



# St. John's Parish Mitcham

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132

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

Email: [Mitcham@cam.org.au](mailto:Mitcham@cam.org.au)

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

Phone: 03 9873 1341 Fax No. 03 9872 4316



## 3rd Sunday of Advent December 11th 2016 —Year A

### **Are you to the one... or must we wait?**

John is now in prison and wonders about the things he hears of Jesus. John had proclaimed the reign of God was close; could it be possible that this miracle worker from Nazareth is the one Israel has been waiting for; could it be that he is the Messiah? Jesus answers John's question by pointing to his miracles as sure signs that the reign of God has arrived. Jesus then makes a contrast between the dramatic presence of John and the 'least in the kingdom'. John is praised by Jesus as the greatest of the prophets and yet for all his greatness John had not perceived the reign of God in Jesus. This is why the 'least in the kingdom' can be called greater than John. Those within the horizon of God's reign see and experience what John could only long for:

We belong to the group of those called 'the least'. We are living after the death and resurrection of Jesus and have this advantage over John. The reign of God has begun, the Spirit has been given, and we are now participants in God's reign. However, like John we can miss the miracle of God's presence. The signs are more delicate and in the busyness of our lives we may not even notice them. Advent invites us to be more perceptive, and to take time out to see the presence of God with us.

Sundays under the Southern Cross – Mary Coloe PBVM

### ***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**

#### Parish Priest

Fr Mark Reynolds

#### Visiting Priests

Fr John Van Suylen

#### 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

#### Parish Office

Office hours:  
Monday-Friday 9am-4pm Ph: **98731341**  
Parish Secretaries:  
Martine Giles (Monday-Wednesday)  
Elisa Kelesidis (Wednesday—Friday)  
Therese Matson, Finance Office (Tue only)

#### 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

#### RE for Government Schools:

Andrew Puls 0407 352 706

**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**

### Scripture Readings for week

Mon: Numbers 24:2-7,15-17	Matthew 21:23-27
Tue Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13	Matthew 21:28-32
Wed: Isaiah 45:6-8,18,21-26	Luke 7:19-23
Thur: Isaiah 54:1-10	Luke 7:24-30
Fri: Isaiah 56:1-3,6-8	John 5:33-36
Sat: Genesis 49:2, 8-10	Matthew 1:1-17
Sun: <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	
Isaiah 7:10-14	
Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-24

### AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY



We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal Life for **Antonio Dell'Oste** and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time, **Laurence Wallis, Andrea Tomaro, Brian Hayes. Gabrielle Stephens.**

### St. John's Memorial Garden

Plaques for this pastoral project may be ordered at any time for any deceased person who either was a parishioner at St John's or who was buried from St John's Church. The forms are in the Newsstands. **These forms now include the Interment of Ashes at St. John's.** The completed forms can be handed into the Parish Office. **Enquiries: Maureen 9894 3288.**



**Travelling Rosary** —will resume at the end of January 2017. Thank you to all the hosts of 2016, and to their friends and families who have supported and prayed with them. **Enquiries Helen on 9874 7024**



### Weekday Masses this week in our Parish

Monday	Church Closed
Tuesday	<b>No Midday Mass</b>
Wednesday	10am Mass
Thursday	<b>No 9.15am Mass - SJV</b>
Friday	10am Mass
Saturday	9am Morning Prayer & Communion Service
	9.30am Reconciliation

December 17 / 18

**C'Tator  
Lector  
Eucharist**

**St Johns  
6pm**  
L Hennessy  
L D'Silva  
M Webb  
M Pinto  
Y Martin

**St. John's  
8.30am**  
C Ryan  
M Perkins  
M Coghlan  
J Franklin

**St John's  
9.45am**  
K Callinan-Moore  
T Henry  
T Harkin  
T A Foster  
C Boyd  
A Martonyi

**St. John's  
11.15am**  
J Kiekebosch  
D Kennedy  
H McIlroy  
C Brindle  
L Iacobucci

**St John's  
5pm**  
B Jordan  
M Stuart  
M Kristan  
M Campbell  
S Partridge

**St James  
9.30am**  
P Stewart  
M Hosie  
C Gorry

**Children's Liturgy**

**No Childrens Liturgy over the Christmas break**

**Laptop  
Welcome Desk**

N Pinto  
J David

M Truong  
J Milton

M Foster  
M Easton

Kennedy Family  
M Coghlan

A Jordan  
M Kristan



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

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will be held this Sunday with a leaving collection at the end of each Mass. Envelopes are also available at the rear of the Church for those wishing to use them. The Conference would like to thank parishioners for their generosity.

We warmly invite Special Ministers from St John's & St James who take Eucharist to the sick in their homes to an important meeting to update us all on some recent changes. Meeting will be straight after 10am Mass Friday 16 December. If you are unable to attend please let the Parish Office know so we can let you know of the changes.

