

April Newsletter

ST THOMAS
 ✦
 the Apostle
 Claremont Parish



What's happening in our Parish?

As we draw closer to Easter, our parish is joyfully preparing for Holy Week. We invite you to keep in your prayers all those who are helping make our liturgies so meaningful—our acolytes, readers, choir, musicians, palm preparers, and everyone working behind the scenes—as we come together to celebrate the most sacred week of our year.

In March, the St Thomas Pastoral Council was established, with nine parishioners generously stepping forward to serve our community. If you aren't yet involved but would like to be, please let the parish office know! We are deeply grateful for the commitment of these volunteers and encourage all parishioners to support them in this important work.

We've encountered a small delay with our Tap & Go donation devices, so they won't be in place by Easter as hoped. We appreciate your patience and look forward to having them available soon—stay tuned for updates.

Finally, please continue to keep our catechumens in your prayers as they prepare to be received into the Church this Easter.

Parish team

Easter Services at St Thomas

- 29 MAR** ● **PALM SUNDAY**
 Mass
7.30am & 9.30am
- 2 APR** ● **HOLY THURSDAY**
 Mass
7.00pm
- 3 APR** ● **GOOD FRIDAY**
 Stations of the Cross
10.00am
 Liturgy of the Passion
3.00pm
- 4 APR** ● **HOLY SATURDAY**
 Easter Vigil Mass
6.30pm
- 5 APR** ● **EASTER SUNDAY**
 Mass
7.30am & 9.30am



St Thomas Pastoral Council

Fr Garner and a group of 9 parishioners have come together to begin the initial formation of a Parish Pastoral Council. The Archdiocese has a recommended Constitution which provides for the election of its members. We envisage this occurring in the near future.

There are historical reasons why Claremont has not had a Pastoral Council for some years. Times have changed. Synodality is a new word to most of us in the lay church. It is an invitation to every member of the church to journey together in sharing their personal God given gifts. This word 'Synodality', was introduced to the broader church by Pope Francis 4 years ago. It is a huge invitation to every Christian, whether church going or not. Pope Leo has now confirmed his predecessor - Francis, in his embrace of synodality as the way forward for all members of God's church. The Claremont Pastoral Council welcomes every parishioner's participation, in the life of the church, in whatever way that they feel called.

In our preliminary discussions the word "Pastoral" was seen as encompassing the full life of the parish. It is described as a missionary role, to which all parishioners are invited to share the gifts with which The Spirit has blessed each individual.

Our initial discussion focused around a compassionate parish community which is:-

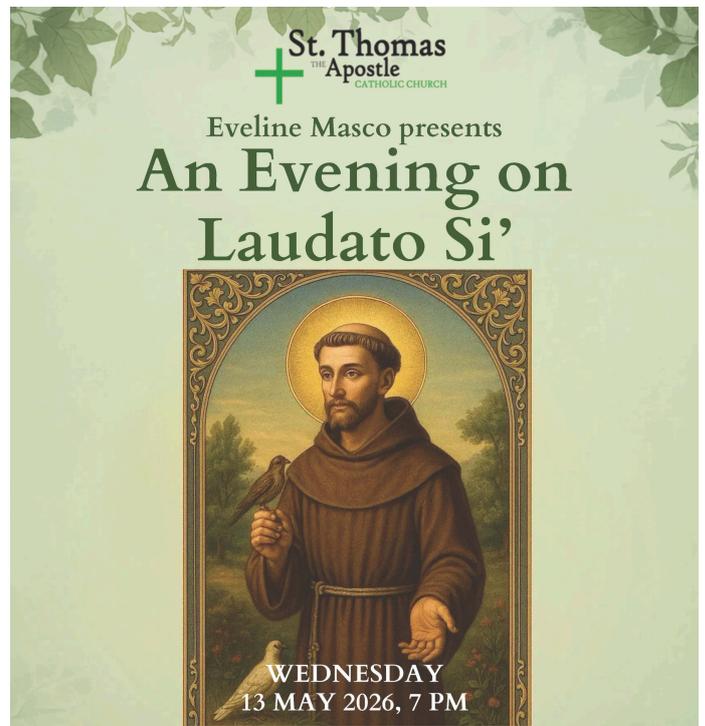
- Welcoming • Listening • Invitational • Collaborative
- Incorporates the unique gifts of all parishioners

All areas of the parish community are open for discussion and participation:-

- Liturgy including Music • Sacristans • Altar servers
- Acolytes • Flowers • Cleaning • Opening church
- Welcoming visitors & new parishioners • Gatherings
- Caring for one another

We will share with the Parish community the Pastoral Council meeting minutes, via the bulletin and website for all to SEE. The intention and our hope is that if an activity or item attracts your interest, you can contact anyone of us, and be involved to the extent that you feel able. Everyone is welcome to share their gifts, and experience in making this Parish of St Thomas The Apostle a warm, welcoming, inclusive and flourishing parish. You are *always* welcome to attend any meeting.

Come and SEE!

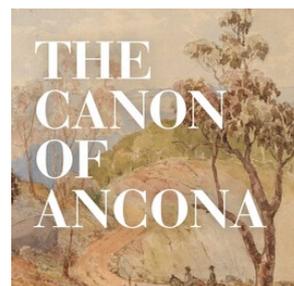


An Evening on Laudato Si'

To mark the Jubilee of St Francis, and guided by Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si', this talk is a reflection on what connects us to Creation and our care for our Common Home. Presented by Eveline Masco.

