



St. John's Parish Mitcham

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132

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4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 24 2017 — Year B

WELCOME BACK!

We are delighted to be back in our newly renovated worship space and narthex....and it looks fantastic!

Our "Resurrection" Window behind the altar was the original idea and concept of Fr Mark Reynolds and was designed by Joe Ross the artist at Glasskote. We have included here an explanation of the symbolism behind the window.

As we all know, the central and enduring symbol of our Christian faith is the cross. That's why we sign ourselves 'with the cross', that's why the cross is always placed in an obvious position in Christian places. Whilst the cross may be so central, we also know it's not the whole story. The Jesus story didn't start with the cross and it didn't end with the cross. We are about to celebrate the beginning of his life once again. But the beginning of his ministry did not occur until after his baptism. And after three days in the tomb he was raised to new life and therefore encapsulates baptism, death and resurrection.

In looking at the new window we actually see the cross first and are then drawn to the water (baptism) and glorious light (resurrection). But it is not just about Jesus. It's about us too. For when we are baptized we are baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our death is a death unto self, our own selfishness and self-centeredness so that we can be people of new life and hope in our world. We radiate the light of the One who is life and we do this by lives of loving service as people of the cross, people pouring out our lives for the lives of others. This is being a follower disciple.

Some of the major renovations have included the following—

We have installed new carpet, upgraded the lighting and TV screens, fitted new blinds and refurbished the bulkhead on the eastside of the church.

The cross and stations of the cross have been relocated and the tabernacle moved to a central position.

The Sacristy has been fitted out with a new kitchen, hot water service, large refrigerator and microwave oven, vinyl floor and the plumbing and lighting have been upgraded. A new sink has been installed and a new area for flower preparation included.

The Narthex has had new LED lighting, new carpet and a screened storage area with pin up boards installed. Plastering of the brick wall was completed and cooling system ducts cleaned and enclosed. A new Welcome Desk has been placed in the Narthex along with mobile St Vincent de Paul piety stands.

These along with many minor repair and maintenance tasks, have given our Church and Narthex a new and fresh facelift. We thank our team of Architects and Builders and our sound technicians Carl & Chris for their wonderful work under the management of Bernie Kiekebosch, our project manager.

"St John's Parish community, committed to the Victorian Child Safe Standards"

Parish Information



Normal Weekend Mass Times at St. John's

Saturday Vigil, 6pm, then 8.30am, 9.45am, 11.15am, 5pm

Parish Priest

Fr Dispin John

Pastoral Associate:

Maree O'Keefe (Tuesday-Friday Sunday am)

Pastoral Care:

Monika Bredhauer—Pastoral Care and Bereavement Ministry

Parish Office—Coordination of Communion to the Sick

Schools

St John's School, 494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 9874 1575

Principal: Mrs Jacqui Marshall

St. James School, 51 Centre Road, Vermont, 9874 1830

Acting Principal: Mrs Carmel Foster

Parish Office

Office hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm Ph: 98731341

Parish Secretaries:

Martine Giles (Monday-Wednesday & Friday)

Elisa Kelesidis (Tuesday-Friday)

RE for Government Schools:

Andrew Puls—0407 352 706

Services: St Vincent de Paul Shop 2/82 Maroondah Hwy Ringwood 9870 9124

The House of Books (house next door to the Church) 9874 2389

- St Vincent de Paul Furniture Pick-Ups 1800 621 349

- St Vincent de Paul Welfare Assistance 1800 305 330

Faith Formation, Social & Others

Please check Newsletter for times of weekday Masses throughout January.

Weekday Masses this week— St John's

Monday	Church Closed
Tuesday	Church Closed
Wednesday	Church Closed
Thursday	Church Closed
Friday	10am Mass
Saturday	No 9am Morning Prayer and Communion Service till 3/2/18 9.30am Reconciliation

St Vincent de Paul—On behalf of the Mitcham Conference I would like to **thank all parishioners** for their generous response to the Christmas Appeal & also for the presents and food items that have been donated. With your generosity we have been able to provide 85 Christmas Hampers to the people we support.



The Parish Office will be **closed** over the Christmas & New Year period and will **open** on **Fridays** commencing **29 December 2017** on reduced hours from **9am-1pm**. The Parish Office will **resume normal working hours** from **Tuesday 16th January 2018 9am-4pm**.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve Masses—Sunday 24 December

St James Family Mass at **6pm**—Carols at **5.30pm**
St John's Family Mass at **8.30pm**—Carols at **7.45pm**
St John's **11pm** Mass—Carols at **10.30pm**

Christmas Day Masses—Monday 25 December

St John's—**8.30am & 10.30am**

Please note no 5pm Mass Christmas Day at St John's.
Please note there will be no 9.30am Mass at St James.

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into our Parish family through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Layla Alice Koppens, Thomas Winston Wilson.**



We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal Life for all those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially, **Mary McCorkell, Francesco Marro, Theresa Marro, William Fitzpatrick, Nell Dunbar, Greg Dore, Geoff Bolt, Cecilia Hennessy, John McLean, Kevin Dunne, Catherine Lonergan, Mick McLachlan.**



Inspiration for the coming week from the **Compassion and Friendship Group**

"Joy multiplies when you share it!" - Pope Francis

ST VINCENT DE PAUL are in need of a **LAWN MOWER**—if you are able to assist please contact **Kevin** on **0405 379 504**.



Dec 30 & 31	St Johns 6.00pm	St John's 8.30am	St. John's 9.45am	St John's 11.15am	St. John's 5.00pm	St. James 9.30am
C'Tator	L Hennessy	C Ryan	K Callinan-Moore	J Kiekebosch	B Jordan	L McCarthy
Lector	L D'Silva	M Perkins	T Henry	D Kennedy	M Stuart	J McCarthy
Eucharist	M Webb	M Coghlan	T Harkin	H McIlroy	M Kristan	N Winter
	M Pinto	R Smith	T A Foster	C Brindle	M Campbell	
	Y Martin	G Smith	C Boyd	L Iacobucci	S Partridge	
			A Martonyi	M Hegarty		
Laptop	L Elliott	B Meehan	G Gill	Black family	M Lambert	
Children's Liturgy	Children's Liturgy will resume in February 2018					

