

The BAPTISM of the Lord - 9 January 2022



CATHOLIC PARISH OF HOLY SPIRIT & ST. ANTHONY'S

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH AND PARISH PRIEST OFFICE:
45 RAILWAY PLACE, ALPHINGTON

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH AND PARISH OFFICE:
248 RALEIGH STREET, THORNBURY EAST



hosan.org.au



hosan@cam.org.au



+61 3 9412 8439



@hosanorgau

We are faith filled people, striving to live out the message of Jesus; sharing our talents,
nurturing our community, reaching out to all; celebrating God through prayer and liturgy.

PARISH LOOKED AFTER BY SALVATORIANS  sds.org.au

Fr. Ireneusz Czech SDS

supported by
Monsignor. Thomas (Tom) Doyle

PASTORAL TEAM
Pauline Egan - Visitation Ministry

PARISH ADMINISTRATION
Margaret Harrington - Admin (Thurs - Fri)

CHURCH MUSIC DIRECTORS
John Samanna - Holy Spirit

PARISH SCHOOLS
Holy Spirit - School principal: Rob Costin
197 Clarendon Street, East Thornbury
Email: principal@hsthornburyeast.catholic.edu.au
Tel: 9480 0391

St. Anthony's - School principal: James Casey
52 Austin Street, Alphington
Email: principal@saalphington.catholic.edu.au
Tel: 9489 7936



**COVID PROTOCOLS GIVEN TO US BY THE
DEPT OF HEALTH AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE STIPULATE THAT WE CAN NOW ALL
GATHER TOGETHER BUT WE MUST STILL USE
THE QR CODE TO ENTER THE CHURCH**

**THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASSES
UNTIL
TUESDAY 25th January 2022 and
AND NO
6PM SATURDAY NIGHT MASS AT
ST ANTHONY'S
UNTIL
22nd January 2022.....**

Did you know?

Points of interest and Catholic lore

- This feast and the wedding at Cana miracle (next week's gospel) were originally celebrated on the same day as the feast of the Epiphany because they are also considered to be manifestations of the Christ.
- The word baptism comes from a Greek word meaning 'to plunge'.
- The first Christians were baptised by being plunged into running streams or rivers, following the practice of John. Later, large fonts were built in churches, and baptism of the faithful, usually adults, was by full immersion.
- The mainstream Christian churches—Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican—recognise the same baptism. If a person is baptised into one of these churches, it is not repeated, even if they move to worshiping in another church.
- Jesus is clearly attracted by the preaching of the Baptist and submits to his baptism of repentance. Scholars believe that Jesus may have spent some time as a disciple of John the Baptist before embarking on his own public ministry.

Sharing the tradition

Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments of the Church. A sacrament is a sign through which God communicates love, life and forgiveness to us.

'Immersion in water symbolises not only death and purification, but also regeneration and renewal. Thus the two principal effects (of baptism) are purification from sins and new birth in the Holy Spirit' (CCC, §1262). • Explore together the meaning of these two aspects of baptism.

• Examine the Rite of Baptism for Infants, with special emphasis on the prayers and anointing that form part of the rite. How are forgiveness of sin and new birth reflected in the rite?

• It may be an opportunity to discuss with catechumens what will happen at their own baptism or reception ceremony.

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading: Is 40 : 105,9-11

Responsorial Psalm

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, John Said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia

Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Next Weekend: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1st Reading: Is 62:1-5

2nd Reading: I Cor 12: 4-11

Gospel: Jn 2: 1-11

Deaths and Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently including Alfonso Lorenzin and those whose anniversaries occur at this time that they all be at peace with their God.

Exploring the Word

Exploring the word A small text later in the Gospel of Luke offers us a key to today's gospel. During his public ministry, Jesus will say: 'Up to the time of John it was the Law and the Prophets; since then the Kingdom of God has been preached' (Luke 16:16). The baptism of Jesus marks the turning point. Today's gospel tells the story of crossing the threshold from the old order into the new. John very clearly states that despite some people's expectations, he is not the Messiah—the usher of the new order. John points beyond his own time to a future when God's Spirit is given at baptism, and the first of such baptisms belongs to Jesus himself. Immediately after Jesus' somewhat anonymous immersion along with 'all the people', the Spirit does indeed come to Jesus, and the affirming voice from heaven announces Christ's sonship. God has come among us indeed. • In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is very aware of the consequences of submitting to the baptism proclaimed by John. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he goes into the desert, where he wrestles with all that he will be forced to forego in taking up his role as God's beloved Son. His resolve is firm, and he announces his mission in the synagogue at Nazareth. You could read together the next chapters of Luke, which trace this resolution.

