


Rosters for This Week 10th & 11th December	
Counting Team No. 7	Mary Ward, Jean McCutcheon, Greg Morgan
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Larry Rigoni 8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Ivonne Cram 10.30am Richard van der Merwe
Mass Readers	6.00pm Evol Farrelly 8.30am Chris Maine 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Children's Liturgy	8.30am Joe Covelli, Mariza O'Keefe

Rosters for Next Week 17th & 18th December	
Counting Team No. 8	Tracey Gregg, Leanne Spiteri
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull, John O'Keefe 8.30am Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Charles Hili 10.30am Anne Cooper
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.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Luciano Azzopardi, Sr. Margaret Barry rsj., Doris Mifsud, Maria Elia, Kevin Jenkinson, Marie Kosowski, Sr. Eileen McHugh, Stephen Rush, Mladenka Obradovic,Mollie Maine, Dr. John Anchen, Ignazio Kucich, Teresa Rimbaldo, Dan Buckley, Ellen Croke, Gary Metcalf, Guiseppe Pecora, Maria Ivelja, Michael Hctor, Graeme Bloedorn, Patrick Kirley, Carmelo Pagliaro, Kath Allman, Joel Finn, Cecilia Penn, Edward Maguire, Roland Zammit, Francesca Oliveri, Margherita Mangion, Luiza Kucich, Emmanuel and Rosaria Raffaele, Albert, Celestina, Ersilia and Rosaria Mangion, Carmelo and Rita Consolandi, Francesco and Lorenza Camilleri, Mario Camilleri, Annie Taliana, Leslie Carlon, Babara Sawyer and Patricia McBride; whose anniversaries are at this time.





St Mary's Parish

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

11th December, 2022



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016
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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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 35:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, come and save us.

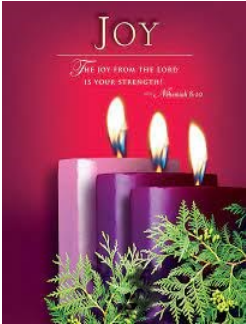
SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of James. 5:7-10


GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

The Spirit of the Lord now upon me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11



John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.’



Tuesday 13th December	9.15am Communion Service at St. Mary's Church. (Fr Greg celebrating Mass at Port Phillip Prison)
Wednesday 14th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Thursday 15th December	11.40am End of School Year Mass for the whole St Mary's whole school.
Friday 16th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Saturday 17th December	5.15pm Reconciliation Service at St Mary's Church.


Dear Parishioners

Like a concrete truck filling in the hole of the foundation, and then everything else can progress the building of a lovely home, similarly **John the Baptist laid the foundation** so that Jesus could finish the work he was meant to complete on behalf of God the Father. Yet like Jesus he ended up in a dungeon! While John the Baptist was there in his dungeon awaiting beheading by King Herod, Jesus could comment about him to onlookers: “Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look I am sending my messenger before you, he will prepare your way for you.”


As it now our time and place - **thanks for the efforts of so many also in our parish to “Preparing the Way of the Lord”**. No doubt many of you have done and keep doing your part for the Lord and his ability to bring greater peace to parishioners and other peoples lives through your individual example and the continued work of all our committees such as ‘St Vincent de Paul’, ‘Way of the West’ and now more recently ‘Mary Care’. Individuals give Holy Communion to the sick and visit institutions in our midst like Wintringham or the multiple chlorosis unit in Power Street, Williamstown. Where would be without you all in all sorts of ministries whether at the altar, school or community! Accordingly, we can proudly acknowledge the good things that have happened during the year. Likewise, there are some parish groups still getting back into greater gear: anyway, I thank all for their involvement and dedication. Indeed, Parish life has returned to some sort of normality, as we prepare to gather for Christmas celebrations with family and friends. Our efficient and friendly office staff with Heidi, Monique, Kylie and now Sheridan have once again done a good job in some trying circumstances in order to keep both me and parish activities organised.

I know I can speak on behalf of the parish staff and the St Mary’s parishioners who have come to know our **resident Deacon Tom Christie** that it has been a pleasure getting to know him and having him around during the whole of 2022. He has to move on though and face the next steps of his own journey and calling from the Lord. Consequently, **there will be a send-off after the Sunday January 29th 10:30am Mass** as we will wish him future luck as he gains more pastoral experience at the bigger geographical parish of Grovedale, Torquay and Anglesea – Nazareth Parish – just within the borders of our rather large Melbourne Archdiocese.

