



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



2nd Sunday of Advent December 4th 2016 —Year A

If you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit

If John the Baptist appeared in our Churches today what would we make of him? Smile at his delusion? Be embarrassed by his challenge? Be angered by the upset to our normal religious routines? If these questions cause discomfort, John caused discomfort in his time, so much so that he was thrown into prison and executed. John preaches the coming of God. Nothing about him is attractive - the environment is the harsh Judean wilderness, his clothes and food are bizarre and his message 'Repent' is hardly an advertising slogan. And yet people come to him. Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole Jordan district go to him for baptism. People can recognize truth. It may not be attractive, some may prefer to avoid it, but we cannot fully hide from the truth. John speaks to the truth of God. God is near. God is coming. Is your life open to receive God or not?

The word translated as 'repent' means something like 'change your way of being, change your heart' - *metanoia*. John doesn't go into details of how to do this. Exactly what '*metanoia*' means is left to each individual. All John demands is a true change of heart. This is why he is critical of the Jewish leaders who are presented here as just going through the motions. They want the ritual of baptism without doing the hard work of seeking the truth in their lives. Rituals are easy. Truth seeking costs. As we prepare yet again for the celebration of God's coming may we approach it at the level of our hearts, even if that calls for some changes.

Sundays under the Southern Cross—Gospel Reflections—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: Isaiah 35:10-10 Luke 5:17-26
Tue Isaiah 40:1-11 Matthew 18:12-14
Wed: Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30

Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

Thur: Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38
Fri: Isaiah 48:17-19 Matthew 11:16-19
Sat: Sirach 48:1-4,9-11 Matthew 17:10-13
Sun: **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into our Parish family through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Samuel Stanley Trounce, Livia Susan Trounce.**



We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal Life for **Gerard Archer and Barry Douglas-Rhoderick** and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time, **Veronica Austin, Margaret Anthony, Gwen Bourke, Mark Rassmussen, Chira Chioda, Rosa Alberico, Guisappe Chioda.**

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 2016—*The travelling Rosary will be held this week **Sunday December 4th —Friday December 9th** at the home of **Helen Thomas 9874 7024.** This will be our last for the 2016 year. Thank you to all those involved who have participated this year.*



Weekday Masses this week in our Parish

Monday	Church Closed
Tuesday	Middy Mass
Wednesday	10am Mass
Thursday	9.15am Mass - SJV
Friday	10am Mass
Saturday	9am Morning Prayer & Communion Service
	9.30am Reconciliation

Dec 10 / 11	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	J Adamson	V Burnie	T Black	M Day	
Lector	J David	L Thorneycroft	D Ranjit	C Black	M Greenwood	W Fitzpatrick
Eucharist	P Bateman	K Thorneycroft	P Taggart	M Crowe	T Rhynehart	A Rouse
	C Pearson	T Foster	D Tew	N Flores	P Wallace	G Gartland
	M Perkins	J Foster	D Matchado	P Halabut	S Solomons	
Children's Liturgy			R Burke			P Stewart
			L Burke			S Gartland
Laptop	N Bredhauer	F Foley	N Santamaria	Black family	S Chan	
Welcome Desk	C Nicolas	B Francis	M Davison	A Monks		



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 next weekend 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, they may be taken this week and returned in the leaving collection next week. The St Vincent de Paul Society of Victoria provided over \$11.6 million to support the most vulnerable members of our community during 2015/16. The Eastern Central Council Area of which Mitcham is a part provided \$515,700 worth of assistance, including \$407,700 worth of food and/or food vouchers and approximately 1240 Christmas Hampers to families. The Mitcham Conference last year delivered 80 hampers to a total of 170 adults and children.

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.

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.

**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 on the side windows or call Maree at the Parish Office on 98731341.**
Thank you

The **Anointing Mass** is to be held on **Friday 9 December at 11.30am** followed by a luncheon in the Coghlan Centre. (no cost involved).



For catering purposes and / or transport please ring the **Parish office on 9873 1341**. **It would be greatly appreciated if you could reply by the Monday December 5th at the latest.**

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

Sometimes it is better to be kind than to be right. We do not need an intelligent mind that speaks, but a patient heart that listens



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.

Supporting Traditional Marriage E-newsletter

Last week there were errors in the spelling of the website address in the notice regarding the E-newsletter.

To subscribe please email plaf0249@gmail.com or go to www.supportingtraditionalmarriage.com.au



It's BACK!!!

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

Friday, February 24th, 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 or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.



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.

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 November:

Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Carrots, Christmas Cake, Christmas Pudding, Shortbread Biscuits UHT Custard, Jelly Crystals. 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