

Featurettes

Ferials and Feasts this week

Sunday—Third Sunday of Advent
Monday—Monday of Week 3 in Advent
Tuesday—Tuesday of Week 3 in Advent
Wednesday—Wednesday of Week 3 in Advent
Thursday—Thursday of Week 3 in Advent
Friday—Friday of Week 3 in Advent
Saturday—Saturday of Week 3 in Advent

Assistant Priest Appointment

Archbishop Peter Comensoli has appointed Fr Thomas Kuruville as Assistant Priest of St Monica's Moonee Ponds with effect 9th January 2019. Fr Jossy Kizhakkethalackal Kuriakose has been appointed as Assistant Priest to St Peters with effect 9th January 2019. Fr Jossy comes to us from St Kevin's in Hampton Park. We wish them every blessing and hope that their ministry will be a fruitful one.

We shall recognise Fr Thomas at the morning tea after the 9:30am mass next week, 23rd December. Should anyone like to make a contribution to a parish gift, please place it in the donation box in the priests sacristy before or after mass.

Carols in the Courtyard

Carols in the St Peter's Primary School courtyard on Monday 17th December at 6:00pm. All parishioners and families are welcome.

Youth



St. Peter's Parish is committed to the safety, well being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults. If you see something that concerns you, say something. Need advice? Call the office of *Professional Standards and Ethics for assistance* on 9926 5677, or call the *Department of Health and Human Services* on 131 278.

Christmas 2018

Advent Reconciliation
 Friday, 21st December at 7:00pm

Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December

5:30pm—Carols followed by
 6:00pm—Vigil Mass
 8:00pm—Vigil Mass in Malayalam
 11:30pm—Carols followed by
 Mass During the Night 12:00am

Christmas Day, Monday 25 December

8:00am—Morning Mass
 9:30am—Solemn Mass
 11:15am—Mass in Italian

New Year's Day, Tuesday 1 January

9:00am—Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Advertising in the Parish Directory 2019

We are seeking businesses or people who wish to place an advertisement in our parish directory for 2019. The cost of an advertisement is \$150 for a half page (A6 size) and \$250 for a full page (A5 size). Please spread the word around to those businesses or individuals who would be happy to support our parish and in turn we support them.

Vocations View

Have you ever asked: "What ought I do?" Simply, tell the good news to people. Nothing else matters.



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Andrew McCarter | **Assistant Priest:** Rev. Fr Thomas Kuruville

DETAILS		MASS SCHEDULE
PARISH		
Address:	258 Clayton Road, Clayton, 3168	Weekend Mass Times
Phone:	9544 1516	Saturday (Vigil) 6:00pm
Fax:	9544 1089	Sunday 8:00am
Email:	clayton@cam.org.au	9:30am
Website:	www.stpetersclayton.com	11:15am (English & Italian)
Parish Secretary:	Lisa Smith	4:30pm (Malayalam)
Domestic Support:	Seda Peters	
Office Hours:		Weekday Masses
Monday	Closed	Monday 9:00am
Tuesday—Friday	9:00am—4:00pm	7:00pm (Malayalam)
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL		Tuesday 9:00am
Address:	16 Mary St, Clayton, 3168	Wednesday 9:00am
Phone:	9544 3032	7:00pm (Mass & Novena)
Email:	principal@spclayton.catholic.edu.au	Thursday 9:00am
Principal:	Sharon Daujat	Friday 9:00am
Secretary:	Margaret Nahon	2:30pm Divine Mercy
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL		Saturday 9:00am
Sacred Heart College, Oakleigh:	9568 5488	
Mazenod College, Mulgrave:	9560 0911	Other Sacraments
Salesian College, Chadstone:	9807 2644	Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am (or by appointment)
Killester College, Springvale:	9547 5000	Marriages and Baptism: By appointment
		Anointing of the Sick: Please call parish office

Third Sunday of Advent —Year C

16th December 2018

A Day of Festival – Today we sing and shout for joy with Christ, the Lord of the Dance, who brings us the Good News of our redemption, and renews us by his love.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.
SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia!
 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
 Alleluia!
GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

NEXT WEEK'S READING: Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year C

FIRST READING: Micah 5:1-4
SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10
GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-44

From the Desk of the Parish Priest

The Eucharist as an Invitation to Justice

Rev. Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI

When the famous historian Christopher Dawson decided to become a Roman Catholic, his aristocratic mother was distressed, not because she had any aversion to Catholic dogma, but because now her son would, in her words, have to “worship with the help”. She was painfully aware that, in church at least, his aristocratic background would no longer set him apart from others or above anyone. At church he would be just an equal among equals because the Eucharist would strip him of his higher social status.

She intuited correctly. The Eucharist, among other things, calls us to justice, to disregard the distinction between rich and poor, noble and peasant, aristocrat and servant, both around the Eucharist table itself and afterwards outside of the church. The Eucharist fulfills what Mary prophesized when she was pregnant with Jesus, namely, that, in Jesus, the mighty would be brought down and that lowly would be raised up. It was this very thing that first drew Dorothy Day to Christianity. She noticed that, at the Eucharist, the rich and the poor knelt side by side, all equal at that moment.

Sadly, we often don’t take this dimension of the Eucharist seriously. There is a common tendency to think that the practice of justice, especially social justice, is an optional part of being a Christian, something mandated by political correctness rather than by the gospels. Generally we don’t see the call to actively reach out to the poor as something from which we cannot exempt ourselves.

