

## Promoting the Church



This sign in the main street is designed to let people in the area know we exist as well as communicate something of the faith.

Catchy slogans are added each week to the middle panel of the sign.

TV, radio and newspaper coverage has also been achieved in the past few years because of the exciting and unusual style of ministry here at Saint Thomas'.

### PARISH INFORMATION

**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday - 10am to 12 noon

**Phone:** 9742.4555 **Fax:** 9742.2507 **Email:** st.thomas@optusnet.com.au

**Address:** 117 Synnot St Werribee, Vic, 3030 - PO Box 2234 Werribee.

**Parish Priest:** Father Max Bowers - **Ph:** 9974 1994 **Fax:** 9731.1092

**Email:** frmax2@bigpond.net.au

To enable you to know something about ministry at Saint Thomas' we have an extensive web page at:

**[www.stthomas.net.au](http://www.stthomas.net.au)**

We invite you to be one of the 600+ weekly visitors to our site. Not only does it contain ample background information, but has an extensive pictorial gallery as well.



# Welcome to Saint Thomas' Anglican Church Werribee



**ST THOMAS**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

We invite you to visit our extended Family...



... where you are only a stranger once.

## From the Parish Priest

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you something of life and worship in this caring parish. Our slogan is “You are a stranger only once” Christian care in this parish is more than a Sunday experience and we invite you to check us out through this booklet, our extensive web site or better still, come and visit us.



Father Max & Ros Bowers

## Worship for all interests

### Sundays

8am

**Communion service** (mass) for those looking for something quiet and traditional.

9.30am

**All age worship** (mass) for individuals and families. Here **children are valued and welcomed**. The service is user friendly and you can always expect the unexpected.

11.30am

**(Every Sunday except the 2nd)** Mass in the Karen Language. Anyone is welcome to attend this service.

### Wednesdays weekly

9.30am

**Traditional communion service** like it was 50 years ago

### Wednesdays monthly (1st Wednesday)

7.30pm

A wonderfully quiet and moving service with lots of emotion. The **Healing & Teaching Service** is designed for those seeking healing for themselves or others. If you are not seeking healing, then this service is still very therapeutic and uplifting for you.

### Fridays monthly (3rd Friday)

A very modern service with a band, modern media visuals, upbeat music and even a meal prior to the service. Come along between 6pm and 7.15pm for a two course meal. Stay at the tables for the service that follows at 7.30pm.

## Knowing the Faith

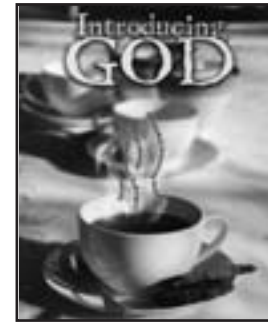
**Friends for Life** is designed to build relationships.

Week 1 Learning how to be real

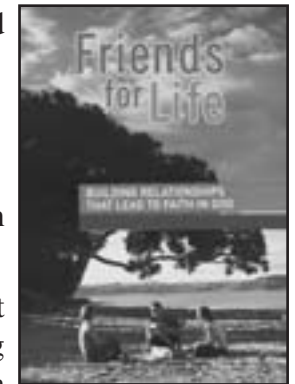
Week 2 The language of genuine friendships

Week 3 Expert advice on building relationships

Week 4 A friend at the finish line



**Introducing God** is an eight week course commencing with a meal followed by a talk and discussion. If you want to know if there really is a God and what he can do for you, this is a must. The course also includes a day away at Point Lonsdale.



**For additional information and dates of any of the courses mentioned on Pages 18 and 19, check out our web pages [www.grassroots.com.au](http://www.grassroots.com.au).**

## Healing & Teaching Service

This unique service has a real special feel about it. If you are looking for a service where ‘quietness’ is the order of the day, bright and moving music, a talk that goes a little deeper or the gift of healing, then this is the service for you.

