

Rosters for This Week 24th & 25th December

Counting Team No. 1	Frank Jones, Robyn Jones, Kimberley Jones
Ministers of the Eucharist	<p>Christmas Eve 6.00pm Di Collins, Richard van der Merwe 9.00pm Mary Soppitt, Gail Tull</p> <p>Christmas Day 8.30am Mary Frisby, Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Richard van der Merwe</p>
Mass Readers	<p>Christmas Eve 6.00pm No readers required 9.00pm Charles Hili</p> <p>Christmas Day 8.30am Evol Farrelly 10.30am Olga Reginato</p>



Rosters for Next Week 31st December & 1st January 2023

Counting Team No. 2	Mary Forster, Marguerite Buckley, Lauren Dittmar
Ministers of the Eucharist	<p>6.00pm Gail Tull, John O'Keefe 8.30am Ivonne Cram, Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Di Collins</p>
Mass Readers	<p>6.00pm Evol Farrelly 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Olga Reginato</p>

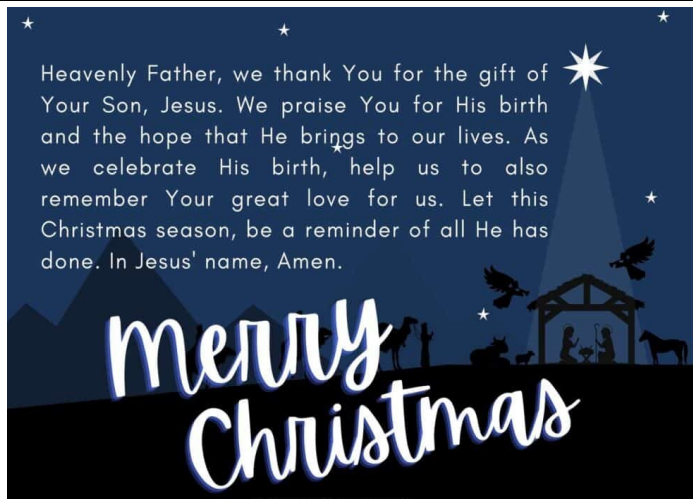


IN OUR PRAYERS

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 (Margaret) Anna Cumming who passed away recently and Sue Gherdovich, John Grieve, Mary Ebinger, Vera Makaling, Jarrod Bevan, Ethan Watson-Young, Sr. Leila Fitzgerald, Dermot Harkin, Cecilia Penn, Vivian Boyle, Dorothy O'Brien, John Borojevic, Vera Spurling, Rose Cini, John Hynes, Ezio Fabbro, Adriana & Antonietta Azzopardi, Maria Falzon, Bill Morrish, Neil Kelly, Brian Hamment, Milan Maglica, James Ritchie, Cyril Wilkinson, Ignatius D'Soussa, Brendan Waach, and Bruna Loriente whose anniversaries are at this time.



St Mary's Parish



A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

25th December, 2022

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Web: www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au

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

CHRISTMAS TIME - YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 52:7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. 1:1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

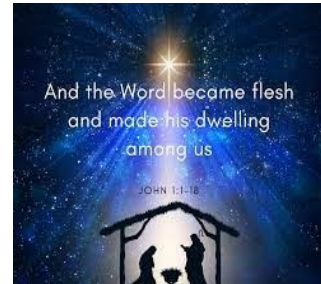
A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those that did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the word became flesh and his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.



Tuesday 27th December	9.15am Feast of St John Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Wednesday 28th December	9.15am Feast of the Holy Innocents Mass at St. Mary's Church. . 9.45am—10.00am Reconciliation Rite 1—individual in Church.
Thursday 29th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 30th December	9.15am Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus Mass at St. Mary's Church. .
Saturday 31st December New Years Eve	10.00am—10.15am Reconciliation Rite 1—individual in Church. 6.00pm Feast of 'Mary, the Holy Mother of God' Mass at St Mary's Church.
Sunday 1st January 2023 New Years Day	8.30am Feast of 'Mary, the Holy Mother of God' Mass at St Mary's Church. 10.30am Feast of 'Mary, the Holy Mother of God' Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners

As most of us would know Christmas has become very commercialized these days. However, this mustn't blind us to the true meaning of Christmas. When a thick smoke rises up, catches in your throat, and brings tears to your eyes, it is because a fire has been lit. At the coming of Christ, a fire was lit on the earth, a fire that will never die. At this fire we experience the warmth of God's love, and the glow of human fellowship.

