



St. John's Parish Mitcham

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132

(Postal: P.O. Box 95, Mitcham 3132)

Email: Mitcham@cam.org.au

Website: www.stjohnsmitcham.com.au

Phone: 03 9873 1341 Fax No. 03 9872 4316



3rd Sunday of Advent December 17 2017 —Year B

Witness for the light

May my life speak as a witness for the light;

where there is darkness may I bring light,
where there is loneliness, may I bring companionship,
where there is pain, may I bring healing.

May my words bring comfort to others,
as the morning dawn lightens the darkness,
and may my prayers bring hope to others,
as the moon gives its light to the city.

May my touch lighten
the loneliness and fears of young and old,
and may suffering and struggles,
as these were part of the life of Jesus,
and part of the life of Mary and Joseph,
bring hope and depth to others.

And when like the Baptist, I cry,
in the wilderness of anxiety, fear and hopelessness,
may I be heard by God
and may the light of Jesus
lit in the love of Mary and Joseph,
shine through the ways I deal with pain,
and comfort the pain of another.

May I believe
that each person,
like John the Baptist,
is a voice speaking the word of God.

May the way of Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace, Son of God,
be bright in my soul and the souls of others.

Communion Reflections—Donal Neary SJ

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: Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-24

Tue: Judges 13:2-7 324-25 Luke 1:5-25

Wed: Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38

Thur: Songs of Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45

Fri 1Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56

Sat: Malachi 3:1-4 23-24 Luke 1:57-66

Sun: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2Samuel 7:1-5 8-12 14 16

Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY



We welcome into our Parish family through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Rafael Rechichi, Natalie Joy Lai Shing, Eloise Katerina Petrilli, Javier Gregory Petrilli, Ines Mary Petrilli.**

We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal life for and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time, **Brian Hayes, Thomas Langford, Bernie Hanlan, Victoria Bastalec, Vida Bastalec, Anthony Winter, Egidio Zarl—Pierina -Vatovez, John Santamaria, Remedios Estrada, Leonora Estrada, Rob Chambers.**

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

“Peace begins with a smile”
Mother Teresa



December 24	St Johns 6pm	St. John's 8.30am	St John's 9.45am	St. John's 11.15am	St James 9.30am
C'Tator	M & N Bredhauer	A Buchanan	B Mills	Z D'Silva	
Lector	A Livy	E George	A Crowe	G Lewis	N Thurbon
Eucharist	M Livy	J Santamaria	T Harkin	A Glenn	R McIntosh
	E Booth	R Jess	M Lafferty	S Catacutan	G Gartland
	R McIntosh	M McMahon	D Tew	M Holmes	
	M Battagello			J Kiekeboch	

Christmas Mass Roster—special arrangements made.

Laptop	L Elliott	B Meehan	G Gill	Black family
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Welcome Desk is cancelled until 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

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 10.30am Christmas morning mass. Please contact Maree on 9873 1341 if you can assist.

**ST PARTRICK'S CATHEDRAL
A Christmas Fantasia! - Organ Concert**

6.30pm

Thursday 21 December 2017

\$20 Admission

For further details email
paul.taylor@cam.org.au

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 Parish Office—9873 1341

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.

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



HOUSE OF BOOKS
WILL CLOSE ON
THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 2017
AND WILL RE-OPEN
MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2018
at 10am

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**.



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

Plaza Cinema Group
Double Feature
Thursday 21 December at
7.30pm
On the Town &
Thousands Cheer



The musical milestone of American musicals! Filmed on the streets of NY with a super cast of Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Jules Munshin, Vera Ellen & Anne Miller. Three sailors on shore-leave pick up three girls and go 'on the town' for laughs and romance. Great musical hits.

Thousands Cheer a rare opportunity to see the 1943 MGM musical hit (in a short version) with an amazing array of stars, acts and glamour: a salute to the forces in World War Two. With Gene Kelly, Kathryn Grayson, Jose Iturbi, Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Eleanor Powell, Lena Horne, big bands and much more! A musical feast.



A Full Membership: \$50 for 12 screenings
3 month Membership: \$15
Visitors welcome.
Membership enquiries:
Barbara: 9873 3508

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.