Free event - registration essential
Register by 11 May via email: silvia.kinder@cewa.edu.au

Wednesday 13 May | 7pm | St Thomas School Hall - enter via Melville St



Prof John Kinder publishes The Canon of Ancona

Recently retired UWA Emeritus Professor, John Kinder, has published a biography on the Italian-Australian Priest Raffaele Martelli. Martelli came to WA's New Norcia Monastery in 1853 and served in many communities until his death in 1880. The book gives a glimpse into life in pre-federation Australia, and the church's early presence in WA.

John is a long-time member of our parish, and has served as co-leader of our beloved choir for many years.

Please join us in congratulating John on this fantastic work.

The book can be purchased from UWA Publishing by clicking on the QR code.



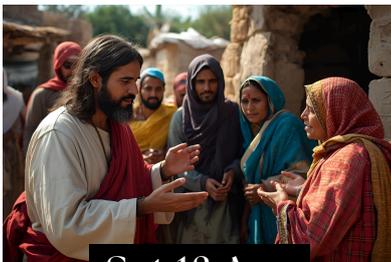
Events around the Archdiocese



Emmaus Walk for Men

Join a group of like minded blokes on the Emmaus Walk. Commencing with a 7:30am Mass at the Carmelite Convent in Nedlands, followed by a leisurely 12km walk along the river to St Mary's Cathedral, where refreshments and reconciliation will be available. Register: bit.ly/47s7Fjk or to Kim on 0414 537 023

Sat 11 Apr | 7.30am | Carmelite Convent 100 Adelma Road, Nedlands



Sat 18 Apr

Jesus & the Women of the Gospel

Jesus' behaviour toward women was surprising in his times and continues to challenge and inspire us now. *Exploring Women's Spirituality Today* is the theme of this reflection presented by Dr Pina Ford. Morning tea will be provided, BYO lunch. RSVP to 9409 6291 or <https://bit.ly/4sEmacg>

Sat 18 Apr | 10am-2.30pm | \$20pp | St Luke's Church 2 Parkside Ramble, Woodvale



Jubilee Cross Youth

Join us for an inspiring afternoon as we celebrate together the rich cultural diversity of our Catholic Church and discover the meaning of the Migrant Jubilee Cross. Followed with light refreshments and supper. Ages 12-30.

Sun 19 Apr | 3-7.30pm | St Mary's Cathedral, Perth



[Impacters] Adventure Camp

Life is meant to be an incredible adventure! Surrounded by great people and an atmosphere full of energy and fun, you'll discover that faith isn't something separate from life's adventure. Featuring abseiling, archery, and a high ropes course. High school to 22yrs.

Weds 15 Apr 10.30am - Fri 17 Apr 9am | FREE | Point Walter Campsite, Bicton



22-24 Apr

Nature Retreat

This three-day retreat with Sally Neaves will provide opportunities for reflection, journaling, silence, solitude, and experiential practices to feel more present in your body, to trust your innate wisdom and restore your balance in body, mind and spirit. Register: margie.abbott@mercy.org.au
22-24 Apr | St Catherine's House of Hospitality 113 Tyler St, Tuart Hill | \$280



Catholic Young Adults Ball

Join us at Moore & Moore in the heart of Fremantle for an unforgettable evening of elegance and celebration. Inspired by the soaring beauty of cathedrals and the majesty of kingdoms, this year's ball invites you into a night of splendor, joy, and community. Ages 18-30. RSVP by 17 April.

Sat 9 May | 6-11.30pm | Moore & Moore Fremantle | Theme: Cathedrals & Kingdoms | \$125



Deacon's Diary

"Deeper the darkness, the greater the light"

Dear Parishioners

As we approach Holy Week and then enter the Easter season we go on a journey that takes us from the deepest darkness to the light and glory of the Resurrection of Jesus. None of us will ever know the pain Jesus went through in His final hours. One can only imagine the agony of what He endured from the Garden of Gethsemane to his final minutes on the cross.

It's easy to feel sorry for ourselves today with wars raging, petrol prices and the cost of living, and life for many seemingly hopeless. For Jesus, similar thoughts must have run through his head while He was taking his last breath.

Where was His Father in all this? Was He dying a senseless death? What did it all mean? Only days before the people were honouring Him, and now they were happy to see the end of Him. And yet He endured and suffered and followed His Father's wishes. Selflessness doesn't come close to describe Jesus' actions. His absolute love for humanity was the driving force, and He was determined to fulfill his destiny.

That was His gift to us...freely given. By accepting this gift through our lives in Him, we can say that we are hope-filled people. Hope because Jesus has conquered the darkness of death and sin and shown us the way to the eternal light. Wishing you a happy and blessed Easter.

Yours in His service

Deacon Paul

(Acknowledgement: Majellan Media Weekly Newsletter)

Ministry Contacts

Acolytes

John Cranfield 0412 912 769

Readers

Margaret Sweetman 0488 938 539

Extraordinary Ministers

Margaret Sweetman 0488 938 539

Musicians

Eric Hudson-Smith (7.30am Mass)

emhsmith01@outlook.com

Jane Courtney (9.30am Mass)

0419 241 450

Sacramental Preparation

Silvia Kinder

silvia.kinder@cewa.edu.au

Weekly Rosary

Stephanie Tew 0408 798 174

Altar Flowers

contact Parish Office

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Henry Simmons 0417 985 992

Finance Committee

Leo McManus 0417 414 951

Safeguarding Officers

Jenni Hutton 0400 708 512

Margaret Carman 0406 663 354

Counters

Jeannette O'Keefe 0431 501 989

St Thomas Primary School

Natalia Thomson - Principal

08 9286 9500

Thank you for reading!

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