As Parish Priest, and in light of this human fellowship, on behalf of the whole community here of St Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, I wish to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of so many involved in such a variety of parish ministries, especially as the year has progressed. I am thankful to have experienced such good parish staff and thankful too that we had the pleasure of **Deacon Tom throughout this year in our midst as well.** No doubt you wish him every best wish as **he moves on to my old parish,** Nazareth Parish in late January to get even more pastoral experience before priesthood in the wide area of Grovedale, Torquay and Anglesea.



Although I have been fortunate to have been appointed here for the last 12 years I am still on a learning curve and largely rely on you, the parishioners to help plan and coordinate so many different things. Over the Christmas period and particularly our four Christmas Masses I acknowledge the time, talent, effort and energy put in by those who have prepared the music and the liturgies. It is wonderful again to have our **Christmas Children's Pageant for the 6pm Evening Mass.** Children are not meant to be the be all and end all of Christmas as Christ did not just come for children, but it is wonderful to have them suitably involved as they add another dimension we adults need in our world.

Besides the children being with us this weekend, it is good to see so many of you have returned to weekly Mass over the last few months and more so over the last few weeks. There are reasons for non attendance, such as certain concerns still with Covid or due to age or sickness and then feeling a greater need to view the different types of Masses from the media outlooks. However, there is nothing better than seeing you more regularly at the Sunday liturgies. Unfortunately, due to certain factors there are some parishes that have only been able to attract 60% of their pre covid numbers back to a regular worship but lately at our three Masses we are now getting up to 80% back to being in Church of a Saturday or Sunday morning. I hope that continues, and one can if not been so regular lately, feel that it will be worthwhile putting in an extra effort to join the rest of the Community on a more regular basis. Like with physical activities it is mainly the habit that needs to be worked on plus some needed motivation of course as well.

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I noticed that in Society this year there has been a lot more emphasis on several areas of concern to various groups of people whether Christian or non-Christian: Climate Change, Gay Rights, Aboriginal Reconciliation, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Domestic Violence and so forth. Anyway, as the year closes I don't particularly care what your personal stance is in any of these areas or others for a matter of fact, but I do care that we foster a relationship with God who has appeared in our world in the fullness of time and demands that we not just sit on the fence or have no opinions of our own! Our free will gives us the opportunity to be involved in some of these areas or others and if we do so ideally, we do so because we want to further the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom of peace, love and justice. It helps us to bring among our mission: the Jesus challenge that the Kingdom of God is near and that we each have our part to play.

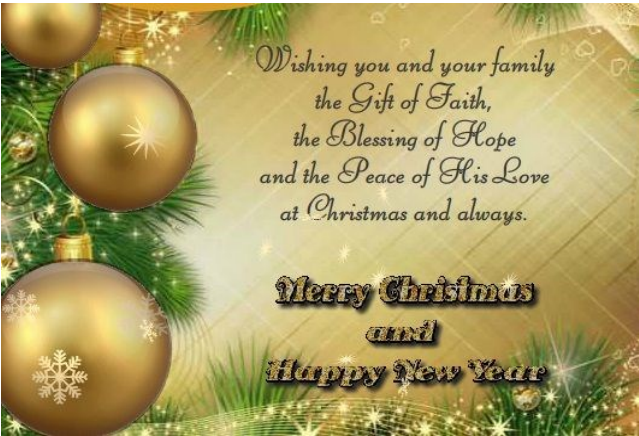
Due to new banking stipulations our **counting teams need to meet to have some new procedures explained in general. This meeting will take place on Wednesday Feb 1st in the Parish Centre** and we will start a new two week roster with four teams on Sunday Feb 5th. Thanks for your cooperation and help in the past on this area of parish commitment.

Thanks for joining us at one of our Christmas Masses. If you can join us every Sunday for Mass that would be the ideal. However, I don't your circumstances or your reservations and so accordingly please feel that you are welcome to come here to join our praying community any Saturday night at 6pm or Sunday morning either at the 8:30am or 10:30am Masses.

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

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr Greg - 23/12/2022



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

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

