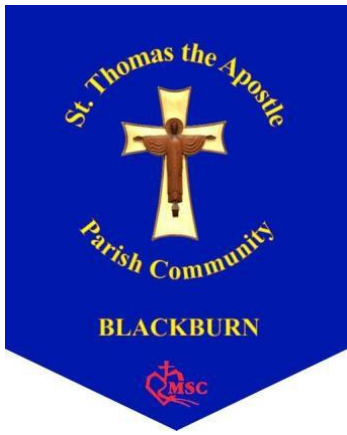




ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEWSLETTER

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23rd AUGUST 2026 YEAR A

LITURGY CALENDAR

MONDAY 24th AUG.
No Service

TUESDAY 25th AUG.
10.00am Mass
10.30 am Rosary

WEDNESDAY 26th AUG.
10.00am Mass
10.30am Mass at St.
Thomas' Retirement
Village

THURSDAY 27th AUG.
10.00 am Mass

FRIDAY 28th AUG.
10.00am Mass

SATURDAY 29th AUG.
10.00am Reconciliation
6.00pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 30th AUG.
8.30am Mass
10.30am Mass
5.00pm Mass

Dear Parishioners,

Gospel Reflection

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Philippi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

By Greg Sunter-A Liturgy Help Resource

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*





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

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND
CUPPA IS ON FRIDAY
4th SEPTEMBER AT 10AM.**

**Everyone is most welcome to
come join us for a chat and a
cuppa.**

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

St Thomas' Office has a new
office mobile number **0483 750
564 for urgent matters after
office hours only.** And for use
during office hours if landline is
not answering. **Please delete
the old number ending in
...223.** Thank you.

A Vocation View

*Many of us fear
people in
authority, as
authority can be
used for good or
for ill. As
Christians, we are
called to see power
as service. We
shall all be judged
on love.*

**Please remember in
your prayers the
following:
Sick:**

Fay Mason, 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.

Anniversaries:

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

**ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN FOLLOW UP APPEAL IS
THIS WEEKEND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MISSED
LAST WEEK'S CHANCE TO DONATE. 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: 21ST Sunday in Ordinary Time
23RD August 2026—Yr A**

**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**

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
30th August 2026—Yr A**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v.2
SECOND READING: Romans 12: 1-2
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Ephesians 1:17, 18
GOSPEL: Matthew 16: 21-27**

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 29th/30th August 2026- Yr A	6.00PM	8.30AM	10.30AM	5.00PM
Commentators/Lectors:	C— Michael Ransom L— Margaret Easton	C-John Uren L-Yvonne Crowe	C-Dickson Young L- Loreto Moore	C- Peter Newton L- Maureen Munro
Extraordinary Ministers:	Jan Gaffy	Yvonne Crowe	Lynne Shaw	Help if you can
Money Counters Team 1		Piety Stall: Team 3	Flower Roster AUGUST Regina Ri	Children's Liturgy: Leader: Trish Color: Green

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.

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

23. Synodality and leadership

Leadership in a synodal Church is not about control but about service. Leaders create spaces where gifts can emerge and flourish.

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; 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
(If Urgent mob. 0483 750 564)

PARISH EMAILS:

bblackburn@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.

