

Rosters for This 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

Rosters for Next Week 24th & 25th December—Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Counting Team No.	Not Required
Ministers of the Eucharist	Christmas Eve 6.00pm Di Collins, Richard van der Merwe 9.00pm Mary Soppitt, Gail Tull Christmas Day 8.30am Mary Frisby, Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Richard van der Merwe
Mass Readers	Christmas Eve 6.00pm No readers required 9.00pm Frank Schobben Christmas Day 8.30am Peter Kirwan 10.30am Olga Reginato



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 Paolo Ilardi and Febronia Mondio who passed away recently and Brian Warlond, Margaret Murphy, Pam Neely, Peter Wenzel, Kath and Ray Wilmott, Jason Gilham, Brad Dobney, Matthew Busuttil, John Wilson, Sr. Myrene Erdman, Josie Wilde, Nora Doig, Stan Woodruff, Eric Flackhlam, Maria De Grassi, Merle O’Keefe, Marion Loriente, Libero Costanzo, Andrej Edovic, Giuseppe Pecora, Maria Napoli, Shannon Gillis, Mario Camilleri, Lorenza Camilleri, Francesco Camilleri, Rita Consolandi, Carmelo Consolandi, Alberto Mangion, Celestina Mangion, Ersiglia Mangion, Jo Bruchhaus, Frank Schobben Sr and Rosaria Mangion, whose anniversaries are at this time.



“It’s not a stable, it’s a pop-up hotel.”



roystoncartoons.com

St Mary’s Parish

We proudly acknowledge the Boonwurrung People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land.

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents



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18th December, 2022

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A



FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 7:10-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. 1:1-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

A virgin will give birth to a son:
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-24

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet;



**“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”**

Which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Tuesday 20th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church. 7.00pm (Prompt) Advent/Christmas short film (49 Mins) "The Juggler of Notre Dame" - Presbytery dining room.
Wednesday 21st December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church. 9.45am—10.00am Reconciliation Rite 1—individual in Church. 7.00pm (Prompt) Advent/Christmas short film (1hr and 11 Mins) "The Fourth Wise Man" - Presbytery dining room.
Thursday 22nd December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 23rd December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church. 9.45am—10.00am Reconciliation Rite 1—individual in Church.
Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve	10.00am—10.15am Reconciliation Rite 1—individual in Church. 6.00pm Family Mass and Pageant at St Mary's Church. 8.30pm Carols. 9.00pm Mass at St Mary's Church.
Sunday 25th December Christmas Day	8.30am Mass at St Mary's Church. 10.00am Carols. 10.30am Mass at St Mary's Church.



Dear Parishioners

There is a danger that Christmas becomes something that concerns only the children. While it's true that a child (the Christ Child) is at the centre of Christmas, Christmas concerns us all.

The prophet Isaiah talked about the coming of a very special child (First Reading). But there is no reason to believe that he knew just how special that child would be. Every King of David's line was an embodiment of God's promise to be with us. But Christians believe that Isaiah's prophecy only found its complete fulfilment in Jesus.



The Second Reading and the Gospel reveal to us the true identity of this special child (Jesus). No prophecy is fully understood until after its fulfilment.

Both St Paul and St Matthew make it clear that, in the first place, Jesus was the **Son of David**. This was so because Joseph, his legal father, was descended from the line of David. David is one of the greatest figures of the Old Testament. He succeeded Saul as King of Israel. It was he who united the scattered tribes and formed them into a nation. Even though he sinned, he repented. Another sign of his greatest is the fact that he forgave his enemies. Many times in the Gospel Jesus is called '**Son of David**'.

Some parishioners wanted me to repeat the basic message I gave at the end of the Masses last weekend of possible helps to truly appreciate the coming of Christ this Christmas and not just let it be 'a semi non-event' in our lives if that came to pass! Accordingly, here again on paper are the 9 suggestions of possibilities – not obviously exhaustive.

1. Help the St Vincent de Paul Society help a family this Christmas: the proceeds of the candle box in at the Mary altar area always goes to the St Vincent de Paul Society.
2. Keep loyal to using every day the **Advent booklet** handed out at start of Advent entitled '**Incarnate**'.
3. If not already had the chance to go to this weekend **Reconciliation Service** I have listed in the Parish Calendar three other opportunities including the normal Saturday one at 10:00am.
4. If working still at home maybe take the time to come to one of the weekday Masses.
5. Reflect some more in your own quiet time on the Gospel of this weekend as per front page of bulletin.
6. Pick out a page of Scripture to reflect on such as **Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**. Or choose to read a few pages of the Acts of the Apostles straight after the Gospels – more than well forth the encouragement to your faith.

..Continued

7. 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 night before the screenings. The first is called '**the Juggler of Notre Dame**'. The main man is a terrific juggler but does not fully understand his talent. This is only fully appreciated at 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.
8. Start looking up Christmas Carols and play for a few days to put you in the mood for the coming of the most important person in human history into our World. We show our appreciation to Him when we play those magnificent carols: Silent Night (Bing Crosby), Away in a Manger (Bing Crosby/Frank Sinatra), Hark the Herald Angels Sing, O Holy Night (Nat King Cole), O Little Town of Bethlehem. O Come All Ye Faithful, The First Noel (Frank Sinatra), It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (Frank Sinatra), Do You Hear What I Hear, What Child is This.

9. Join the Choir this Wednesday night at 7:30pm.

As I have suggested this is not an exhaustive list as per normal things such as private prayer time, but something of the above may help you to be in the right frame of mind to choose at least one and if it has proven successful for you then I am more than glad to have passed on some possibilities.

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

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

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr Greg - 14/12/2022

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2022

ST MARY'S CHURCH WILLIAMSTOWN

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December

6.00pm Family Mass and Pageant at St Mary's

8.30pm Carols

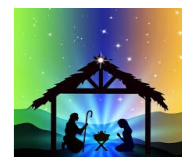
9.00pm Mass at St Mary's

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

8.30am Mass at St Mary's Church

10.00am Carols

10.30am Mass at St Mary's Church



CAROLS FOR 10:30 am MASS CHRISTMAS DAY



For anyone who enjoys Christmas carols please join our normal musicians for a practice on Wednesday 21st December at 7:30pm. Carols will begin at 10:00am before the 10:30am Christmas Day Mass.

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

