

Rosters for This Week 7th & 8th January 2023

Counting Team No. 3	Ian Veal, Frances Maloney, Tony Cutroni
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Larry Rigoni 8.30am Mary Frisby 10.30am Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Christal Augustin 10.30am Joe Covelli
Children's Liturgy	8.30am No Children's Liturgy

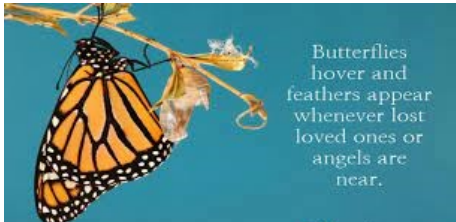
Rosters for Next Week 14th & 15th January 2023

Counting Team No. 4	David Jamieson, Bob Paz
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm John O'Keefe, Gail Tull 8.30am Evol Farrelly, Peter Kirwan 10.30am Alison Silke
Mass Readers	6.00pm Evol Farrelly 8.30am Charles Hili 10.30am Antoinetta Acquaro
Children's Liturgy	8.30am No Children's Liturgy

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Kevin Murphy, Sarah Rodgers, Cathy Reid, Assunta Delgrosso, Yemme Reddy, Mary Debenham, Peter Conroy and Joseph Falzon.

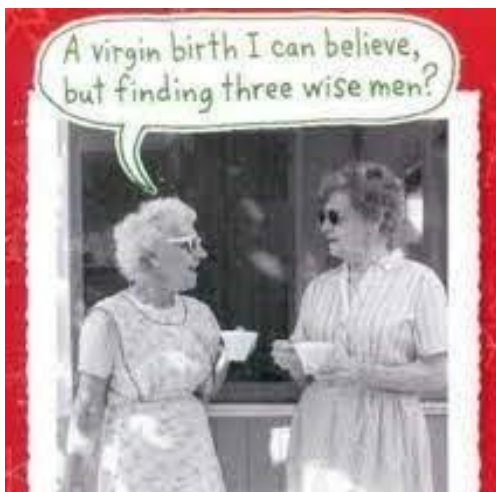
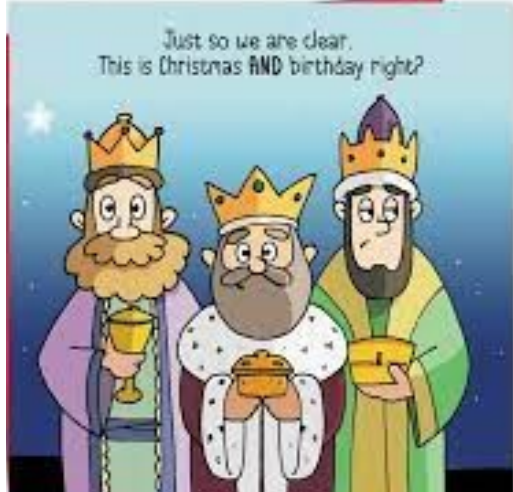




Butterflies hover and feathers appear whenever lost loved ones or angels are near.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Anna Murrone who passed away recently and Bob Meehan, Joan Dingli, Sue Harkin, Sue Gherdovich Immacolata Laudato, Felicity Buckley, Marga Mardesic, Bill McTaggart, John Alexander, Beatrice Duncan, Roman Caragiali, Margaret McGrath, Vera Spurling, Josie McBean, Pietro Sokolic, Ethel & Leslie Berry, Jim Longman, Kay Doohan, Georgette Fares, Joan Moloney, Neil Kelly, Michael Quinn, Kit Cooney, Margaret Hynes, Kathleen O'Grady, John Jeffkins, Roland Zammit, Eileen Butterworth, Tomaso Sirgiovanni, Anna Lee, John Vincent, Maria Falzon, Andrej Udovic, Edoardo Saragozza, Riccardo Dell'Antonio, Siggì Kerin, Concetta Merlino, Berta Costa Geremia, Romeo & Rosaria Camilleri, Clemente & Giorgina Mifsud, Antonia Mifsud, Margaret Johnson, Julia Farrugia and Charlie Mifsud, whose anniversaries are at this time.



St Mary's Parish

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

8th January, 2023



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016
Telephone: 9397 6066
Email: williamstown@cam.org.au
Web: www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall
0400 524 363
Email: greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian
0450 789 951
Monday, Tuesday

Parish Office Manager

Heidi Zahra
Tuesday 8:30am – 4.00pm
Thursday 8:30am – 4.00pm

Parish Secretary

Kylie Skinner-Wednesday 8.30am—3.30pm
Sheridan McCutcheon-Friday 8.30am—3.30pm

St. Mary's School

Principal Anthony Hockey

Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes.
Saturday at 6:00pm
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am
Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm – 3:30pm
Wednesday

Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly
7.00pm at Parish Centre.
Baptism must be booked prior to attending Preparation Night.

Baptisms

12:30pm Sunday

The EPIPHANY of the LORD –Year A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 60:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. 3:2-3, 5-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:


We have seen his star in the east; and have come to adore the Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW: 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Tuesday 10th January	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Wednesday 11th January	10.30am Funeral Mass for Anna Murrone at St. Mary's Church.
Thursday 12th January	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 13th January	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Saturday 14th January	10.00am—10.15am Reconciliation Rite 1—individual in Church. 6.00pm 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A Mass at St Mary's Church.
Sunday 15th January	8.30am 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A Mass at St Mary's Church. 10.30am 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners

After just starting work in the Taxation Department, I was invited as a 19-year-old young man to join a group of the old boys of our secondary college to come and discuss in 1967 the very recently completed **‘Documents of the Vatican Council’** each Thursday night. Although at the time the Vatican Documents were too intellectually deep for my teenage mind, over the years I have realised the incredible brilliance of those documents and what a gift they were to the Catholic Church at not only that time itself but still today. They were very progressive and gave the Church in the modern world a sure path to follow. Two of the better theologians of the Catholic Church at the time were two quite brilliant German theologians, one named Joseph Ratzinger and the other Karl Rahner. Joseph Ratzinger went to eventually to become Pope Benedict XV1 and Karl Rahner was also invited specifically by Pope John XX111 to help as an expert theologian in the putting together of key documents, for the final voting of the bishops of the world, all gathered in Rome for 2 – 3 months a year over a four-year period from 1962 – 1965.



