

St. Thomas

THE Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,

YEAR A

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon (Cf Isaiah 45:8)

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

First Reading (Isaiah 7:10-14)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.'
'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23:1-6)

(R.) *Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading (Romans 1:1-7)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 1:23)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 1:18-24)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon (Cf Isaiah 35:4)

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel*

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, items such as boxes of chocolates, small clothing items like socks and t-shirts or something festive are most appreciated. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year A**
Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 Psalm 127:1-5, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15,19-23