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

We still have some spots to fill in but many thanks to everyone who has indicated that they would like to be part of our Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses. The following spots are still required: Laptop Operators—11pm Christmas Eve and 9.45am Christmas morning Reader—11.15am Christmas morning Ministers of Eucharist—9.45am Christmas morning Commentator—8.30am Christmas morning Please arrive 10-15 minutes before mass commences and let me know you are there. Copies of readings and prayers will be either emailed or posted to lectors and commentators next week. Many thanks, Maree

CALLING ALL ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, WISE PEOPLE



At the 6pm Outdoor Mass at St James and the 8.30pm Family Mass Christmas Eve at St John's young children are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds or wise men.

Inspiration for the coming week from the Compassion and Friendship Group

Its not about having time. Its about making time.



PYX (container for taking hosts to the sick) Please note if you are not using could you please return as soon as possible either to the Sacristy or Parish Office.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Parish Advent Penitential Celebration—Wednesday , December 14 at 7.30pm

Christmas Eve Masses – Saturday, 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 –Sunday December 25

St John's—8.30am, 9.45am & 11.15am

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 5PM MASS CHRISTMAS DAY

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



Memorabilia needed!!! 1952—2016

St John's Parish will celebrate its 65th year in February 2017. As part of our celebrations, we plan to commemorate school and parish life since 1952 with an exhibition of memories. We are calling for any photographs, vintage school items (from both St John's and St James) sacramental mementos etc.. If you have a story of a memorable school or parish event, we'd love to hear it!

Contributions may be dropped at the Parish Office. A box will also be placed in the narthex. Please include name and item details, along with a return address and contact phone number. If you would prefer items to be collected in person, or have any queries / ideas / stories, please contact Janine Sexton on janinecallanan5@gmail.com or call 0408 992 537. We look forward to compiling as many items as possible, to build a fabulous display of our Parish life across the decades.

# Social & Other



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL** seeking a **LADIES BIKE** in good condition. Please contact Kevin **0405 379 504** if you are able to assist.

## St John's Seniors—

After the Christmas concert on 14th December we are going to lunch at Mr Green in Brentwood Square. Any members who want to join us please contact Helen on 9874 0809.



## Mitcham Catholic Solo's Group

Our last gathering for this year will commence with Mass at 6pm on Tuesday 13th December followed by a meal and Kris Kringle in the Coghlan Centre.

Do please remember to bring a gift for the hamper with you. We wish you all a happy and holy Christmas. Veronica 9894 4692

## It's BACK!!!



\*\*\*\*\***Save this date!**\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**St John's Parish International Food Feast.**

**Passport Tickets for this great event will be on sale in January...**



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

This week the program will continue to bring you weekly Gospel reflections, great music and wonderful inputs from amazing people.

**Week 174**

**The JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM  
AIRS 12 December 2016**

This week on the Journey we have some great music, all of our wonderful presenters and a brilliant interview with Briony Mowbray all about all about a wonderful faith walk across the Blue Mountains. Put it all together and we have a show that is all about faith, hope and life.

Tune into or go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.



## HOUSE OF BOOKS

**House of Books will close  
Tuesday 29th of December 2016  
and re open  
Monday 30th of January 2017**

## 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 would be toiletries or gift vouchers such as JB Hi Fi or K-Mart etc. It would be appreciated if gifts could be placed under the Church Christmas Tree by December 11 as we will be packing and distributing the Hampers the following week.



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL December:

**Peanut Butter, tinned vegies, spaghetti, savory biscuits, tinned fish or ham.** Please leave donations in the tub at the Piety Stall in the Narthex.—Conference Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month and on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Enquiries Glyn McIntosh 9873 5772.

**ONLY FOOD ITEMS** are to be placed in the boxes behind the Piety Stall counter. All other items should be placed in the St Vincent de Paul Bin at the Basketball courts.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL—PIETY STALL NOW SELLING....

**Mary Torpy Christmas CD—\$15**

Quiet visions, by Mary Torpy (Cotter),  
18 beautiful tracks capturing the spirit and humanity of Christmas.  
\$5 from each CD is donated to St Vincent de Paul.

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards**

available at the Piety Stall

Cards are in packs of 8 and are priced at \$4.20 a pack  
or 5-pack cards are \$3.00 per pack.

The Piety Stall has received a donation of some colourful home made rosaries and rosary bracelets which are on sale at \$2.50 each

**Columban Calendars** now on sale for \$8.50

**Genevieve Bryant's beautiful CD**

"Little Things" - \$20.

**ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL  
Christmas Sound Recital for  
Organ and Trumpet**

**6:30pm-7:30pm**

**Tuesday 13 December 2016**

**See flyers or our website for program information**

Family of four are seeking short term accommodation in the Mitcham, Nunawading, Vermont or Ringwood area for a period of three months from the beginning of February until the end of April whilst undergoing a renovation. Prepared to pay rent.



Please contact Angela on 0403 502 558 if able to assist.