

Rosters for This Week 7th & 8th December

Counting Team No. 2	Mary Forster, Marguerite Buckley, Lauren Dittmar
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.30pm Mary Soppitt, Maria Laudato 8.30am Mary Debenham 10.30am Richard van der Merwe
Mass Readers	6.30pm Elizabeth O'Keefe 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Anne Cooper
Children's Liturgy	8.30am Eilin Taylor, Lisa Rogers 10.30am No Children's Liturgy

Rosters for Next Week 14th & 15th December

Counting Team No. 3	Ian Veal, Frances Maloney, Tony Cutroni
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.30pm John O'Keefe, Gail Tull 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.30pm Daniel Corcoran 8.30am Christal Augustin 10.30am Kate Arnold
Children's Liturgy	8.30am Eilin Taylor, Leanne Spiteri 10.30 Jenny Furey, Hannah Furey

IN OUR PRAYERS
We pray for Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Barrie Poulton.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES
We pray for Mary Martin, Arthur Jones, Frank Cini, Brendan Harkin, Maria Napoli, Norma Arnold, Josie Wilde, Nora Doig, Stan Woodruff, Eric Flackham, Maria De Grassi, Merle O'Keefe, Marion Loriente, Libero Costanzo, Andrej Edovic, Giuseppe Pecora, Ersilia Portelli, Carmela Pisano, Nunzio Ficarra, Joseph Sammut, Eugena Fewster, John Wilson and Michele Cafagna; whose anniversaries are at this time.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR A MANAGER AT JOSEPH'S CORNER
Joseph's Corner is a charitable work of the Westgate Deanery providing free counselling to families of substance abusers. During 2020, Sr. Jeanne, rsj who founded Joseph's Corner in 2000, will transition out of her managerial position. If you have an interest in taking on part or all of the managerial workload required to run Joseph's Corner as an effective and viable charity, please contact us in confidence. We are interested in hearing from people who want to do volunteer work in a managerial role as well as people wanting a part-time paid managerial position. This is not a job advertisement as Sr. Jeanne and the Board of Joseph's Corner are still in the early stages of planning Sr. Jeanne's transition.
Contact: Sr. Jeanne Dwyer: jeanne@josephscorner.org or 9315 2680.

2020 PREPARATION CLASSES FOR THE SACRAMENTS
Enrolment **due by 20th December** for children who **do not** attend St. Mary's School. Please email: patricia.stone@sosj.org.au. Term 1: Reconciliation (Year 3+) Term 2: First Eucharist (Year 4+) Term 3: Confirmation (Year 6+ only—28th July, 3rd and 5th August 2020).



St Mary's Parish

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents



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

8th December, 2019

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall
PH: 9397 6066
MO: 0400 524 363
Email: greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Pastoral Associate

(Sr.) Patricia Stone
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Email: patricia.stone@sosj.org.au

Parish Office Manager

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

Parish Secretary

Kylie Skinner
Wednesday
8.30am–3.30pm

St. Mary's School

Principal
Anthony Hockey

Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes.
Saturday at 6:30pm
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.
Baptism 11:30am Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 11:1-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. 15:4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

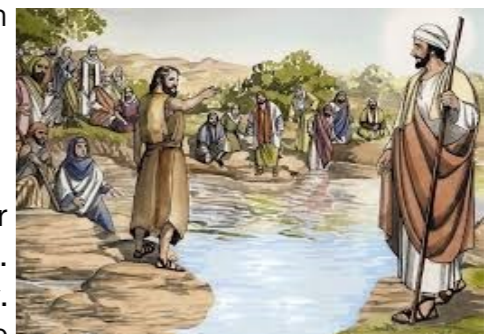
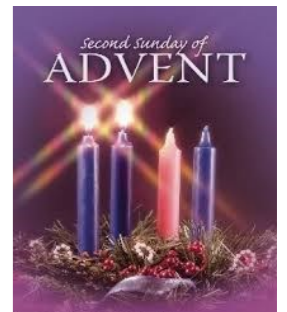
In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

"A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe lies at the root of the tress. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I.

I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



Sunday 8th December	8.30am Mass at St. Mary's Church. 10.30am Mass at St. Mary's Church 11.30am Baptisms: Myka & Makai Gogan
Tuesday 10th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church. 7.30pm Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at the Presbytery.
Wednesday 11th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church. 7.30pm Parish Finance Team Meeting at Presbytery..
Thursday 12th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Friday 13th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors

I was pleasantly surprised by the number, on my first weekend back who stated that they enjoyed my recollections in the bulletin from the pilgrimage journey I undertook from September 1st this year. Accordingly, I will attempt to recollect what happened in France after I finished my actual walking on October 7th and hopefully there is at least a few of you who will find it still both interesting and worthwhile.

