





# ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH WEST BELCONNEN



Parish Priest: Fr Tom Thornton 0408 623 303

Parish Secretary: Debbie Hofman

School Principal: Leah Taylor

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Parish Office: 23 Lhotsky Street Charnwood ACT 2615 Phone: 6258 1563 Email: charnwood@cg.org.au Website: www.stthomasaquinascharnwood.com

St Thomas Aquinas School: 25 Lhotsky Street Charnwood ACT 2615 Email: office.staquinas@cg.catholic.edu.au Website: www.staquinas.act.edu.au

## MASS TIMES -20 persons only

Each day at 9:30 am – you need to be rostered on if you are not already on the roster.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Contact Fr Tom Thornton on 6258 1563

### Baptisms

Contact Fr Tom Thornton on 6258 1563

### Marriages

Contact Fr Tom Thornton on 6258 1563

### Funerals and Weddings

Contact Fr Tom Thornton on 6258 1563

## UPDATED ARCHDIOCESAN PROTOCOLS FROM 29 May 2020

Mass may be celebrated for no more than 20 people, excluding those conducting the service.

Funerals celebrated inside the church building are restricted to 20 people, excluding those conducting the service. Outdoors 50 people

Weddings may now be celebrated with 20 people, excluding those conducting the ceremony.

These gatherings are permitted with the physical distancing rule of 1.5 metres. No physical sign of peace is permitted and Holy Communion in the hand only.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION: COLLECTIONS

It has become evident during the shutdown of the parish that our finances are very vulnerable when we rely on the time old methods of collection.

During this time also the Commonwealth Bank has closed the branch where we did business and the result of that means we have to utilise the larger and busier branch at Belconnen Mall.

As a direct result of these factors we are asking parishioners to:

Please arrange, either online or through your own bank branch, to direct debit your contributions to both collections:

**FIRST COLLECTION** (the income for the Priest/clergy):

**Account Name:** Central Presbytery Fund

**BSB No:** 062-786

**Account No:** 29248

**Reference:** Parish example: St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood.

It is very important that individuals put the Reference information in, that way money can be allocated correctly.

**SECOND COLLECTION** (the income to maintain the parish):

**BSB: No:** 062-786

**Account No:** 14877

**Reference:** Surname and envelop number (e.g. 'Jones 251'). Ensure it is recorded and receipted properly and accurately.

You can be allotted a number for planned giving purposes which can be utilised for taxation receipts.

**COLLECTION BAGS:** These will no longer be allowed to be used due to the possibility of the transmission of the virus so that when mass resumes normally on the weekend a **COLLECTION BOX** will be temporarily placed at the church foyer in which both first and second collection contributions will be placed until everyone has arranged for direct debiting. This will be only a temporary measure as it is not secure.

**NO COINS ACCEPTED:** It is no longer possible to accept coins due to the fact they are difficult and dangerous to transport and take an inordinate amount of time to process at the bank. As we are having to utilise a busy branch it is not feasible to collect and process coins any longer.

If you have any questions please call either Ms Kerry Meagher on 0410348352 or Mr Denis Hally-Burton on 0408583297 or ask Fr Tom.

### The First Collection – What is it for?

For most Catholics the First Collection is a mystery.

Simply and fundamentally the First Collection is the **SALARY FOR THE PRIEST**, so everything you contribute on the first collection is given to pay a wage to the priest.

Within the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn the priests have agreed to combine their individual parish collections into a Central Fund. This was done to enable priests in every parish to receive the same salary and it is beneficial for priests in small towns where insufficient income is received from the parish due to small congregations.

It does not matter where we are ministering we all receive the same stipend (**including the Archbishop**).

Presently each priest receives a stipend each month, together with and allowance for his food. All this money comes from that Central Fund.

Due to the closure of the parishes the priests have been unable to receive an income and we have had to rely on the reserves of the Central Fund to provide an income. As a result we have reduced our salary by 25%.

Just for information purposes the closure of the parishes has reduced our weekly contributions to the first collection from **\$180,000** per week (for the whole Archdiocese) to **\$9,000** per week (for the whole Archdiocese). This has occurred because **very few people give money to the First Collection via Direct Debit from their bank accounts.**

I am highlighting this for your information and I would encourage you, if you are able, to support your priests by way of Direct Debit to ensure a regular income stream for priests. All information needed to facilitate this is in the bulletin or the noticeboard in the foyer or you can get it from the parish office during office hours. I hope this helps and thanks for your generosity now and over the years.

**Fr Tom**

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7:00 pm in the Community Centre.

## RETREATS

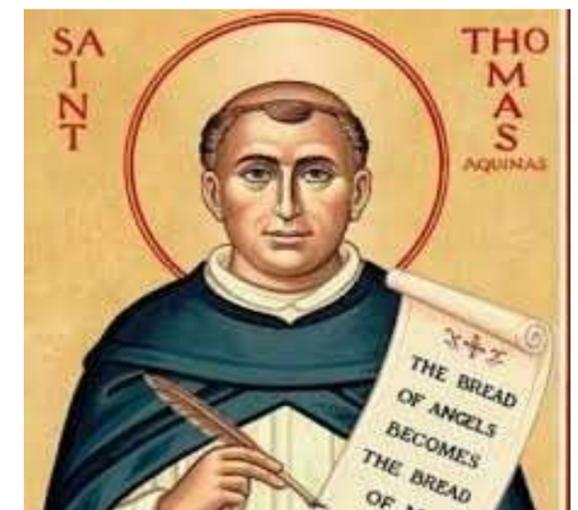
There are 2020 Hermitage Mittagong Retreats flyer are available on the table at the entrance to the Church.

## LAUGHTER IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$25."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money!"



## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Sick:

We remember and pray for those who are ill at home and in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ.

Claire Carton (Andrew Daly's wife), Michael Pitt

### Recently Deceased:

Virginia Agostinis (mother of Luisa Mitchell), Jeff Culnane

### Death Anniversaries:

We remember in prayer all those who have died.

## PARISH INFORMATION

If you have had no communication from the parish it means we either don't have your number or your contact details (email or mobile phone). It would greatly assist us if you could write them down and put them in the office, during office hours, or in the letterbox.

We have found it difficult to communicate well without the information and if you have no computer or access to our parish website then we can't stay in touch. Please let us know. **Fr**

**Tom**