



# St. John's Parish Mitcham

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132

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Website: [www.stjohnsmitcham.com.au](http://www.stjohnsmitcham.com.au)

Phone: 03 9873 1341 Fax No. 03 9872 4316



## Christmas Day Sunday December 25th 2016—Year A

### Christmas message—2016 Archbishop Denis Hart

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a special time when we remember God's closeness to us and *our* responsibility to become peacemakers. In this season of peace and goodwill we see our God, the maker of all things visible and invisible, reduced to the most vulnerable of creatures; *another* little Middle Eastern boy caught up in homelessness, poverty and a cruel cycle of violence. Yes, our God gave up *everything* in order to become one with us. You cannot get closer than that! He comes to us, and stays with us, especially in times of difficulty and loneliness.

We might say that Christmas is the feast of "closeness". It is the time when family and friends who are separated – by geography, by hurt or anger, or simply by the distances created by time – come together again to celebrate this joyous feast and to renew their bonds with one another and, we hope, with Christ.

Christmas reunions can be wonderful. They can also open old wounds and bring back painful memories. To make Christmas joyful we must be able to forgive one another and let go of past injuries – real and imagined.

My prayer for you and for all Melburnians, therefore, is that you will feel God's closeness this Christmas and become instruments of peace in the New Year ahead! Let us keep the lost and abandoned close to our hearts.

+ Denis J. Hart,  
Archbishop of Melbourne.

Dec 31 / Jan 1	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
<b>C'Tator</b>	Youth Group	A Buchanan	R Horner	P Spencer	S Solomons	
<b>Lector</b>	J Dinh	M McMahon	D Vecci	A Menon	A & F Puls	L McCarthy
<b>Eucharist</b>	C Irvin	B O'Reilly	G Gill	S Box	B Belot	B Kenny
	K McClure	J Franklin	A Anthony	C Bantawig	D Lim	J McCarthy
	Y Martin	M Gartland	J White	J Bantawig		
			R Elliott	A Wilson		
<b>Laptop</b>	N Bredhauer	F McKenna	B Ward	Hangan Family	R Doyle	
<b>Welcome</b>	M Rasmussen	H Thomas	A Wallis	S Box	D O'Farrell	
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Children's Liturgy will resume in February 2017					



## Parish Information

### Normal Weekend Mass Times at St. John's

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

#### Parish Priest

Fr Mark Reynolds

#### Pastoral Associate:

Maree O'Keefe (Tuesday-Friday Sunday am)

#### Pastoral Care:

Monika Bredhauer—Pastoral Care and Bereavement Ministry

Kevin Hay—Coordination of Communion to the Sick

Sr Margaret Richmond—Visitation

#### Schools

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

**Principal:** Mrs Jacqui Marshall

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

**Principal:** Mr Andrew Mullaly

#### Visiting Priests

Fr John Van Suylen

#### Parish Office

Office hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm Ph: 98731341

#### Parish Secretaries:

Martine Giles (Monday-Wednesday)

Elisa Kelesidis (Wednesday-Friday)

, Finance Office (Tue only)

#### 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 **10am Mass**

Thursday Church closed

Friday **10am Mass**

**Saturday No 9am Morning Prayer and Communion Service**

**No Reconciliation**

### AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY

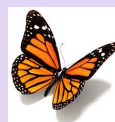
We welcome into our Parish family through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Gemma Nancy Colette**.



We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal Life for **Jeremy Tan** and for all those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially, **Mick McLachlan, Ann Karam, Peter Norris, Thomas Rose Meyer, Lionel Dominick, Francesco Marro, Theresa Marro, Robert Trevisan, Mark Tokarski.**

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

*There is no elevator to Success—  
You have to take the stairs.*



The **Parish Office** will be closed this week and will re-open on **Fridays commencing 6th January 2017 from 9am—1pm until Tuesday 17th January** when normal office hours resume.

### St Vincent de Paul - Thankyou

On behalf of the Mitcham Conference I would like to thank all parishioners for their generous response to the Christmas Appeal and also for the presents and food items that have been donated for the Christmas Hampers. With your generosity we have been able to provide 80 Christmas Hampers to the people we support.  
Glyn McIntosh

### Religious Education Classes for Children attending non-Catholic schools

**Are you interested in your child learning about the Catholic faith?**

Then join us at **ST JOHN'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL**, 494 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham on **WEDNESDAY** afternoons during school terms **4.15-5.15pm** **Enrolments are now open for 2017.** We offer a 4 year program for children from Year 2-6 who would like to receive the sacraments in the Catholic Church. Please note that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is celebrated in the third year of the program. Contact **Parish Office** on **9873 1341** for an enrolment form.



Welcome to our parish. Please make yourself known at the **Welcome Desk** in the **Narthex** and collect your *Information Package* which we hope will be of value to you.



**Congratulations to Michael Augustine on being awarded Vice Captain of Aquinas College for 2017**

**SCHOOL VICE-CAPTAIN**