

# St Mary's Parish

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

*A community where we bring  
together our gifts and talents*

31st December, 2023



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## Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall

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## Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian

0450 789 951

Monday, Tuesday

## Parish Staff

Sharon Vassallo

Tuesday 8:30am – 4pm

Thursday 8:30am – 4pm

Friday 8:30am – 4pm

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 6:00pm

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.

**Baptism** 12:30pm Sunday

## The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year B

### FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Genesis. 15:1-6, 21:1-3,

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

### SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. 11:8,11-12, 17-19.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
now God speaks to us through the Son.

### GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22, 25-27, 34-35, 39-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in

regard to him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.



<b>Monday 1st January 2024</b> (New Years Day)	9.15am	Mass at St Mary's Church. Feast of Mary, the holy Mother of God.
<b>Tuesday 2nd January</b>	9.15am	Mass at St Mary's Church
<b>Wednesday 3rd January</b>	9.15am	Communion Service at St Mary's Church. (Fr. Greg celebrating funeral Mass at Newport.)
<b>Thursday 4th January</b>	9.15am	Mass St Mary's Church
<b>Friday 6th January</b>	9.15am	Mass at St Mary's Church

Dear Parishioners,

I was very pleased with how the **three Christmas Mass liturgies** turned out. **Thanks for all involved.** It is hard to fault the Children Pageant performed by the children. Big numbers at the services again. When we start to see people not coming to Christmas in big numbers then we should start worrying! A particular **thanks to the good musicians and singers** who hardly missed a beat Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



**As one enters another year, I feel optimistic the parish is in good hands** with so many willing helpers using their talents for the good of the parish, not only just musicians and singers, in 2023. As all my immediate family are now deceased, on visiting two large groups of friends at Chelsea (old school friends) for dinner Christmas Day and the Rowville crowd (marriages mainly performed eg: 5 out of 8 children mainly in the 1980's) for Christmas night celebrations there was one dominant theme. Most of the Rowville family still live in the Sandringham to Chelsea areas and they expressed their concern about the future boundaries of their parishes. For example the Archdiocese with shortage of priests and a desire for some more practical working together has documented just a few months ago a new **BAYSIDE AREA PARISH CONFIGURATION:**

- **NORTH:** 3 parishes Gardenvale, Brighton and Brighton East under one priest with two Mass Centres.
- **CENTRAL( WEST):** 3 parishes Hampton Hampton East and Sandringham under one priest. Initially, three Sunday Mass Centres, eventually two.
- **CENTRAL ( EAST):** Two parishes Highett and Cheltenham under one priest with two Mass Centres.
- **SOUTH:** Rickett's Point ( only a recent amalgamation of Black Rock and Beaumaris parishes ) with Mentone- Parkdale ( now one parish but formerly two) with two priests initially. ( one Parish Priest and one Assistant Priest) and eventually one priest. Initially four Mass Centres then eventually two as a possibility.

Only recently the Archdiocese advertised if any priest within our Archdiocese was interested in No. 2 above as a new priest is required in 2024. A prominent retired priest sent me a text recently to suggest I would be a good fit for No 2: **CENTRAL WEST** with Sandringham (by the sea!), Hampton and Hampton East. I informed him that I am not going anywhere and at **this time very happy to work with Fr Binh Le of Newport/Spotswood** to see how we can continue to work together. I also informed that particular retired priest that I intend to retire one day in the Williamstown area and hopefully support where possible the weekend masses at Williamstown, Newport and Spotswood. I feel our neighbourhood arrangement can work, but it will certainly be a challenge for the whole Archdiocese in the next decade to fill other vacant parishes or rather vast parish conglomerations.

**It was nice to hear the feedback from parishioners** on the story I presented last weekend with **my father's famous greyhound 'Snappy'**. Most of my research on his ancestry came from volume 3 of the Australian and New Zealand Stud book, an 829-page book I found after my father's death and which I researched extensively during at least two of my annual holidays.

