



ST THOMAS

the APOSTLE

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

9TH AUGUST 2026

"I am the way, the truth, and the life"



It is I - Have No Fear

Does the Lord Jesus seem distant when trials or adversity come your way? It was at Jesus' initiative that the disciples sailed across the lake, only to find themselves in a life-threatening storm. Although they were experienced fishermen, they feared for their lives. While Jesus was not with them in the boat, he, nonetheless watched for them in prayer. When he perceived their trouble he came to them on the sea and startled them with his sudden appearance. Do you look for the Lord's presence when you encounter difficulty or challenges?

This dramatic incident on the sea of Galilee revealed Peter's character more fully than others. Here we see Peter's impulsiveness - his tendency to act without thinking of what he was doing. He often failed and came to grief as a result of his impulsiveness. In contrast, Jesus always bade his disciples to see how difficult it was to follow him before they set out on the way he taught them. A great deal of failure in the Christian life is due to acting on impulse and emotional fervor without counting the cost. Peter, fortunately in the moment of his failure clutched at Jesus and held him firmly. Every time Peter fell, he rose again. His failures only made him love the Lord more deeply and trust him more intently.

The Lord keeps watch over us at all times, and especially in our moments of temptation and difficulty. Do you rely on the Lord for his strength and help? Jesus assures us that we have no need of fear if we trust in Him and in his great love for us. When calamities or trials threaten to overwhelm you, how do you respond? With faith and hope in God's love, care and presence with you?

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SUNDAY MASS

Saturday - 6:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday - 8:30am
10:00am

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday - 6:00pm
Wednesday - 9:30am
Thursday - 9:30am
Friday - 9:30am
6:00pm (Solemnity of
the Assumption Vigil)
Saturday - 9:30am

ADORATION

Tuesday - 5:00pm
Wednesday - 8:30am
Thursday - 8:30am
Friday - 8:30am

CONFESSION

Tuesday - 5:30pm
Saturday - 5:00pm

PARISH NOTICES

10 AUG

PARISH LUNCH | 12pm at the Irish Club, Monday 10th August. All are welcome.

11 AUG

CRAFT GROUP | The parish craft group meet fortnightly on a tuesday from 10am - 12pm in the parish meeting room. all are welcome. Contact Trudie 0419 293 190. The next meeting will be 11th August.

15 AUG

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION | HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

The solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Saturday 15th August. This is a Holy Day of Obligation in Australia which means we are required to attend Mass for that Feast day. There will be a vigil Mass on Friday 14th at 6pm and Saturday 15th at 9:30am. Attendance at either of these Masses fulfils the obligation.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL | Vinnies shops are places to find unique preloved clothes, accessories, and household items. The funds raised from the sale of stock at our shops support programs where there is no government funding. Over the past few weeks some of those programs have been described in our church bulletin. If you want to know more about what SVDP does for the community please feel free to reach out to some of our parish conference members.

KAIROS OUTSIDE | is an ecumenical support and ministry to women who are impacted by having a family member or friend in prison. Kairso Outside Canberra #22 will be held locally on the weekend of 21-23 August. Please support this with prayers! You can support this event by taking one or more spots in our **Prayer Vigil to pray for us** during the guest weekend: <https://signup.com/go/ZJwBvsN> or fill in one of the time spots on the Prayer Vigil roster in the foyer of the Church. For more details visit kocanberraagape@kairos.org.au or contact Sandy 0421 311 626

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE RCIA 2026/27 | the parish Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program will begin in August. This is a faith formation course for non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic, for baptised Catholics who have not completed other sacraments of initiation, for Catholics desiring to learn more about their faith or anyone else who may be beginning a discovery of faith but are unsure. All are welcome.

There will be an information evening on Thursday 20th August 2026 at 6pm in the Parish meeting room. For more information, please contact the parish office.