We meet monthly, on the 1st Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. (February to November)

In the service, if you are seeking healing (physical or spiritual) you come up to the communion rail for anointing and laying on of hands.

If you prefer, you can simply sit quietly in your seat and ask for God’s help and guidance, for yourself or for another.

This is followed by supper and Gordon Morrow’s legendary pikelets. The healing service would not be the same without them.



## Knowing the Faith



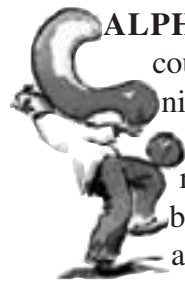
This 5 week course has a “60 minutes TV Series” feel about it and tells real life stories that are very moving on the following topics.

- Week 1 Is there a spiritual side to me?
- Week 2 If God and Heaven exist, what are they like?
- Week 3 Does this faith thing work in real life?
- Week 4 Does God have real power to change things?
- Week 5 Crossing the line - what's that like?

For additional information and dates of any of the courses mentioned on Pages 18 and 19, check out our web pages [www.grassroots.com.au](http://www.grassroots.com.au).

**LIFE STORIES** - Is a follow up to the Journeys series. Topics include:-

- Week 1 Why should I forgive people who hurt me?
- Week 2 Where is God when it hurts?
- Week 3 How do I make good choices in life?
- Week 4 Loving others - what's the point?
- Week 5 Prayer, the Bible and other stuff?



**ALPHA COURSE** - This 10 week course looks at what it means to call oneself a Christian. The nights are very humorous and look at the meaning of life in a non threatening way. No prior biblical knowledge is required. The nights start with a two course meal followed by a talk and discussion. The course also includes a day away at Point Lonsdale.

## Sunday worship for all ages

The weekly 9.30am **All Age Sunday Worship** is a Sunday experience for those who wish to be part of God's family and enjoy a different experience each week. **A good sense of humour is an essential ingredient you need to bring with you.** Some of the special weeks include:

Celebrating **Saint Patrick's Day** in March. Today we are encouraged to wear something green, and morning tea comprises green cakes, green cream, green cordial and even green wine & beer.



Without a doubt, one of the major highlights each year would have to be ..... **PET SUNDAY.**

This is always held on the last Sunday of July but the time changes to

10.30am. We are encouraged to bring along our pets to church to have them blessed by Father Max. A BBQ follows the service.

## Sunday worship for all ages...



### The Teddy Bears' Service & Picnic

September 14th is another highlight at the family service. (10.30am today only)



After the service you are able to have your photo taken in the "Bear" enclosure and we give you a free mounted print of your photo. Then it is on to the picnic in the church grounds.

### *OTHER SPECIAL WORSHIP DAYS HAVE INCLUDED:*



Bikies Service where the various clubs are invited to bring their Harleys and other special named bikes. Many of these members are Christians who enjoy visiting parishes to share their story

## What else?



### WORKING WITH THE OTHER CHURCHES

Saint Thomas' has an excellent relationship with the other churches in the area, and a sign of this is the combined 11.15am Good Friday walk that commences at Saint Thomas' and finishes at the Catholic Church. This route follows the river and shows in graphic ways the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.



### VOLUNTEERS THE LIFE BLOOD

The parish office, lawn mowing, odd jobs, flower arranging, church cleaning and much more are performed by volunteers. If you would like to offer your assistance please ring 9742.4555



### Cafe Live

This very upbeat service is held on the 3rd Friday monthly at 7.30pm. This is preceded by a sit down meal from 6pm onwards,

Why not come along and enjoy the band.

February to November

## Christmas Lighting Festival



The Annual Christmas Lighting Festival is the jewel in the crown of our outreach events.

Opening night is on the 7th of December and the festival runs each evening from 8-11pm until the 22nd December. We had in excess of 10,000 visitors last year.

There are over 30,000 fairy lights around the property, together with Christmas displays in the church, hall, tennis court and large tent area.

