



# St. John's Parish Mitcham

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132

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Phone: 03 9873 1341 Fax No. 03 9872 4316



## 2nd Sunday of Advent December 10 2017 —Year B

### Prepare the Way of the Lord

The weeks of Advent prepare for Christmas;  
all we associate with Christmas prepares us for Jesus,  
for his birth in the love of Mary and Joseph.

All of us can be like John the Baptist,  
preparing a room for Jesus Christ in our families,  
among friends, in schools and workplaces,  
preparing a room in our hearts for love.

Or Christmas weeks can be like empty tinsel;  
singing the songs of Christmas and forgetting the birth,  
or playing Santa and pretending love;  
or being so busy that you wish it was already over.

But it need not be like this.

Allow these days for prayer,  
for moments taken in a busy day,  
like stopping in the heavy traffic,  
and just remembering that Jesus is near.

Take time for friendship, for love, for care,  
for those activities that grow our friendship and love  
with the people who mean a lot.

Take time these days for the poor,  
for ensuring that someone's Christmas  
will be better because of your generosity.

Then the songs will be full,  
and gifts will be reminders of love,  
and Santa, the friend of children,  
will be like the Christ-child.

Then love for God and others  
Will come to birth at Christmas.

Communion Reflections—Donal Neary SJ

**“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 9.30am St James Vermont**

#### 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

#### Parish Office

Office hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm Ph: **98731341**

Parish Secretaries:

Martine Giles (Monday-Wednesday & Friday)

Elisa Kelesidis (Tuesday—Friday)

#### 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

**Services:** St Vincent de Paul Shop 2/82 Maroondah Hwy Ringwood **9870 9124** - **St Vincent de Paul Furniture Pick-Ups 1800 621 349**  
The House of Books (house next door to the Church) **9874 2389** - **St Vincent de Paul Welfare Assistance 1800 305 330**

#### RE for Government Schools:

Andrew Puls 0407 352 706

### Scripture Readings for week

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mon: Isaiah 35:1-10                | Luke 5:17-26     |
| Tue: Isaiah 40:1-11                | Matthew 18:12-14 |
| Wed: Isaiah 40:25-31               | Matthew 11:28-30 |
| Thur: Isaiah 41:13-20              | Matthew 11:11-15 |
| Fri: Isaiah 48:17-19               | Matthew 11:16-19 |
| Sat: Sirach 48:1-4 9-11            | Matthew 17:10-13 |
| Sun: <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> |                  |
| Isaiah 61:1-2 10-11                |                  |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24            | John 1:6-8 19-28 |

### AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY



We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal life for **Lauren Arnot, Rozanne Selina Paul, Lucy D'Arcy, Leo Hortin** and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time, **Edward K John.**

### Weekday Masses this week in our Parish

Please note that due to **Church Renovations** there will be **no morning masses this week**. Also note that there will be no **Saturday Morning Prayer/ Communion Service until 3 February 2018**. There will be **no Reconciliation** until further notice. However, if Reconciliation is required please contact the parish office in office hours to arrange a suitable time with Fr Dispin. Thank you for your cooperation.

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



*Like the branches on a tree a family grows in different directions, yet will always share the same roots.*

| December 16 / 17 | St Johns<br>6pm | St. John's<br>8.30am | St John's<br>9.45am | St. John's<br>11.15am | St John's<br>5pm | St James<br>9.30am |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>C'Tator</b>   | L Hennessy      | C Ryan               | K Callinan-Moore    | J Kiekebosch          | B Jordan         |                    |
| <b>Lector</b>    | L D'Silva       | M Perkins            | T Henry             | D Kennedy             | M Stuart         | N Vernal           |
| <b>Eucharist</b> | M Webb          | M Coghlan            | T Harkin            | H McIlroy             | M Kristan        | H Lucas            |
|                  | M Pinto         | R Smith              | T A Foster          | C Brindle             | M Campbell       | M Gartland         |
|                  | Y Martin        | G Smith              | C Boyd              | L Iacobucci           | S Partridge      |                    |
|                  |                 |                      | A Martonyi          | M Hegarty             |                  |                    |

#### Children's Liturgy

**No Children's Liturgy for St John's until further notice due to Church renovations**

A McLaughlin  
A Thurbon

#### Laptop

N Pinto

M Truong

M Foster

Kennedy Family

A Jordan

**Welcome Desk is cancelled till further notice.**



**Catholic Social Teaching—What Can I Do About it here and now?**

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA  
WE BELIEVE IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING—GLOBAL GIFTS**

This Christmas, send a message to those you love, and give a gift to those in need. When you send a Global gift, you'll create a lifetime of change for some of the world's poorest people. [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)  
RITE OF WELCOME**

The RCIA catechumens and candidates were welcomed by the St John's community at a Rite of Welcome at the 5pm Mass last weekend. This Welcome is part of the RCIA journey and is during the Enquiry stage where the candidates take another step in their journey of learning about the Catholic faith. During the Rite the catechumens received a full signing of all the senses.

- Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead. It is Christ himself who now strengthens you with this sign of his love. Learn to know and follow him.
- Receive the sign of the cross on your ears, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.
- Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes, that you may see the Glory of God.
- Receive the sign of the cross on your lips, that you may respond to the word of God.
- Receive the sign of the cross over your heart, that Christ may dwell there by faith.
- Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.
- Receive the sign of the cross on your hands, that Christ may be known in the work that you do.
- Receive the sign of the cross on your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ.

The RCIA group for 2017/18 are 2 catechumens and 2 candidates who, together with their sponsors, are meeting regularly on Tuesday evenings. Please continue to keep them, and the RCIA team, in your prayers.

**CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTERS**

**Thank you to those who have offered assistance for Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses. However, we still need a laptop operator for the 8.30am & 10.30am Christmas morning masses. Please contact Maree on 9873 1341 if you can assist.**

**Family Care Sisters Wholistic Centre for Women, Croydon**

The following day course is being offered:  
Monday 18 December—Prayer Day at 9.30am—3pm Cost \$20-\$25 BYO lunch, morning tea provided.

Bookings essential 9723 6797

**ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE**

**Parish Advent Penitential Celebration**

Thursday, December 21 at 7.30pm

**Christmas Eve Masses – Sunday, December 24**

**St James Family Mass** at 6pm (51 Centre Road Vermont) Carols at 5.30pm

**St John's Family Mass** at 8.30pm – Carols at 7.45pm

**Please Note: 11pm Mass replaces Midnight Mass**

**St John's 11pm Mass** – Carols at 10.30pm

**Christmas Day Masses –Monday December 25**

**St John's—8.30am & 10.30am**

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 5PM MASS CHRISTMAS DAY**

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 9.30AM MASS AT ST JAMES VERMONT**



# Social & Other



## St Vincent de Paul— Christmas Gifts

Thank you to those who have dropped off gifts. We still have a need for adult gifts and suitable gifts include toiletries, or gift vouchers such as JB Hi Fi or Kmart etc. It would be appreciated if gifts could be taken to the **Parish Office** by **11 December** if possible as we will be starting to pack the hampers during the following week.

## WANTED—BREAD ROSTER VOLUNTEERS

St Vincent de Paul—Mitcham Conference, has a need for additional volunteers to collect & distribute bread to needy families in the Mitcham area. This is to join a regular roster for either the **Wednesday** or **Saturday** afternoon bread run. The time taken is approx. 1 hour. Collect about once a month. A car is required & training provided. Please contact Paul on 0423 590 780 after 5.30pm or [ourbreadrun@gmail.com](mailto:ourbreadrun@gmail.com)

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL— December

**Christmas Cake, Christmas Pudding, Long Life Custard, Tinned Ham, Shortbread Biscuits, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Carrots, Peas & Corn, Savoury Biscuits.** Please leave donations in the tub in the Church.

Conference Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Enquiries Glyn McIntosh 9873 5772.

**ONLY FOOD ITEMS** are to be placed in the box at the door on the parish office side of the Church. All other items should be placed in the St Vincent de Paul Bin at the Basketball courts.

## COMPASSION AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

This will be our last gathering for the year which will take place on **Monday 18 December** at **10.30am** in the **Parish Office**. We will enjoy some Christmas reflection and a morning tea. Enquiries contact the **Parish Office** 9873 1341 or **Monika** **0438 220 361**.



## HELP FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP

CatholicCare's Dandenong office provides support for families living in the Greater Dandenong area, including refugee and asylum seeker families—many of whom experience a daily struggle to put food on the table. CatholicCare is calling for donations of the following items to distribute to families in need:

- Food items: cereals, pasta, rice, flour, sugar, vegetable oil, olive oil, tomato paste, chick peas, lentils, tuna, baked beans, two-minutes noodles, long-life milk, jam, biscuits.
- Other: shampoo, soap, deodorant, sanitary products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, toilet paper, toilet gel, sponges, dishwashing liquid, aluminum foil, laundry powder, serviettes, basic stationery items.
- Gift cards of any amount (Coles, Woolworths, Kmart, Target) are also very handy, allowing families to purchase exactly what they need.

If you are able to help, please phone the **CatholicCare Dandenong** office on **8710 9600** to arrange a time to drop off your donated items. Thank you for your generosity.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH BUT RATHER CALL CATHOLICCARE DANEDNONG IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP 8710 9600.**