The Parish Council will be interested to know that we have obtained the help of Michael McConville again as we meet from 9am – 1pm at the **Parish Centre on February 11th 2023** to try to keep building our Christian Community. Also, incidentally the Parish Council at the last meeting have agreed to put the past mentioned aboriginal cross just above the holy water font at the front door. More explanations of it will come during course of next year.



Prepare
The way



“The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son.”

Now is a season to celebrate, as we await some decent summer weather. I know the Christmas message of peace and good will is something which sadly falls short in much of today’s world, but the spirit starts at home, and the best we can do is to spread a bit of that peace and good will in our own environment.

In order that we don’t let Advent slip as a season **the Parish has provided those Advent booklets entitled “Incarnate”**. I hope you have found them helpful as short reflections every day. Further to this anticipation of Christmas and getting ready for it I have arranged for **Columban Fr George Hogarty to join me next Saturday night at 5:15pm for an annual Christmas Reconciliation Service**. Some will stay for 6pm Mass and some will go their way and come back to Sunday Mass the next day.

..Continued

Further to this I thought I would add another dimension in helping us get into the mood of the Christmas celebration of his Nativity. I have chosen I believe two wonderful films. Don’t worry they are not pious but both contain beautiful messages for Christmas and their main actors deserve academy awards for their performances. The first one of 49 minutes (short film) I will have in the presbytery dining room on December 20th at 7pm (promptly) to the first 20 who contact me on 0400524363 at least a day before the screening. It is called **‘the Juggler of Notre Dame’**. The main man is a terrific juggler but does not fully understand his talent. This is recognised by the end of the film in which he has a famous saint appear to him at Christmas. It is a truly lovely ending (bring your tissues!) – feel good film. The next film at the presbytery at 7pm on Wednesday 21st has a famous Hollywood actor Martin Sheen who plays in the one hour 11 minute film **‘The Fourth Wise Man’**. It concerns a special magi who tries to catch up to the other three wise men or magi! There are some beautiful lessons learnt on his journey as he attempts to see the Christ child. They are both PG Classified -my suggestion if you are coming with one of your children then both best appreciated by over 8 year olds as well as any adult. I will be providing cheese and biscuits and if you wish to bring your own medicine then welcome to enjoy it with others including myself during the film proceedings for both nights.


In my position as your Parish Priest I meet many people who just both need and deserve a better break for Christmas . There is a nice single lady in her middle 40’s who needs a little bungalow type accommodation so that her two kittens can also enjoy the property in the Williamstown, Newport or Altona areas. Please contact me if you have any ideas or can help on 0400 524 363.

Thanks for all who helped at the annual Memorial Mass last weekend – it was good seeing so many stay for supper.

Hoping you can join us at one of our Christmas Masses.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year in 2023.

Yours ‘in Christ’ Fr Greg - 2/12/2022



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2022


ST MARY’S CHURCH WILLIAMSTOWN

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

6.00pm Family Mass and Pageant at St Mary’s **8.30am** Mass at St Mary’s Church


8.30pm Carols **10.00am** Carols

9.00pm Mass at St Mary’s **10.30am** Mass at St Mary’s Church




CAROLS FOR 10:30 am MASS CHRISTMAS DAY

For anyone with singing or musical ability please join normal musicians on Wednesday 21st December at 7:30pm – Carols will begin at 10:00am before the 10:30am Christmas Day Mass.



Thank you to all parishioners who have engaged in ACRATH’s 16 days of activism against gender-based violence which has just concluded. We pray that the demand for trafficked people will reduce. May men and women grow in appreciation of the dignity of every human person so that all can live in a world where no-one is enslaved. If any parishioner wishes to buy a \$10 ACRATH calendar please ring or text me (Marguerite Buckley) on 0417 519 110 and I’ll make sure one is dropped at your doorstep.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2023

We have needed to order more 2023 Columban Calendars – there are 10 more for sale at \$10 (put money on plate next week if you need to) and take one. They have the same equally beautiful and colourful art work paintings by famous artists – take a sneak look.