In 2006 the Coober Pedy street at Christmas was one of the highlights complete with underground mine and shops.



Last year saw a "Myers Window style" with a story of a Christopher mouse at Christmas time. This came complete with a Mall and even a tram and shops.

Additional photos on our Web site:



## ... is never dull!



The family services are always very colourful and the Christian teaching is explained in a very visual way.

Here (left) we see the Good Friday story unfold as the various symbols of the crucifixion of Jesus are brought in and arranged one by one.

### Other special days this year include

- \* Anzac Day Service - April 27
- \* Mother's Day - May 11
- \* International Nurses Day - May 25
- \* Harvest Festival - June 15
- \* Sids Red Nose Day - June 29
- \* Pet Sunday - July 27 (10.30am)
- \* Ballet Service - August 10
- \* Daffodil Day - Parkinson Disease Service - August 24

- \* Teddy Bear's Picnic Service - September 14
- \* Father's Day - September 7
- \* Breast Cancer Service - October 12
- \* Service of memories for those who have lost a loved one. November 16



## KID'S CHURCH

Each Sunday at the 9.30am Family Service a special segment is provided for children. After a talk from Fr Max, they move off for their own activity whilst he has a chat about the faith with the adults. Some 20+ minutes later the children return to be with their parents for the remainder of the service. The Family Service caters for singles as well as families. It is an experience for babies all the way through to grandparents. This contemporary service welcomes all ages.

## Caring for one another

It is said at Saint Thomas' that the cuppa after the service is just as important as the service itself. This sense of care continues on into other aspects of life in the parish. To ensure all parishioners feel they are genuinely cared for, *fortnightly home care groups* are in place and newcomers especially are encouraged to join a group. This way you will get to know people more intimately and the group will be your carer initially. Different groups meet at differing times, some during the day and others in the evenings. Groups each have a social function at the end of each term, where other parishioners are invited to attend.

Families are especially catered for at the Tommo's Family Group meeting on the 1st Sunday after the 9.30am service for lunch. We alternate between family friendly restaurants and bring & share lunches at the church.

### TOMMO'S GATHERING



Family activities are organised on the church meal days. Other parishioners also join in these special Sundays.

The men of the parish come together bi-monthly for a breakfast on

### Men's Breakfasts

Saturday mornings from 7-9am. This way the rest of the day is theirs. An excellent speaker is invited one month, and next time they visit a factory or similar after having breakfast at a cafe on route.



## Connecting with the Community

### KAREN COMMUNITY HAVE JOINED US

We are truly blessed in having a large number of the Karen community come and be part of our Christian community.



They are such a happy people who have suffered so much and still can easily find a wonderful smile and are so humble with the help they receive.

They worship in their own language and share with us in many activities.

### DROP IN MORNING

There are many people who live very isolated lives and the 1st Wednesday of each month is designed to give them a morning out.

If you know of people who would benefit from this caring



morning please let them know of our drop in morning.

9.30am Mass followed by the cuppa and activities 10am - Noon. Then Soup & Sandwiches from 12 Noon till 1pm.

Transport requirements or other information:-  
Martha 9741 8365



## Parish Pictorial



**Left:** Bikies Service  
**Below:** Live Nativity Play at Lighting Festival



**Left & Below:** Floral and Art Show



**Below:** Car Boot Sale



## The Popcorn Award

THE POPCORN AWARD is a special example of care and appreciation. This is one of Fr Max's special ways of thanking parishioners who go the extra mile.

Here we see Gordon Morrow being presented with his popcorn jar and certificate, plus a slab of VB as well. Gordon does an amazing number of things around the parish and this was one special way of saying "Thanks"



## Angelic Award

THE ANGELIC AWARD is yet another "Thank You" award and is given for one off special efforts. Awardees are presented with a glass and gold angel and certificate as a way of showing special appreciation.

