



# ST THOMAS MORE PARISH, HADFIELD



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

FR ADAIKKALA RAJ LOURDUSAMY HGN

Parish Administrator

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Parish Office Hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 8.30am to 2.30pm

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*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B - 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## MASSES

MON: Church closed  
 TUES: 9.30am Mass  
 WED: 9.30am Mass  
 THURS: 9.30 Mass  
 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 & BENEDECTION: 1st Friday of the month  
9.00am—9.30am



### The 4th Advent Candle ..The Angel's Candle

The last purple candle is the Angel's Candle and represents the peace and justice that the angels and Christ brings to the world. It also can represent purity.

### Christmas Masses to be televised on C31 from St Patrick's Cathedral

The following Masses will be televised on C31 (channel 44on digital TV) and streamed live on [www.youtube.com/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/archmelb):

### CAROLS AND MIDNIGHT MASS:

Carols from 11.30pm, Mass at 12 midnight

### CHRISTMAS DAY: 11am

We invite you to come together in your households and families, uniting with the Church in Melbourne and the whole world to celebrate these liturgies in your homes.

## Saying Yes to God

The Good News in today's Scripture message is not only that God is making provision for the salvation of His

people, but also that He has a plan for each individual person. Just as God called Mary, He calls every mother to raise her child in the awareness of God's nurturing presence, His unconditional love and His guiding commandments.

### The significance of Mary's yes:

Jesus' earthly existence begins with Mary's "Yes" in today's account of the Annunciation. Although we normally regard the birth of Jesus as the beginning of God's presence among us, the Church teaches that the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit took place at the moment that Mary agreed to be the mother of Jesus. If Mary had said "No," instead of "Yes," history might have been different – although we know that God's plans would not have been frustrated.

Mary's "Yes," changed the world. Her obedience to God's call changed the lives of all of us. How many times have we said "No," to God? How different would things be – for us and for others – if we had said "Yes," to him more often? "The Blessed Virgin Mary was the first human person who could say of Jesus, "This is my body, this is my blood." She was the first altar of the Incarnation's mystery. Her body a fitting temple, she was the prime analogate for those who know and live the mysteries of transubstantiation. Was she not, then, the first priest, the first minister of the sacrament of the real presence?" (Fr. Kavanaugh-Vatican News).

## Come home for Christmas at St Thomas More Parish

### Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve) - NO Nativity Play this year

(Carols 30 minutes prior to every service on Christmas Eve)

- 9.30am Mass of The Nativity of the Lord
- 5.30pm Christmas Mass for families
- Midnight Mass

### Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)

- 9.00am Christmas Day Mass in Italian
- 10.30am Christmas Day Mass



Due to COVID safety protocols, numbers are limited and you will need to book to attend our Christmas Masses. **We are allocating seats so the largest number of people can attend Mass.** Bookings are also via TryBooking on <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOMR> Or telephone Parish Office on 9357 1422 or email hadfield@cam.org.au

Please note Carols 30 minutes prior to every Mass on Christmas Eve (9am, 5pm & 11.30pm). **We encourage people to arrive early at all the services to facilitate seamless arrival and check-in procedure. Although not compulsory,** we are encourage people to wear masks in the Church. You will be asked to sanitise your hands prior to entry into the Church and to follow social distancing as per DHHS requirements. You will be allocated seating by an Usher.

## JANUARY 2021 MASSES IN OUR PARISH

**Thursday 31 December (New Year's Eve)**

\* 9.30am Mass

**Friday 1 January 2021 (Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God)**

\* 9.30am Mass of Thanksgiving

Bookings for Masses on 31 December and 1 January **not essential** but doors will close once full quote has been received.

**During the month of January our Mass times will continue as follows:**

**Four weekday Masses:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays at 9.30am

**Two weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil at 5.00 pm and Sunday at 10.00 am

*Due to COVID safety protocols, numbers are limited. Social distancing (2 metres) must be maintained and face masks are not compulsory now but must be used if distancing is not met. General COVID 19 safety and hygiene guidelines will be strictly adhered to. If you are awaiting Covid test results or you are feeling unwell, please do not come to Church.*

**Pre-registration for Mass is no longer required however once our full quota has been reached, the Church doors will close.**

### JESUS IS CHRISTMAS:

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS SPECIAL



**Sunday 20 December at 7pm broadcast on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and stream online at the Archdiocesan YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/archmelb).**

While our Christmas celebrations may look a little different this year, thankfully we can always return to the familiar sounds of Christmas to inspire and remind us of the reason for our Advent hope: the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Jesus is Christmas—then, now, always.** Together with your families, join us for this one-hour Christmas special from the comfort of your home, and sing along to your favourite carols sung by some of Melbourne's most talented musicians.

Join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and featuring carols by many performers including Silvie Paladino, Gary Pinto, Tongan Choir from Immaculate Conception Sunshine and many more. **Let's come together to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ— gift of love and hope for our world.**



We pray for *Sebastian De Sensi* who will be baptised this weekend. Lord Jesus, hear our prayers, and with Your unfailing protection, watch over and cherish this child, whom You have blessed with the grace of baptism.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS—MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE**  
Mercy Works Ltd. Is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week during school terms. Experience working in an education setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding at the end of January. Email: [somml@bigpond.com](mailto:somml@bigpond.com) (preferred for contact) or tel: 9326 1895. Website: [www.mercyworks.org.au](http://www.mercyworks.org.au)



*Frank & Mary Agius*

*You have come a long way together, you have walked in sunshine and in shadows, you have faced life's storms and shared the rainbows, and you have done it all with faith and love together, and as you journey on to find tomorrow, go with love and always go with God. Congratulations and blessings to you both. Fr Raj and all your friends at STM*

### **Volunteers Needed at Christmas Masses**

Due to the COVID requirements involving attendance records and numbers allowed at Masses, **we are in need of helpers at all of our Christmas Masses.** **Welcomers** are needed to mark those present and we need **Ushers** to help guide people to their seats and to stay at the doors at the end of Mass to ensure that people do not congregate outside the exits.

If you are able to help please contact Parish Office asap on 9357 1422 and leave a message if unattended or email [hadfield@cam.org.au](mailto:hadfield@cam.org.au). **THANK YOU**



### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER.....**

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Pamela di Giorgio, Josie Abela, Carl & Michael Ceddia, Goretty Soares, Tecla Alessi, Alex (6 yr) Frank & Maria Pisano, Anna Nicolazzo, Jessie Formosa, Bernadette & Robert Micallef, Lisa Celmente, Bill Johnson, Robert & Carmen Tabone, Lorena di Giandomenico, Sheree Goodear, Maureen Canino,

### **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:**