



St. John's Parish Mitcham

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132

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Phone: 03 9873 1341 Fax No. 03 9872 4316



1st Sunday of Advent December 3 2017 —Year B

Being faithful

Be faithful to God and God's presence in life.

Because of God there is always hope,
everything is being created all the time:
the star you see is bright each night with new light,
the love you share with another grows stronger,
and living friendship reaches deeper into the soul.

Every Christmas is a new creation,
and the old, old story is told again,
with new gifts, new carols,
to friends old and new,
among people who have always been part of life,
among people who are new this year,
and among people who are sharing Christmas
this year in the eternity of God.

All is new:

Be faithful to hope,
be faithful to the future,
be faithful to God who is among us.

Among us like
the raindrop on the grass,
the warmth of winter sun,
the touch of a friend,
among us like a child,
vulnerable, new and eternal like a child.

Be faithful in waiting, that God might always be new.

Communion Reflections—Donal Neary SJ

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

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MISSION STATEMENT

To lead and empower the people of our parish to work independently and use their skills and gifts to grow the life of our faith community now and into the future.

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 2:1-5	Matthew 8:5-11
Tue: Isaiah 11:1-10	Luke 10:21-24
Wed: Isaiah 25:6-10	Matthew 15:29-37
Thur: Isaiah 26:1-6	Matthew 7:21 24-27
Fri: Genesis 3:9-15 20	Luke 1:26-38
Sat: Isaiah 30:19-21 23-26	Matt. 9:35 10:1 6-8
Sun: Second Sunday of Advent	
Isaiah 40:1-5 9-11	
2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1:1-8

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY



We welcome into our Parish family through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Monique My Williams, Elena Grace Chenoweth, Nathaniel Matthew Unkles.**

We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal life for **Ray Wallis, Lachlan MacDonald, Geoffrey Matthews, Monthy Rodrigues** and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time, **Celso Batallones, Mameng Estrada, Mark Rasmussen, Gabrielle Stephens, Kathleen Young, Maureen Collins, John Plant, Denzil Dias, Veronica Austin.**

Weekday Masses this week in our Parish

Please note that due to **Church Renovations** there will be no morning masses this week with the exception of the **Anointing Mass** which will take place on **Friday 8 December at 11.30am.** Also note that there will be no **Saturday Morning Prayer/Communion Service** or **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.

Travelling Rosary—will be held at the home of Helen Thomas from Sunday 3 December to Friday 8 December at 7.30pm. Enquiries Helen 9874 7024.



This will be the final week for 2017, and we will resume at the end of January. A big thank you to all who have participated this year, and we look forward to a prayerful year in 2018.

December 9 / 10	St Johns 6pm	St. John's 8.30am	St John's 9.45am	St. John's 11.15am	St John's 5pm	St James 9.30am
C'Tator	P Richards	C Anderson	V Burnie	T Black	M Day	
Lector	J David	L Thorneycroft	D Ranjit	C Black	M Greenwood	T Wursthorn
Eucharist	P Bateman	K Thorneycroft	P Taggart	M Crowe	T Rhynehart	C Gorry
	C Pearson	R Smith	S Harrison	N Flores	P Wallace	M Hosie
	M Perkins	G Smith	D Matchado	T Fernandes	S Solomons	
	B Meehan	H de Kauwe	K Callinan-Moore	T Vaz		

Children's Liturgy

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

L Sully
C Thurbon

Laptop

J Sexton

F Foley

N Santamaria

C Andrade

S Chan

Welcome Desk is cancelled till after the renovations.



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

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Bill

On Wednesday 22 November, the Legislative Council voted to introduce euthanasia and assisted suicide into Victoria, 22 votes for to 18 votes against.

Thank you to all those in our parish community who rang and wrote letters and emails to both their Assembly and Legislative Council members in our efforts to prevent this legislation from passing.

The Victorian people have been poorly served by this government which promised when they were elected in 2014 that they had no intention of introducing Euthanasia and Assisted Dying. This is a very sad day for Victoria. Whatever "safe guard" amendments have been made to the bill in order to get it through Parliament, overseas experience indicates that even the most "watertight" safeguards erode very quickly to the detriment of the old and lonely and the vulnerable, and it presents a troubling scenario to the disabled.

While this battle has been lost for the moment, it is so important that we do not lose sight of the great need for more extensive and improved palliative care opportunities right across our state. Thank you again to all who supported this No campaign. Jan White

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

The RCIA catechumens and candidates will be welcomed by the St John's community at a Rite of Welcome at the 5pm Mass this weekend. This Welcome is part of the RCIA journey and is during the Enquiry stage where the catechumens and candidates take another step in their journey of learning about the Catholic faith. If you are at the 5pm Mass, please introduce yourself and welcome these people in the usual friendly St John's spirit. 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 - CAN YOU HELP OUT

If you would like to be involved in the Christmas Liturgies—please put your name on the sign up sheets situated at the Church exit points or call Maree at the Parish Office on 9873 1341. We especially need commentators, laptop operators & Ministers of Eucharist for 8.30am & 10.30am Christmas morning masses.

The Anointing Mass & Luncheon is to be held on Friday 8 December at 11.30am

We will gather on the lawn out the front of the Parish office at 11.15am and we will process to Mass together.

It is important to RSVP by Monday 5th December to the Parish office on 9873 1341 if you wish to attend the Luncheon and/or Mass.

Inspiration for the coming week from the Compassion and Friendship Group



A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a spark that creates extraordinary results.

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

Christmas Gift Card labels are available beside the doors of the Church for gifts to be included in the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers. Can you please take a label and purchase a suitable gift based on the gender and age group written on the label. We particularly 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 placed under the Christmas tree by **3 December** or after that date at the parish office until **10 December** if possible as we will be starting to pack the hampers during the following week.



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.

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

The Mitcham Catholic Solo Support Group Hope to join you on **Tuesday 5th December** at **6pm** at the **Mitcham Pub** for fun and frolics and Christmas Cheer. Love, Veronica



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.