## Barbie with Fr Max



Father Max Bowers and Ros (his wife) also offer special hospitality at the vicarage when every parishioner is invited (in turn) to a meal there, twice a year. Also, **Get to Know you Nights** (for newcomers) are also held at the vicarage every couple of months. These up market suppers are eagerly looked forward to.

## Social activities are important...



Many social functions are held throughout the year. Some on site like the Family Fun Night and the Trivia Night.

Others are held at local restaurants

## Church Catering



Here Wilma is mastering the commercial dish washer to ease the task of large scale catering.

As an outreach to the community and as a way of funding special projects, catering is undertaken in our parish hall.

A small team of dedicated people offer their talents in this way for the benefit of the parish as a whole.

**Weddings a speciality!**



## Connecting with the Community

# Cafe Live

**3rd Friday Monthly  
Cafe Live  
at 7.30pm**

This service, is the latest in the worship styles we provide.

Prior to the service you can come for a meal (Two course for around \$8) between **6pm and 7.15pm**, or you can come for the service at 7.30pm.

The meal and the service is in the church around tables and should you wish a cuppa at any time, you are able to help yourself. We even have a commercial cappuccino machine.

In this very casual service you can enjoy the band and talented singers. We also have a drama to assist with the contemporary message as well as using various visual methods of communication.

Why not bring a friend



**3rd Friday  
Monthly**

## Connecting with the Community

Once a month on the 2nd Thursday at 10am, the **house bound** are entertained at the Parish Hall (Morning Melodies) for an hour or so. Participants are collected in buses or cars and anyone interested in attending should ring Margaret on 9742.2213



## GRAND FINAL WEEKEND

**Grand Final weekend** is an opportunity for anyone in the community who would like to view the big game on the big screen.

## “Making marriage relationships even better?”

If you are happy as a couple but would like to sharpen the bond a little, then we have just the resource for you. It is about making your relationship in marriage even more special.



Saint Thomas' have an 8 week “Marriage enrichment” course - designed to bring the “WOW” back into relationships (one night a week) which commences with a two course meal, and a look at the evening topic with a very humorous video. This is followed by a cuppa and discussion (privately as couples), on the subject. Additional questions are answered in a safe and non-threatening environment.

If you are interested in details of the next course, check this out on our web pages or ring our Parish Priest

The upmarket meal starts at 6.45pm SHARP and you are requested to book in for catering purposes. Phone Fr Max on 9742.4555

## ... to a healthy church family.



The parish camp on the long Weekend of March and is a great opportunity to get to know people better. This family event is one of the highlights in the parish calendar.



(above) The ladies make sure they don't miss out on all the parish fun. The hat parade at the Melbourne Cup luncheon is one such event.



(left) Christmas in July is also one of the major treats on the social calendar. On this night a traditional Christmas dinner is served.

## Baptisms are very special times in the life of the parish



It is always a great thrill to be able to welcome through baptism a new Christian into the life of the parish family. To make this occasion special, one of the parishioners makes and decorates a large cake for the occasion on the Sunday mornings. To those who bring their children along to the Sunday services we present a special gift of a “Baptism Bear”, twelve months later. This is a small gift to say thank you for being part of the parish family. These hand made bears take sixteen hours to make and the task is shared by a number of people. It also includes a cross stitch name on the jacket (for a boy) or dress (for a girl).



### A HARLEY AT A BAPTISM

At a previous baptism, a Harley was used to stress the importance of the day. (Certainly it raised a few eyebrows when it was started in church.)



The point was the petrol tap. Jesus is like the petrol in the tank, the engine is the baptised child and the tap is what the parents and godparents have control of. They can turn this on and let Jesus flow into the child's life by encouraging them to say their prayers, read appropriate bible stories (that is, some of the modern and colourful story booklets around), say grace at meal times, do the right thing by other people, etc, or they can turn the tap off and not allow the child to experience these Christian virtues. The choice is in the hands of the parents and godparents.

