



# 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



## 4th Sunday of Advent December 18th 2016 —Year A

### Joseph, do not be afraid

The birth of Jesus in Luke's Gospel focuses on Mary; in Matthew's Gospel the focus is on Joseph. It is through Joseph that Jesus comes into the House of David. It is Joseph who receives an annunciation that the child has been conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Israel's past history there was a Joseph who had dreams, who looked after his family, and even went down into Egypt, which is where Joseph will later take Mary and Jesus. Here again we have Matthew shaping the birth narrative to bring out the connection between the story of Jesus and the story of Israel. The quotation from Isaiah makes this even more explicit—Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us, and he is the one to fulfil Israel's longings.

Jesus begins his life as do many children, in the midst of anxiety, hope and much that is unknown. The future lies hidden from Joseph, as the future of any child lies hidden from its parents. Joseph trusts this future into God's hands. Perhaps this is the image we adults need at Christmas. When we look at the crib scenes of the child resting peacefully in a manger, or the arms of Mary, dare we believe that even as adults we can rest as peacefully in the arms of God? Adult and child are one in this divine birth of Emmanuel, 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)

**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)

**Pastoral Care:**  
 Monika Bredhauer—Pastoral Care and Bereavement Ministry  
 Kevin Hay—Coordination of Communion to the Sick  
 Sr Margaret Richmond—Visitation

**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: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 Luke 1:78-79  
 Tue Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38  
 Wed: Song of Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45  
 Thur: 1Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56  
 Fri: Malachi 3:1-4,23-24 Luke 1:57-66  
 Sat: 2Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 Luke 1:67-69  
 Sun: **Christmas Day**

**AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY**

We welcome into our Parish family through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Jordan Pugliese, Christian Terranova.**

We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal Life for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time, **Anthony Winter, Betty Foran, Thomas Langford, John Santamaria, Des Sedunary, Mary McCorkell, Pat Killackey, Paddy Killackey, Vida Bastalec, Victoria Bastalec, Catherine Lonergan, Bernie Hanlan.**




**Weekday Masses this week in our Parish**


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

**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



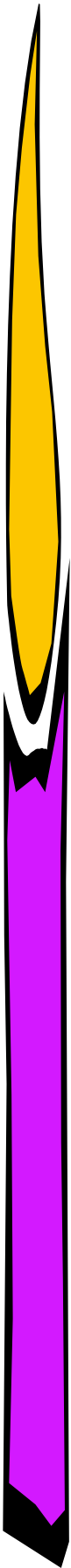
Dec 24 / 25	St James 6pm	St. John's 8.30pm	St John's 11pm	St. John's 8.30am	St John's 9.45am	St Johns 11.15
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C'Tator  
 Lector  
 Eucharist  
 Laptop

\*\*\*\*\*Refer to Christmas Eve / Day Mass Rosters\*\*\*\*\*

Children's Liturgy Will resume in February 2017

Welcome Desk J/B Houlihan K Hay V Keys



**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS  
WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER**

On Sunday 19th February, the Parish will be celebrating 65 years with a special Mass at 11.15am and a light lunch afterwards. This is also Founders Day.

**We will be saying farewell to Fr Mark as a Parish on this day so please keep this very important date free!!**

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF  
ADULTS—RCIA**



This Sunday at the 9.45am Mass this weekend our RCIA catechumen, Ben Stennett, will be welcomed by the St John's community at a Rite of Welcome. This Welcome is part of the RCIA journey of learning about the Catholic faith. Ben and his sponsor, Joan Daw, along with the RCIA team, have been meeting regularly on Tuesday evenings in the Lyon Room. If you are at the 9.45am Mass, please introduce yourself and welcome Ben and Joan in the usual friendly St John's spirit. Please continue to keep them, and the RCIA team, in your prayers.

**CHRISTMAS LITURGIES**

Thank you to all those who have offered to help out at the Christmas Liturgies. It is most appreciated. Many thanks, Maree

**VOLUNTEERING REFUGEE STUDENTS**



**MercyWorks**  
SISTERS OF MERCY  
OF AUSTRALIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE—Mercy Works Ltd.** is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in the Melbourne Archdiocese. This commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Interview process will be in late January followed by a Training day early 2017. Please contact Sr Mary Lewis RSM for application form.

Email : [somml@bigpond.com](mailto:somml@bigpond.com)  
www.mercyworks.org.au Tele: 93261895

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

*The best 6 Doctors:  
Sunshine, Water, Rest, Air,  
Exercise and a good Diet.*



**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.

**ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE**

**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](mailto: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

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...

## COMPASSION AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP Monday 19th December

This will be our final get together and we will have a Christmas celebration at **10.30am** in the **Lyon Room**. If you would like to attend could you please bring a small plate to share.  
Monika 9873 1341



## 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.

## Religious Education Classes for Children attending non-Catholic schools



Are you interested in your child learning about the Catholic faith? Then join us at **ST JOHN'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL**, 494 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham on **WEDNESDAY** afternoons during school terms **4.15-5.15pm**. **Enrolments are now open for 2017.** We offer a 4 year program for children from Year 2-6 who would like to receive the sacraments in the Catholic Church. Please note that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is celebrated in the third year of the program.

Contact **Parish Office** on **9873 1341** for an enrolment form.

## 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.

A Palms Encounter with our Catholic Communities in East Timor: A last minute gift that will deliver the real message of Christmas and be remembered forever. Palms long-term volunteers guide this intimate, immersive, inter cultural experience providing insights that challenge perceptions and deepen understanding. **Get a Christmas Gift voucher for our 2017 Encounter.**



Register now for our **2-14 April Encounter** and receive \$400 off a 2nd ticket. Call Roger on **(02) 9560 5333** or go to **www.palms.org.au/Encounters** for more information.

**Real encounter, real people, real exchange, real life**

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.

## 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 175

The **JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM**  
**AIRS 25 December 2016**

Wisdom from the Abbey this week is a very Happy Christmas greeting from the Nuns at the Jamberoo Abby, Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy touches on The Promise Written in the Stars (repeat), and the wonderfully inspiring Marilyn Rodrigues reminds us to Pray, Hope and Don't Worry. To add to this great line up, 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 20th of December 2016  
and re open  
Monday 30th of January 2017**