



Love one another
as I have loved you
John 13:34



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH, HADFIELD

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Keeping children safe
is everyone's responsibility



*St Thomas More's is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children and vulnerable adults*

1st Sunday of Advent Year B - 28th & 29th November 2020

MASSES

MON: Church closed
TUES: 9.30am Mass
WED: 9.30am Mass
THURS: Church closed
FRI: 9.30am Mass
SAT: 5.00pm (Vigil)
SUNDAY: 10.00am Mass

One Mass only on Sunday during this Covid period. Mass times will be assessed on a weekly basis and may change if needed.

Please note there is no need to register for Mass however once our permissible quota has been reached, the Church doors will close.

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION: 1st Friday of the month
9.00am—9.30am

“Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent Season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. **The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!**”

Pope Francis, Angelus, 8 Dec 2013

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE

At the heart of the Christian story is an abiding truth: that though we might be called to endure times of darkness, we have a God who can enter into our situation, who can surprise us, and who longs to remind us that we are loved, that we are not alone, and that all will be well.

We have gone without much in 2020. This strange year has taken a toll on so many people in so many ways. So how are we to look towards the coming weeks, months, year? We look with hope. We look forward, mindful of what this past year has revealed, mindful of what we have gone without, what we have lost, what we must not take for granted, what we must remember to hold as precious. *As we begin the season of Advent and this new liturgical year, we enter a time of renewal—a time to see things anew.* Perhaps we can look forward by considering what this past year has revealed and the possibilities that may be presented in the coming months...

...For our Catholic community, separation from the ‘source and summit’ of our lives—the Eucharist— has been a great sadness. Worship of our God is an essential part of our lives—let us not be convinced otherwise. Witnessing the joy of parishioners returning to receive Jesus again in the Eucharist after so long has been humbling. For those of us who are priests, this has been a gentle reminder of how important the sacrament is for our people. And this renewed reverence may help us all to see what truly unites us....

Let's not be discouraged by the difficulties of these past months. We have a remarkable hope: in a God who makes all things new; who surprises us; who enters into our lives with gentleness and humility, and with small gestures achieves great things. May we learn from his example and be open to being surprised. ***That's why the image of the Christ child is so important. It reminds us that through everything we must endure, we have a God who walks with us, a God who loves us, a God who remains with us, a God who will guide us if we put our trust in him.***

Fr Dean Mathieson, Bayside Catholic Mission

An Advent project of being alert and watchful in the spirit of today's Gospel

Every morning when we get up, let us pray, “Lord, show me someone today with whom I may share your love, mercy and forgiveness.” Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, “Whatever you do in your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for Jesus.” Every night when we go to bed, let us ask ourselves, “Where have I found Christ today?” The answer will be God's Advent gift to us that day.

By being alert and watchful we will receive an extra gift: Christ himself. Let us remember the saying of St. Thomas Aquinas: ***“Without God, I can't. Without me, He won't.”***



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION THIS THURS 3rd DECEMBER celebrated by Bishop TERENCE CURTIN
PLEASE KEEP THE GRADE 6 CHILDREN IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR THEIR CONFIRMATION ON THURSDAY. THIS HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES BUT THANKFULLY WITH A NUMBER OF RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE THEY CAN RECEIVE THIS BEAUTIFUL SACRAMENT BEFORE THEY FINISH THEIR FINAL YEAR AT STM. MAY GOD BLESS THEM ALL. **MAY THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT STAY ALIVE IN THEIR HEARTS AND MAY THEY RECEIVE GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH. AMEN**



THIS SUNDAY THE CHURCH BEGINS HER NEW LITURGICAL YEAR WITH THE SEASON OF ADVENT (YR B) AND WITH THANKSGIVING WE NOW OPEN OUR CHURCH FOR SUNDAY MASSES....

Effective 23rd November 2020 and in line with easing of Covid-19 restrictions, our Church will now be open for **three weekday Masses**: Tuesdays at 9.30 am, Wednesdays at 9.30 am and Fridays at 9.30 am and **two weekend Masses**: Saturday at 5.00 pm and Sunday at 10.00 am

Until the situation becomes clearer, the Italian Mass at 9.00am will be put on hold and parishioners who normally attended either of the two previous Sunday Masses, are asked to join together at the Sunday 10 am Mass).

Please note that Government guidelines now permit 150 worshippers maximum for indoor services however strict social distancing guidelines must be adhered to. Therefore our Church is only able to safely accommodate up to 80 people. **Pre-registration for Mass is no longer required however once our full quota has been reached, the Church doors will close. Names and contact numbers of those attending the Masses will need to be taken and ALL safety guidelines set out by the Health Department in relation to Covid 19 will be strictly followed.**

YOU MUST WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES AND IF FEELING UNWELL PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CHURCH.

Preparing for Christmas: GIVING FIRST TO THOSE IN NEED.....

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We seek the support of our parishioners to provide needy families with at least the basic necessities to celebrate Christmas. This has been an extraordinary year due to COVID 19, and the St Vincent de Paul Society (as with other charities) has not received the usual level of donations. **We urgently need your generous donations of money.**

Because of continuing Covid restrictions regarding handling of goods, we are NOT seeking donations of food items. **This is only a request for donations of money.**

There are envelopes on the seats—please take one, and return it with your donation via the Mass Collections over the next two weeks. If you require a receipt, please fill in your name and address.

The Appeal is for two weeks only from this weekend until the 12/13 December, as we will need to distribute donations the following week of 14-18 December, giving recipients time to purchase whatever they need for Christmas.

THANK YOU

God loves those who find joy in giving
(Pope John Paul II)

**DECEMBER—
MONTH DEDICATED TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

The month of December is dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical colour purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the **Christmas** season. The liturgical colour changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

The Intentions of the Holy Father for December...For a life of prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Get ready this Advent by preparing your heart through PRAYER....

Through prayer we can enter into God's presence and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son. *Ask the Father to use this time during Advent to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness.*

NEXT **FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER** THERE WILL BE THE **EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** at 9.00am to 9.30am.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER.....

THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Pamela di Giorgio, Josie Abela, Carl & Michael Ceddia, Goretty Soares, Tecla Alessi, Frank & Maria Pisano, Anna Nicolazzo, Bernadette Micallef, Catherine, Jessie Formosa

RECENT DEATH: Girolamo Mezzatesta, Salvu Abela (in Malta), Pasquale Intigaro (in Italy)

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Turville (1 yr), Maria Failla (1 yr), Spiro Agius (2 yrs), Theresa Paladino, Emmanul Mallia (5 yrs),