But we are wrong in this. In the gospels and in the Christian scriptures in general, the call to reach out to the poor and to help create justice in the world is as non-negotiable as keeping the commandments and going to church. Indeed striving for justice must be part of all authentic worship.

In the New Testament, every tenth line is a direct challenge to reach out to the poor. In Luke’s gospel, we find this in every sixth line. In the Epistle of James, this occurs in every fifth line. The challenge to reach out to the poor and to level the distinction between rich and poor is an integral and non-negotiable part of being a Christian, commanded as strongly as any of the commandments. And this challenge is contained in the Eucharist itself: The Eucharistic table calls us to justice, to reach out to the poor. How?

First, by definition, the Eucharistic table is a table of social non-distinction, a place where the rich and the poor are called to be together beyond all class and status. At the Eucharist there are to be no rich and no poor, only one equal family praying together in a common humanity. In baptism we are all made equal and for that reason there are no separate worship services for the rich and the poor. Moreover, St. Paul warns us strongly that when we gather for the Eucharist the rich should not receive preferential treatment.

Indeed, the gospels invite us in the opposite direction. When you hold any banquet, they tell us, we should give preferential treatment to the poor. This is especially true for the Eucharist. The poor should be welcomed in a special way. Why?

Because, among other things, the Eucharist commemorates Jesus’ brokenness, his poverty, his body being broken and his blood being poured out. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin expresses this aptly when he suggests that the wine offered at the Eucharist symbolizes precisely the brokenness of the poor: In a sense the true substance to be consecrated each day is the world’s development during that day – the bread symbolizing appropriately what creation succeeds in producing, the wine (blood) what creation causes to be lost in exhaustion and suffering in the course of that effort. The Eucharist offers up the tears and blood of the poor and invites us to help alleviate the conditions that produce tears and blood.

And we do that, as a famous church hymn says, by moving “from worship into service”. We don’t go to the Eucharist only to worship God by expressing our faith and devotion. The Eucharist is not a private devotional prayer, but is rather a communal act of worship which, among other things, calls us to go forth and live out in the world what we celebrate inside of a church, namely, the non-importance of social distinction, the special place that God gives to the tears and blood of the poor, and non-negotiable challenge from God to each of us to work at changing the conditions that cause tears and blood. The Eucharist calls us to love tenderly, but, just as strongly, it calls us to act in justice.

To say that Eucharist calls us to justice and to social justice is not a statement that takes its origin in political correctness. It takes its origin in Jesus who, drawing upon the great prophets of old, assures us that the validity of all worship will ultimately be judged by how it affects “widows, orphans, and strangers.”

We remember in our prayers

Recently deceased: Antonino Mancuso, Maria Mete

Anniversaries: Arogya Swamy, Anastasia Gravina, Raffaella Sacco

Sick & their carers: Rosalina Garcia, Kitty Dai Yun Zhang, Andrea Cinque, Marina Hanz, Armando Ravelo, Robert Holdsworth, Warren Beaton, Ricardo Dayonot, Margaret Iringan, Bernie Perabo, Rodrigo Bugtai, June Dickson

Parish Notices

Shepherds & Angels—Children are invited to dress as angels and shepherd and form part of the entrance procession at the 6:00pm vigil mass on Christmas eve.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal—Is next weekend, on the 22nd and 23rd December.

Novena Masses— There will be no Mass/Novena celebrated on Wednesdays at 7:00pm from 9th January and will restart on 6th February.

With Thanks from Charlie Grech—Thanks to Fr Andrew, Fr Thomas and the St Peter’s Parish Pastoral Planning Group for awarding me with the papal blessing for 60 years of continuous voluntary work and caretaking of the parish. I also wish to thank St Peter’s community for their involvement during my 62 years as a parishioner at St Peter’s. Without the help of many other parishioners I would not have been able to achieve this, as they made my role easier when I asked for help. I also wish to express my deep gratitude to my wife Mary, our children and also the good example of my wonderful family especially my beloved Mother who was always ready to help others without hesitation. Thank you all so much.



‘Preaching of St John the Baptist’ is located in Cappella Tornabuoni, which is the main chapel in the Basilica of Santa Maria Novella, Florence, Italy. It is famous for the extensive and well-preserved fresco cycle on its walls, one of the most complete in the city, which was created by Domenico Ghirlandaio and his workshop between 1485 and 1490.

St. John the Baptist is portrayed above in the center of the scene, on a rock, preaching to a large crowd gathered around him. He is dressed in typical skins, with a cross in his right hand. From the path at the top on the left appears Jesus listening.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK | 23 December—Sunday Year B

	6:00pm	8:00am	9:30am
Reader	1 Imeleta Lemalu	Neil Daly	Catechist Children
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion	1 Savitri Ratnasabaphy	Yvonne Hepponstall	Betty Holdsworth
	2 Maria Paiva	Marlene Marshall	Charlene Perez
	3 N/A	N/A	Tony Perez
Hospitality	Letty Lozano, Lucy & Rene Yurong, Pauline & Renato Gallardo		
Monash Medical Centre	<i>(Team 3)</i> Mildred De Souza, Lester De Souza, Luan Viegas		
Counters	<i>(Team 1)</i> Laeta Tabak & Neil Daly		
Church Cleaners	<i>(Team 3)</i> Betty Holdsworth, Val Manuelpillai, Lucy Araujo <i>(Friday 28/12/2018)</i>		
Linen	Tina Giannotte		