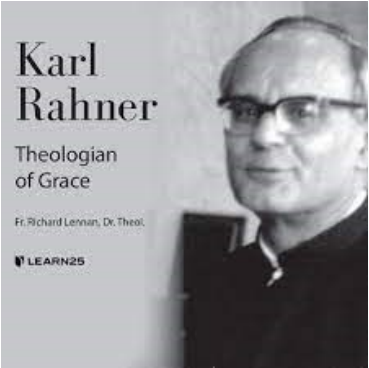
Just before he died in 1984, Karl Rahner realised some shift in secular pressure on Catholics and Christians throughout our world. Accordingly, he made the statement that there would soon come a time when each of us would either be a mystic or a non- believer! What is implied in this statement at the beginning of this new year of 2023! At one level it means that anyone who wants to have faith today will need to be much more inner directed than in previous generations. Why? Because up to our present generation in the secularised world, by and large, the culture helped carry the faith. We lived in cultures within which faith and religion were part of the very fabric of life. Especially back two generations ago it took a strong, deviant action not to go to church on a Sunday. Today we know the opposite is truer. Now a days, it takes a strong, inner anchored act to go to church of a weekend, whether you be Catholic, Orthodox Christian, Anglican, Uniting Church – whatever! One could easily say we have few supports for our faith, certainly not the media or even social media as we might call it, in its many diverse forms. Thus, as I see it and many others would no doubt see it, the culture no longer carries the faith and trust in religious institutions. Simply put, we knew how to be believers and church goers when we were inside communities that helped carry that for us, communities within which most everyone seemed to believe, most everyone went to church, and most everyone had the same set of moral values. Nowadays when there is a hump in the road if our faith is not strong then it is easier to go off track than stay on track. That is why as I see it when covid hit our Melbourne Archdiocese and it was time to come back to church, the 30% drop off of attendance in the average parish separated ‘the men from the boys’ as the old saying goes. Bluntly put those with lesser faith than the average church going person found it easier not to get back into their former habit of going to Church. This is only my personal opinion and I am not saying it is for every one of those 30% throughout our Archdiocese who stopped going to Church – there would be several other categories such as age and sickness that has stopped people in their tracks not just fall off of their prayer life as I believe has happened in the former category. Where does this put us or what does it mean!



...Continued

To be committed believers today, to have faith truly inform our lives, requires finding an inner anchor beyond the support and security we find in being part of a vast majority who at the very least are apathetic towards an institutionalised religion. Consequently, many of us now live in situations where to believe in God and church is to find ourselves without the support of those closest to us, spouse, partner, family, friends, colleagues. I am definitely sure they are the ones missing out but as another old saying goes: ‘you can take a horse to water but you can’t make it drink’. When all is said and done I can only give my own good example to others, mostly that example by the lifestyle I live, usually by actions but sometimes by words! I find it good to be proud to say what I believe if there is the sensible time to say it whether publicly or privately. Why should I or you be ashamed or being a follower of Jesus Christ, to have other practising Christians as my friends and to have such people as Saints whom I admire to not only give me an example of what qualities I would like to have in my life but also to be able to talk to them. After all we as Catholics believe, don’t we, in ‘the communion of saints’! I believe it more and more as I state in the Creed every Sunday.

In conclusion, following my earlier track Karl Rahner as one of the best Catholic theologians of the 20th century says we might need to be mystics otherwise we can easily fall down a hole and gradually become a non- believer. I think what Rahner was basically getting at some years ago possibly anticipating a change to a more accelerated secular culture is that if we as Christians to be effective now, and in the future we need a deep inner anchor that sustains us. Part of this anchor of course would be a certain time to pray during the week, the hearing at the very least of the Scriptures on a weekend and the ability to know the importance of receiving ‘the eucharist’.



The mystic is the one who is looking for the way, the truth and the life and like the Wise Men continually searching.

Aside from our Feast of the Epiphany today there are a few other things I wanted to note:

- In case you were away last week on holidays your former kind Parish Priest Fr Noel Oliver, although having a rather small nest egg as a Will left the Parish of St Mary’s Williamstown \$30,000 in his Will.
- The **‘Send off ‘ for Deacon Tom** will be on **Sunday January 29th after the 10:30am Mass** in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. There will be a small barbeque with sausages provided and bread, plus beer and soft drinks. Please bring anything else you would like to bring.
- **Counting Team members** please remember to meet at the **Parish Centre on Wednesday 1st February at 7pm** for new counting team instructions which has been mainly caused by local National Bank desiring certain new ways of doing things.
- **ROSTERS for readers, special ministers and counters** are all available in paper copy up the **back of the Church** in case you wish one in paper form or did not get one by email. Thanks for your help in those various ministries.

Yours ‘in Christ’ Fr Greg - 4/1/2023

Senior’s Mass & Luncheons 2023

Please put in your diary the following dates for **Seniors’ Mass at 11.30am**



- Friday February 3rd
- Friday March 3rd
- Friday March 31st
- Friday May 5th
- Friday June 2nd

- Friday July 7th School Holidays
- Friday August 4th
- Friday September 1st
- Friday October 6th
- Friday December 1st

