

St. Thomas

THE Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

14 December 2025

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Children's Vigil Mass

7.30pm Carols

8.00pm Family 'Midnight' Mass

(followed by Cake, BYO sherry/bubbles)

Christmas Day

7.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

Administrator

Fr Garner Vergara

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Deacon

Rev Paul Reid

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Parish

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Secretary

Jackie de Jong

Office Hours:

Tues & Thurs 9am-2pm

Masses and Devotions

Sunday	7.30am 9.30am	Mass Mass
Monday	--	
Tuesday	12.30pm	Mass
Wednesday	12.00pm 12.30pm	Rosary Mass (lunch in meeting room)
Thursday	12.30pm	Mass
Friday	11.30am 12.30pm	Eucharistic Adoration Mass
Saturday	5.00pm 5.30pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass



Jubilee 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”

POPE FRANCIS



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon (Philippians 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading (Isaiah 35:1-6,10)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,

let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,

let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,

let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,

the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;

they shall see the glory of the Lord,

the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,

steady all trembling knees

and say to all faint hearts,

‘Courage! Do not be afraid.

‘Look, your God is coming,

vengeance is coming,

the retribution of God;

he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

the ears of the deaf unsealed,

then the lame shall leap like a deer

and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,

for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,

everlasting joy on their faces;

joy and gladness will go with them

and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145:6-10)

(R.) *Lord, come and save us.*

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading (James 5:7-10)

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Isaiah 61:1)

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much

more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon (Cf Isaiah 35:4)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

NEWS & EVENTS

ROMILY HOUSE CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Romily house is a home for people who need extra care in the community, each year, in the spirit of Christmas, we participate in the giving of gifts for the residents at Romily House. Please give generously. All items will be collected from the Church on Mon 22nd of Dec, and delivered by the 7.30am choir, who will also sing carols.

LIFELINK REMINDER

If you have not yet returned your LifeLink envelopes, please do so before the end of December. Envelopes are still available at the back of the church.

PARISHIONER SEEKING SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION

One of our parishioners, Sarah, a postgraduate law student attending summer classes at UWA, is seeking accommodation from 15 December to 30 January. Her usual student housing is being renovated. If you need a house-sitter, pet-sitter or have a room available, please contact her on 0402 465 270.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed over Christmas from December 24 until January 4. Any queries received over this period will be attended to in January.

2026 SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

Sacramental enrolments for Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation in 2026 are now open. Please contact Silvia (silvia.kinder@cewa.edu.au) for the enrolment form.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM:

Our parish relies on your generosity. You're invited to join the St Thomas' Planned Giving Programme through: • Weekly envelopes • Direct debit • Bank transfer (BSB:086006 ACC:458537432)

The first collection supports the priests of the diocese, including our parish priest. The second collection supports parish upkeep and operating costs.

Next weekend's readings **Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A**

Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 23:1-6, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24