

10th December 2021

ST THOMAS PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Dear St Thomas Family,

December seems to be racing past, and Christmas approaches. This week, Advent 3, Andrew and I will be doing a 'pulpit swop' with me going to preach and preside at St Faiths, and him being here with you. (The last time he came was days before he discovered he had shingles, and he really wasn't feeling himself while battling with pain – so thankfully this should be a happier occasion for him!). I know you will give him a warm welcome.

The end of the school academic year has arrived, and we wish all our learners and educators a well earned rest these holidays. We pray for all who will be travelling over the festive season. Sadly we are mindful of the numerous families who have been directly affected by the travel bans imposed as a result of the Omicron Covid virus.

Rotary Carols by Candlelight: This annual event will be taking place in Kirstenbosch for 4 nights starting on 16th December. Details available from Ruth Browne. I will be doing the closing prayer on Thursday 16th. Bring a blanket and your picnic basket and enjoy a special evening outside!

MID-WEEK EUCHARISTS:

Tuesday 14th December: 9.30am St Thomas (in the sanctuary)
11.30am Grosvenor Square

Tuesday 21st December: 9.30am at Woodside Frail Care

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: the Advent Bible Study concludes this week on Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Koinonia room.

St Thomas's ENTREPRENEUR'S MARKET – next Saturday 18th December 8h30 – 12h30 – See you there for a cup of coffee and cake to do some Christmas shopping and holiday purchases.

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS - 19 December at 6pm: Do come along and invite your friends and family to this special Carol service. We will enjoy beautiful music and the reading of the scriptures that tell the Christmas story. This will be followed by **Mince Pies and tea** in the garden afterwards – please bring a plate of mince pies to share (**it would be helpful if you could let Caro know in the office if you are able to do so or SIGN UP on the list in the porch to bring or help**).

STATIONARY COLLECTION: We will be collecting stationary at ALL our Christmas services (starting with our 6pm Carol Service on 19th) to be given to the girls at St Michael's child and youth care centre.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - For Christmas day the church will be decorated with flowers to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus! Please consider making a donation towards the costs of the flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in thankfulness for blessings received. Please use the envelopes in the porch and place in the collection or the church's bank details using the reference FLOWERS.

LADLES OF LOVE SANDWICHES – Last day for sandwiches will be this Monday 13th December and we will re-start on Monday 17th January.

Inspire Junior Church

Dear parents - please note that this Sunday will be our last morning gathering for Junior Church. We wish to thank you for all the support shown to Junior Church this year. Thank you for the enthusiasm at every Sunday service, All-Age worship and initiative which was received with so much joy. This

year was a blend of Online and in person worship and I would like to thank our teachers/volunteers and amazing kids for all that you have done. We look forward to a great 2022 starting again on Sunday 16th January BUT before we get there let us rest and celebrate as we continue through Advent toward Christmas.

Crib Service

The Crib Service will be on 24th of December at 17:00-18:30pm. This is a special inclusive service for children of various ages to ponder mystery and joy as we welcome the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ. This year we would like to get “Messy” in the Koinonia Room as we make crafts and enjoy some treats before entering our “sacred” space for a “godly play” in the church sanctuary where there will be singing, reading the Bible, and building the crib together.

OFFICE CLOSURE: The parish office will close at 12 noon Friday 24th December and re-open at 8h30 Monday 10th January.

We have received a fresh supply of **St Francis Calendars** – a beautiful gift and bargain at R80 each (R160 in the shops!) Available from the parish office 8h30 – 12h30 weekdays.

God bless everyone and see you on Sunday.

Claire

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St Thomas's Christmas Services

19TH DECEMBER - 18H00 - CAROL SERVICE
(Followed by mince pies & refreshments)

24TH DECEMBER - 17H30 - CRIB SERVICE
(Come dressed as your favourite nativity character)

24TH DECEMBER - 22H00 - MIDNIGHT MASS
(Preacher & presider Bishop Joshua)

25TH DECEMBER - 8H30 - CHRISTMAS HOLY EUCHARIST

26TH DECEMBER - NO SERVICE

2ND JANUARY - 9H30 SERVICE (NO 7H45 SERVICE)
9TH JANUARY - 9H30 SERVICE (NO 7H45 SERVICE)
16TH JANUARY - 7H45 & 9H30 SERVICES

*Please bring a gift of stationery to be given to
St Michael's Child & Youth Care Centre*

Inclusive LOVE