• What will be the consequences of baptism for you? How will your life change? What will you be sent to do?

Calls to the Parish office, please call 94128439 first and leave a message and then in an emergency also call 0432576500 or email hosan@cam.org.au

The Parish of Holy Spirit and St Anthony's and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention OR contact the child safety representatives of our Parish—Margaret Harrington, Pauline Egan, Fran Adamopoulos and Max Gomez.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARISH

CDF is continuously looking to improve its service and client support and with Christmas fast approaching they are introducing an easier way for parishioners to support our parish with a new CDF pay QR code. This QR code is unique to St Anthony, Alphington and Holy Spirit, Thornbury East and will give parishioners direct access to our CDF pay web page. To make a payment, parishioners simply scan our CDF pay QR code on display in the foyer of the Church with their mobile phone and follow a few easy steps. We thank you for your support of the parish in this way.



Thank you for your generosity and your work.....

We had a giving tree at St Anthony's and a small raffle at our volunteers thank you dinner for the Asylum Seekers support group and raised \$630 a great effort thank you. Laxmi Fonseca

On behalf of all those families we assisted with Christmas hampers, the Holy Spirit/St Marys Vinnies conference would like to thank all parishioners who donated money and food items via the Giving Tree. We again had a generous response which enabled us to provide 23 hampers to local families. This number was a little down on previous years but we were still very busy on Christmas eve packing and delivering the hampers. Solid work by 14 workers ensured we had the job finished in around 3 hours. Of these 14 people, 7 were non Vinnies members and of those 7, 4 were first time helpers. It is always great to see a few new faces. Again, thanks to all. Brendon Leverett

Also we would like to thank everyone who made our churches look so beautiful for the Christmas celebrations, the flower ladies, the cleaners, the sacristans, those who set up the nativity scenes, the choirs and musicians who always add the beauty of the occasion. Well done, parishioners are slowly returning to our churches and I am sure they felt the welcoming atmosphere at both churches over the weekend.

We would like to thank Kevin and Katrina Jansz and their team who co-ordinated the Nativity Play at Holy Spirit on Christmas Eve. It was again a wonderful event with children, musicians and parishioners re-enacting the birth of Jesus. Thank you

Parish Telephone Prayer Group:

Call in: Tuesday at 11.30am. Cost of a local call.

Call-in number: a) 07-5660 6012 b) access code : 722762 # . Cost of a local call.

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Brendon Leverett on 94801061

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DEAR PARISHIONERS
& VISITORS!
PLEASE VISIT OUR
PARISH PRIEST'S
YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

ST ANTHONY'S AND HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
ALPHINGTON/EAST THORNBURY



Christmas Message, - Fr Ireneusz

Dear Parishioners, School Communities, Friends and Visitors!

Every year on Christmas Day we express our wishes to each other and exchange gifts.

What are your expectations for Christmas this year?

What would you like to receive from God or from your family as a gift?

Of course, we have different needs but, I think, the biggest desire we all should have is to have the presence of Jesus in our lives.

We need the Saviour to be a part of our existence on earth.

Not only that; we need him to be the Lord of our lives and of our homes.

May He truly be alive through our words and actions during this beautiful season.

Let us be peacemakers and bring reconciliation to our families and friends.

Please feel welcome as you join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ!

May the Lord bless you and keep you in God's loving presence. I wish you a truly happy Christmas.

You are in my prayers. Fr Ireneusz

FAREWELL MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

My time in the parish comes to an end. I would like to thank you for all the love and care you have shown me over the past three years. Also, I would like to express my appreciation for your support offered to all the Salvatorians, who served you in the past five years.

I am taking with me a lot of great memories, which have been enjoyable and enriching in many ways. As I always pray for my past, present and future parishioners, you will be in my heart for the rest of my life. I humbly ask for your prayerful support as well.

Have a happy Christmas season and a great new year 2022!

In Christ the Saviour

Fr Ireneusz Czech SDS

Thank you Fr Ireneusz



We farewelled Fr Ireneusz at the volunteers dinner last week and gave him a gift from the parish for his time with us over the past three years. Though the past two years have been a difficult time for us all we thank him for his work, prayers and support during this time. We wish him well for 2022 and beyond.