FR. GREG'S TRAVEL DIARY

At 6:20pm on October 7th I walked into the final destination of St Jean Pied de Port. This beautiful town at the foot of the Pyrenees Mountains is the end of the French side of pilgrimage but more often is the most popular option for those who begin their journey travelling the 750 kilometres to the famous Santiago de Compostella. This town, St Jean Pied de Port stands at the base of the Roncevaux Pass across the Pyrenees. 'Pied de Port' means 'foot of the pass'. As a matter of fact, it's city gate Port St-Jacques was added to the Unesco World Heritage Sites in 1998. Some at this stage were on their hands and knees but luckily I was able to walk through the gate! In fact, those who came from the longer distances were often like the walking wounded: leg problems and some with blisters on blisters. Many had dropped off along the way as for instance their blisters were causing such pain that it was not worth continuing. Many walked through the gate with sandals on as they had trouble still wearing boots. Luckily for me I bought a very high quality boot called 'Salomon X Ultra' from Katmandu in the first place, the same as I had 9 years before, and even though my most recent pair are now 'deceased' I bought the same model again when I came back to Australia, as they are really terrific for walking.

I left St Jean Pied de Port two days later for a wonderful town, Bayonne near the Atlantic Coast. It is located at the confluence of those two beautiful rivers, La Nive and L'Adour in the northern part of the cultural region of the Basque Country. The city came under the domination of the English in 1152. However, in 1451 the city was taken by the Crown of France after the 'Hundred Years War'. It has some wonderful fortifications still there as it needed to defend itself against many an enemy over the centuries. For instance, in 1814 Bayonne and its surroundings were the scene of fighting between the French Napoleonic troops and the Spanish-Anglo-Portuguese coalition led by the Duke of Wellington. Fortunately for those 2 days in Bayonne I was able to visit the very highly rated Basque Museum. It gave me a greater feeling for the Basque people. I was also able to get a bus on those two days down to Biarritz only half an hour away. Apparently surfing started in Europe at Biarritz in 1958 and it was already quite well known as a beach resort beforehand due to French Emperor Napoleon's 3rd wife, Empress Eugenie. She built a magnificent palace there overlooking the main Biarritz beach - 'Hotel du Palais'. It still stands there today as the richest and finest architectural building in the whole area. I was very pleasantly surprised at the array of magnificent beaches within 2- 3 kilometres each way from Biarritz. With the number of surfers there in the water it reminded me of the best of a combination of Manly for its commercial side and the wildness and true beauty of Bell's Beach on our Victorian west coast. I am now glad I took that half hour bus trip two days in a row as I had not expected something so stunning to rival some of our better beaches.

Continued

I then went by train to the next main French city, Bordeaux also on the Atlantic Coast. By this time, I was nearly able to read the instructions of the local laundromat! Those 10 or so laundromats I ended up in not only gave me an opportunity to converse with the locals in my own style of broken French, but it also gave me some good quality time to pray as I waited for my washing or drying. Maybe we need more laundromats in Australia!

One thing I noticed is that it seemed to me that there is hardly a main city or more major town in France that does not have a significant river going through the middle of it. I came across La Garonne on my previous walk 9 years back, and this river still stuns me with its length, width and beauty. Bordeaux is lucky as La Garonne winds through this great city and a beautiful bridge spans its significant 500 metre width. They have a wonderful city there not only known for its wine area but it also has a rich history. I stayed in the original Roman city part and in the street of Saint Remi which was the original East West axis of the city. Remi (or Remigil), as one of the earliest bishops of Bordeaux, was extremely important to the Christian cause as he converted Clovis, King of the Franks in 496AD. This was one of the most important conversions in the early history of the Church as Clovis was the first king of the Franks to unite all of the Frankish tribes under one rule, changing the form of leadership from a group of royal chieftains to rule by a single king and ensuring that the kingship was passed down to his heirs. The Catholic Church benefitted from this conversion for centuries afterwards by its general ability to evangelize without facing too much political persecution. I give praise to St Remi – well done!

Yours 'In Christ'

Fr. Greg 6/12/2019

CELEBRATING A SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY DURING 2019???

St. Mary's Parish Annual Mass & Renewal of Vows will be celebrated during Weekend Masses on **14th/15th December 2019**. Complete a Registration slip from the table at the rear of the Church and post it in the box provided, speak to Sr. Patricia or Email: patricia.stone@sosj.org.au
You are invited to register, even if you are unable to attend.



PLEASE JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS DAY CAROLS CHOIR



We will sing Carols on Christmas Day from 9.00am until Mass time – rejoicing in the Birth of Jesus with all who come to Mass on Christmas Morning. Kevin and Susan will hold a Choir Practice for all who would like to join our choir. Practice will be held **on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm in the Church**. Please complete a slip on one of the clipboards which are on the tables at the front and rear of the church. Or email Sr. Patricia: patricia.stone@sosj.org.au

Take the opportunity to bring the gift of song to our Christmas community and lighten all our hearts.

SR. PATRICIA'S THANK YOU – 8TH DECEMBER.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a cup of tea and cake in the Parish Centre following the 8.30am Mass to say a big thank you to Sr. Patricia for her wonderful work during her time at St. Mary's.



2019 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December

- 6.30pm Family Mass & Children's Pageant
- 8.30pm Christmas Carols
- 9.00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December

- 9.00am Christmas Carols
 - 9.30am Christmas Day Mass
- (NB: One Mass only)**