There were just fascinating stories of his ancestry, especially going back as far as the sire or the dam of the Victorian Waterloo Cups of 1887, 1888, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1898 as well as the Victorian Derby of 1892, 1893, 1887-1888 to find not only did his ancestors win those same top races. Although Snappy won the two major Australian greyhound trophies, the Victorian Waterloo Cup and the New South Wales Waterloo Cup he was a bit unlucky in his first major event. Snappy came runner- up for the 1939 Victorian Derby in which one newspaper suggested the judge made the wrong decision – the following words were reported in that newspaper: ***'some were inclined to doubt the correctness of that decision' !!*** . You can't win them all! Accordingly, anyway from my report over Christmas, it was almost as if it was meant to be as I received a lovely surprise Christmas present on Christmas Day! Rod Flint has come down from Grovedale the last two years of 2021 + 2022 to join me at Williamstown and we have driven together to join another close secondary school mate in Chelsea. Well, Rod's grandfather by coincidence was the National President of the Greyhound Coursing Association for many years and his greyhound won the first Tasmanian Waterloo Cup in 1935. His grandfather had an extensive library and on the way to Chelsea, Rod had arranged we pick up two of his books of the Snappy era at Black Rock on the direct route we were taking to Chelsea. Rod then handed me the books to keep for as long as I liked. I now have some more exciting research to do during my next annual holidays in November 2024 !

As I described in a recent newsletter, St Mary's Parish has been **allocated a Syrian refugee family**: a mother and two teenage children, as part of the **CRISP refugee support program**. We expect them to arrive in Australia in February 2024, and our challenge has been finding them short term accommodation. A few possibilities have come forward over Christmas and **I thank those two different parishioners who have opened new doors on this search**. It is really good news as we seem to have kicked another box—the accommodation one.

I don't know about you but **I am still 'in the spirit of Christmas'** and due to that I would like to quote to you **something rather dramatic from the Roman Martyrology**. This rather large work commemorates mainly the heroic faith, the holy deeds, the exemplary lives, and in many cases the glorious death of those soldiers of Christ who have gone before us. It provides an extensive list of the saints recognised by the Church and it was first published in 1583 but it keeps being updated by the church with the saints of our era. Going back to Christ it dramatically states:

***The Twenty-Fifth Day of December**, when ages beyond number had run their course, from the creation of the world, when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness; when century upon century had passed, since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace; in the twenty first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of the Ur of the Chaldees; in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses, in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was made King.....in the forty second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to concentrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea and was made man.*

This week we continue the Christmas story as we proclaim his presence within a human family as we **celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family**.

Then on **Monday** those who wish to join us to pray prayers for the **New Year** will do so on the **Feast of Mary, the holy Mother of God at the 9:15am Mass**.

Rosters are down the back table or Special Ministers and Readers for 2024 – thanks for your help to the Liturgy.

We received a thank you note from CatholicCare recently for the generous donation of \$2,606.30 for their annual appeal during 2023.

A happy and holy New Year to you all.

Fr Greg 30/12/2023

Rosters for this Week 30th & 31st December 2023

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am Maryanne Wenzel, Peter Kirwan 10.30am Maria Laudato
Mass Readers	6.00pm Josie Penna 8.30am Charles Hili 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Volunteer Needed 8.30am Volunteer Needed 10.30am Volunteer Needed

Rosters for next Week 6th & 7th January 2024

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am Jeanette Thompson, Stephen Littleton 10.30am Alison Silke, Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Charles Hili 10.30am Olga Reginato




IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Sarah Rodgers, Cathy Reid, Assunta Delgrosso, Yemme Reddy, Anne-Marie Pelikinakis, Anthony Watts

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for John Carlon, Rose Harkin, Jo Bruchhaus, Marietta Ginevra, Frank Humphries, Lily Nuzzo, Jack Sheedy, Carmine Nave, Betty Duncan, Domenico Sabateno, Winston Galea, Br Fabian Dennehy, Nina Putognano, Mary Stephens, Anna Lee, William Webb, Honora, Richard & Ray Featherston, Alan Jackson, Mary Hernan, Hugh Coyne, Brian Lang, Tom Sirgiovanni, Paul Gerada, Joe & Mary Libreri, James Ritchie, Mariantonia Mifsud, Giuse Quynh, Frank Schobben Sr. and Jose Gales whose anniversaries are at this time.





Thank you Fr Greg

On Christmas Eve Father Greg was presented with a Christmas gift on behalf of the Parish.

We thank Father Greg for his wonderful service not only to our community but to the wider community. We also thank him for his enduring dedication to St.Mary's Parish and his commitment to ensuring it's future.