

December Newsletter

ST THOMAS
 ♦
 the Apostle
 Claremont Parish



As Advent begins, we're called to reflect on the blessings at the heart of our lives and our parish

As we enter the season of Advent, we are invited to reflect on the core themes of our Christian faith: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Amid the flurry of the secular "silly season," may these guiding values remain at the centre of our thoughts and prayers.

We are delighted to be approaching this year's Road to Bethlehem performances, presented by our dedicated choir on Wednesday 3 December at 7.00pm and Sunday 7 December at 2.00pm. The choir has been rehearsing tirelessly (and sounding absolutely spectacular!), so be sure to join us for this uplifting experience.

Our Wednesday Lunch Group held their Christmas celebration in the final week of November—a beautiful gathering filled with friendship, generosity, and a wonderful sense of community.

We also extend our thanks to the lovely children of St Thomas Primary, who have crafted handmade ornaments to adorn our church.

Their thoughtful gifts brighten our space and remind us of the simple joy found in giving.

In the spirit of giving, we encourage you to take part in our annual Romily House Christmas Drive, to brighten the lives of those in need.

In other parish news, we have now received several quotes for the structural repairs needed for our church building. In the new year, we will be seeking parishioners with building or project experience to join a small sub-committee to assist with this important work. We are likewise inviting parishioners to volunteer for a fundraising sub-committee. If you feel called to help in either area, please contact the parish office.

Finally, a reminder that our last RCIA meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, 10 December at 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Sessions will resume at the end of January.

Parish team

The Road to Bethlehem
**Nine Readings and Carols in
 preparation for Christmas**



Wednesday 3 December 2025 at 7pm
 and
Sunday 7 December 2025 at 2pm
St Thomas the Apostle Church
College Road Claremont
 Free event with retiring collection

Road to Bethlehem

Our wonderful choir has once again prepared a spectacular Road to Bethlehem performance to help us enter fully into the joy and reflection of the Christmas season. This much-loved event invites us to pause amid the busyness of December and walk together through the story of Christ's birth.

The event will feature nine scripture readings, paired with beautifully chosen carols that bring the narrative to life. Through music and word, we are guided from prophecy to promise, from hope to fulfilment.

This is a free event, and all are warmly invited to attend. A retiring collection will be taken.

Come and share in this uplifting celebration as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Join us on **Wednesday December 3 at 7pm** and **Sunday December 7 at 2pm**.



Christmas Services at St Thomas

Christmas is here again, come and celebrate with us at the following services:

24 December - Christmas Eve

- 6.00pm Children's Vigil Mass
- 7.30pm Carols
- 8.00pm Family 'Midnight' Mass followed by Christmas Cake (BYO sherry/bubbles)

25 December - Christmas Day

- 7.30am Mass
- 9.30am Mass

26 December - Boxing Day

- No Mass

27 December - Saturday

- No Mass

28 December to 30 December

- Regular Mass Times

31 December - New Years Eve

- 9.00am Mass

1 January - New Years Day

- 9.00am Mass

A Christmas gift from our children

In the lead-up to Christmas, the students at St Thomas Primary have been exploring the true spirit of the season—generosity, joy, and sharing with others. As part of their learning, they worked with great enthusiasm to create beautiful decorations for the Christmas trees in our church.

Their handmade ornaments now brighten our space and remind us of the simple, heartfelt gifts that make this season so special.





Romily House Christmas Drive

Romily House is a home for members of our community who need extra support. Each year, in the spirit of Christmas, our parish comes together to share joy with its residents through the giving of small gifts.

We invite you to contribute generously. Items such as boxes of chocolates, festive treats, or small clothing gifts like socks and T-shirts are especially appreciated.

All donations will be collected from the church on **Monday, 22 December**, and delivered with cheer by the 7.30am choir, who will also share the gift of Christmas carols with the residents. Thank you for helping us bring warmth and kindness to Romily House this Christmas.



Mass Options for 8 December

As The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Monday, there will be no Mass held at St Thomas. For parishioners who would like to attend Mass on this special day, there are several nearby options:

- **8am - Our Lady of Victories**, Wembley Parish, 364 Cambridge Street, Wembley
- **8am - St Aloysius**, Shenton Park Parish, 84 Keightly Road West, Shenton Park
- **9am - Star of the Sea**, Cottesloe Parish, 2 McNeil St, Peppermint Grove
- **12.10pm - Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Chapel**, enter via Verdun St or Gardiner Drive. Parking is paid.

Events around the Archdiocese



CCR Together

Our next 'CCR Together' gathering will be hosted by Spiritual Renewal Ministry (SRM) Perth. A light supper will conclude the evening so you are welcome to bring a plate if possible. While there is no fee, a collection will be taken. Queries to Dan on 0409 849 049.

7.30pm | 5 Dec | Como Parish Hall, 45 Thelma St, Como



Bosco Youth Summer Camp

Are you between 11½-15 yrs or starting Year 7 in 2026? Come and join us for this 5 day fun filled camp at Nanga Bush Camp, Dwellingup. From only \$315. contact Graham Maher on 0418 979 600. www.boscoyouth.com



Knights Catholic Leadership Academy

Thur 4 Dec

Knights Leadership Breakfast

The Knights of the Southern Cross WA invite adults to join them for a breakfast with Mike Needham. The topic is AI and Its Impact in Society: A Christian Perspective. Hot breakfast & bottomless coffee included in the ticket price. Register: <https://bit.ly/4ojjTA8>
7am | 4 Dec | Fraser's Kings Park



Wednesday Lunch Group Christmas Celebration

Our Wednesday Lunch Group held their annual Christmas celebration on Wednesday, 26 November, and once again it was a joyful highlight of our parish calendar.

The gathering was beautifully organised, with the meeting room transformed into a welcoming space filled with festive cheer. The group enjoyed a sensational spread—complete with a delicious roast ham and

many homemade dishes generously prepared and shared.

As always, the true heart of the event was the fellowship. Parishioners came together to laugh, reminisce, and enjoy one another's company, embodying the spirit of Christmas through community, generosity, and gratitude. It was a wonderful reminder of the blessings we share as a parish family.

Precious Time with Jesus

ADVENT IS HERE!

It is a time for us to go deeper in our walk with God. Jesus said "I call you friends". Is that the kind of relationship we have with Him?

At St Thomas church we have a new opportunity to spend precious time with Jesus in the Blessed

Sacrament and build on that friendship, to increase our Faith and Trust in Him.

Join us **every Friday from 11.30am to 12.30pm** for a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

Thank you for reading!

Ministry Contacts

Acolytes

John Cranford 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 Carmen 0406 663 354

Counters

Jeannette O'Keefe 0431 501 989

St Thomas Primary School

Natalia Thomson - Principal

08 9286 9500

Cebu Contributions

As Fr Garner is returning to the Philippines in December to assist with the recovery following devastating flooding, landslides and earthquakes, some parishioners have asked if they can contribute to the cause. If you would like to contribute, please use:

BSB: 016008

ACC: 411635414

Name: Fr. Garner Vergara

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