SOUTHSIDE HYMN FESTIVAL | 02:00 pm | Choirs and musicians from 6 parishes (Curtin, Gowrie, Kambah, Yarralumla, Pearce and Narrabundah) have accepted the invitation to play and sing at the Southside Hymn Festival from 2.00-4.30pm at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Curtin ACT on Sunday, 16 August 2026. Parishioners and families from all parishes are invited to attend. FREE admission and afternoon tea. Organised by the Knights of the Southern Cross and supported by the CSCC. E-mail Bob Perkins at perkins.family@aapt.net.au

CONTACT US

**St Thomas the Apostle
Catholic Church
37 Boddington Cres
Kambah ACT 2902**

Parish Priest:

Fr Eden Langlands
Eden.Langlands@cg.org.au
6231 9219

Parish Office:

Ms Louise Tomelty
kambah@cg.org.au
6231 9219
Tue & Fri - 9 am - 12 pm
kambah.org

St Thomas the Apostle Primary School:

39 Boddington Cres Kambah
6231 4144

Acting Principal:
Mrs Susan McRedmond

Religious Education Coordinator:
Mrs Jacinta Housler

For any safeguarding concerns,
please contact
ipss@cg.org.au

Safeguarding Volunteer:
Mrs Bruna Strmota.
kambah.safeguarding@cg.org.au

For Baptism, Marriage,
Funeral or RCIA enquiries
please contact the Parish
Office



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

COMMUNITY NOTICES

11 AUG **BE RADIANT! ST CARLO ACUTIS EUCHARISTIC NIGHT** | Calling all youth and young adults!! As the St Carlo Acutis Relic makes its pilgrimage around Australia and reaches Canberra, we invite you to join us for a night of games, testimonies and fun! On Tuesday 11 August 5-8:30pm, starting with a Holy Hour with the relic in St Christopher's Cathedral, then moving to Haydon Hall from 6pm for many exciting programs, including a session on the Eucharist by Fr Paul Nulley. Register via the QR code provided or through Instagram @jycanberra.

13 AUG **ALIVE: BBQ + Praise Night | 06:00 pm**
Join us for a BBQ dinner and praise night at ALIVE - a time to deepen your faith and gather as a young adult community. Whether you're seeking renewal, encouragement, or simply a moment to pause and encounter God, this night is for you.
Who: Young Adults Date: 6pm, Thursday 13th August 2026 | Location: ACU Signadou Chapel, 223 Antill Street, Watson. For any enquiries, please contact Ethan on 0413 545 808. ALIVE is an event run by ACU Campus Ministry and the Disciple of Jesus Covenant Community.

19 AUG **ORDINATION TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE | MR DOM GOMEZ | 19 August at 5:00pm** | The Archdiocese invites you to the ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Don Mauro Salvador Gomez on Wednesday, 19 August at 5:00pm at St Christopher's Cathedral. Please keep Don in your prayers as he prepares for his ordination and his future ministry in our Archdiocese

30 SEP **EXPLOSION YOUTH CONFERENCE** | Registrations are now open for Explosion 2026, a Catholic youth conference for students in years 7 to 12. Hosted by the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community, Explosion will be held at St Clare's College, from September 30 to October 3, offering inspiring speakers, powerful prayer and worship, and the opportunity to build lasting friendships while growing in faith. Early bird pricing available until August 8. For more information and to register, visit explosionyouth.com.



THE ARCHDIOCESAN 2026 ASSEMBLY FESTIVAL "GET UP! LISTEN! GO!"

With two weeks to go before the Archdiocese Assembly we are inviting the Archdiocese to join in praying a Novena for this event. The Novena can be found at <https://www.cgevangelisation.org.au/novena/>

If you would like to attend the Assembly on Saturday 22nd August please register at the website or contact our parish office.

PARISH ROSTER

15th / 16th August	6 PM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Michael de Raadt	Wayne Poulton	Phil Nolen
Readers	Winnie & Prakash R	Ebony Shaw Ana/Veda Stewart	Help Needed
Music Team	Ester Drew	Ringrose-Voase Family	Bruna Strmota
Counters	Graeme & Diane	Cleaners	Glenn S & Poultons

First Reading

1 KINGS 19:9,11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

PSALM 84(85): 9-14

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R)

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading

ROMANS 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them.

They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.

Gospel

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK



St Laurence, Deacon & Martyr



St Clare



St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary