

February Newsletter

ST THOMAS
♦
the Apostle
Claremont Parish



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

The festive season has come and gone, and somehow we now find ourselves approaching Lent once again!

Behind the scenes, preparations are well underway for the essential repair works to the church. A preferred vendor has been selected, and the finer details are being worked through. These repairs are expected to cost in the region of \$100,000, so a significant fundraising effort lies ahead. The Finance Committee met in late January and has established a fundraising sub-committee, which is currently exploring a number of avenues to help raise the necessary funds. If you have any ideas or would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you.

On the fundraising front, progress continues with our Tap & Go giving solution. A supplier has now been selected, and the required paperwork is being completed. We anticipate the devices will be in place by Easter, with further information to be shared closer to their arrival.

We are still seeking a parishioner to assist with the arrangement of altar flowers and to coordinate the roster for this valued ministry. If you are able to help in this way, please contact the parish office—your support would be greatly appreciated.

Our First Holy Communion preparation classes will begin in the coming weeks, led by one of our catechists, Silvia. She will be guiding and preparing the children of our parish for this important and sacred milestone. With the Sacrament of First Holy Communion taking place on 21 April, there is much to prepare in a short time, and we hold our children and families in our prayers as they begin this journey.

Finally, our RCIA programme recommences on Wednesday 4th of February. If you are able, please consider coming along to support those who are enquiring about the faith—you may even learn something new yourself!

Parish team

Safeguarding Training

The Safeguarding Level 1 Induction is now available as a Self-Paced Online Learning Module. This format offers greater flexibility and an easier, user-friendly experience. The Safeguarding Level 1 Induction needs to be completed every three years by all volunteers which includes all acolytes, readers, choir members, offertory, counters, collectors and av technicians etc. The training will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.



To complete the training please follow these steps:

- Visit the Training Page by scanning the QR code
- Click on "Safeguarding Level 1 Induction (Self-Paced ONLINE)".
- Step 1: Watch the Presentation Video and Read the Code of Conduct.
- Step 2: Register and complete the quiz.

The Safeguarding Office will notify the Parish/Agency/Organisation of the attendance record. Further info:

safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au or 08 9221 7762.



Philippines Flood Victim Fundraising

In December, Fr Garner returned to the Philippines to assist with recovery efforts following a series of natural disasters, including flooding, earthquakes, and landslides. Many of our parishioners donated generously to support him in this important work.

These photos show just how far that generosity reached, helping local families with essential supplies such as food, clean drinking water, and clothing. It is this spirit of compassion and charity that truly makes our parish such a wonderful community.



Events around the Archdiocese



Sun 8 Mar

Womens Day High Tea

The WA Modern Slavery Network warmly invites you to attend their International Women's Day High Tea event. All proceeds will be utilised by ACRATH to assist victims-survivors of human trafficking.

Sun 8 Mar | 2-4pm | Trinity College Lvl 3 Cultural Centre, East Perth

\$35pp | \$40pp champagne inc
Register:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DIHZH>



Fri 6-27 Feb

Understanding the Old Testament

Presented by Joe Tedesco, unpack some Old Testament stories and reveal how they lay down the foundation for the Christian faith. Discover that they are as important today as they have ever been.

Fridays 10.30am-12pm | \$30pp | Newman Siena Centre | Doubleview

Register: <https://bit.ly/4rjaAlV>
For more info: 08 9278 0261 or cfe@perthcatholic.org.au



Sat 7 Mar

Day of the Unborn Child Mass

The sacredness of every human life will be celebrated at a special Mass on March 7. Prayers of hope and healing will be offered for all who have lost a child. There will also be an opportunity to place a flower at the foot of the Altar in honour of all unborn children. For more info: Leigh or Lisette on 9328 2929.

Sat 7 Mar | 10am | St Mary's Cathedral



Exploring the Seasons of Grief -Program 2

Small group (4-7 participants), peer-based support program offering individual reflection and group discussion. Eight Tuesday evening sessions. Aims to build resilience and bring peace and hope to adults who have experienced significant grief, change or loss such as bereavement, relationship breakdown, etc. The program provides an opportunity to examine how loss and grief have impacted one's life. It imparts the knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable participants to understand and manage their grief experience.

10, 17, 24 February and 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March | 6pm-7.30pm | Catholic Pastoral Centre, 40a Mary St Highgate | \$28.50pp

Register by Monday 2 February, 2026. Further information: Catholic Outreach (08) 9422 7920 or outreach@perthcatholic.org.au



Fridays

Eucharistic Holy Hour

FEELING UNLOVED THIS WEEK?

"I have loved you with an everlasting love, and constant is my affection for you" Jer 31:3
Join us at St Thomas for Eucharistic Holy Hour every Friday before Mass.

11.30am | Every Friday | St Thomas the Apostle, Claremont



Lent 2026 with 'The Catholic Guy' Bruce Downes

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you can receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is free and you can sign up here:



Godly Women of Faith

Women 18+ are invited to a morning of healing, Finding Peace in the Storm: Nurturing Mental Health, Self-Love and a Path to Healing.

**Sat 14 Feb | Good Shephard, Lockridge
| 10-3pm | Cost \$60pp**

Registration closes Weds 11 Feb 2026.
Speakers, Nicole Cummins (Catholic Counsellor) Dr Anne Burlinson.
Testimony, Una Glennon.



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 Carmen 0406 663 354

Counters

Jeannette O'Keefe 0431 501 989

St Thomas Primary School

Natalia Thomson - Principal

08 9286 9500

Thank you for reading!

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

08 9384 0598

www.claremontparish.com

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