



St. John's Parish Mitcham

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132

Email: mitcham@cam.org.au

Website: www.stjohnsmitcham.com.au

Phone: 03 9401 6366 or 0402 330 128

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 24 December 2023 —Year B

YES!

When Mary said 'yes' to the Incarnation,
she said yes to God and promised
that she would centre her life
on God's invitation
to be the mother of his Son.

She said 'yes' to new life,
she said 'yes' to faith that God would look after her,
she said 'yes' to trust that God would not let her down,
she said 'yes' to hope that her son would find his way in life;
and isn't all this like any mother or father,
as they await new life?

She said 'yes' to her questions
about pregnancy and about marriage,
and did not expect easy answers;
as the mist takes hours
to rise over the hills,
as the river takes days
to return to its level,
as both dawn and darkness slowly mature,
she would be patient with life and with God.

Did she not think of this 'yes' to her trust in God
when she heard of her cousin's pregnancy,
when she found no room in the inn,
when she watched Jesus being rejected,
and when she stood at the foot of the Cross?

If we say 'yes' to faith,
to hope and to love,
if we say 'yes' with thanks and with trust,
if we say 'yes' to God's grace in our lives,
we will never be alone.



Parish Information

Normal Weekend Mass Times

St John's: Sat Vigil, 6pm, Sun 8.30am, 9.45am, 11.15am, 5pm

Our Lady's: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sun 9.30am

Parish Office Hours (Parish Office is closed on Mondays):
Tuesday-Friday 9am-3.30pm

Business Manager: Margaret Harrington

Parish Secretary: Manuela Brambilla

Accountant: Gilda Bell

Bereavement Ministry: Jenny Kearney 0413 826 468

Pastoral Care: Loredana Iacobucci 0423 313 336

Christian Meditation Group: Chris Ryan

House of Books (house next door to the Church): 9401 6306

RE for Government Schools: Trish Chaston 0468 589 793

Safeguarding Committee Co-ordinator: Andrew Buchanan

Visitation and Communion to the Sick & Housebound:

Co-ordinator: Cath Brindle

Parish Priest Fr Dispin John

Supported by Fr Michael Kelly, CSsR

St John's School

494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 9874 1575

Principal: Mrs Verona Gridley
vgridley@sjmitcham.catholic.edu.au

St James School

51 Centre Road, Vermont, 9874 1830

Principal: Mr Dave Mutimer
principal@sjvermont.catholic.edu.au

Services:

St Vincent De Paul:

Shop 2/82 Maroondah Hwy Ringwood 9870 9124

Welfare Assistance 1800 305 330

Furniture Pick-Ups contact Eastern Emergency Relief Network
on 9874 8433'

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON 9401 6366 OR VIA EMAIL MITCHAM@CAM.ORG.AU
TO ACCESS ANY OF THESE PEOPLE OR SERVICES

Parish Information & Daily Readings

Scripture Readings for week

Mon: Isaiah 52:7-10	Jn 1:1-18
Tue: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	Mt 10:17-22
Wed: 1 John 1:1-4	Jn 20:2-8
Thur: 1 John 1:5-2:2	Mt 2:13-18
Fri: 1 John 2:3-11	Lk 2:22-35
Sat: 1 John 2:12-17	Lk 2:36-40

**THE HOLY FAMILY
OF MARY, JESUS AND JOSEPH**
2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Weekday Masses

**WEEDAY MASSES WILL RESUME
ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY**



As Mary discovered,
the Holy Spirit
works wonders
with those who ponder.

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY

We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal life for those who have died recently especially and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time including **Mark Tokarski, Mick McLachlin, Thelma Agnes O'Donnell, Catherine Lonergan, Emmanuel Farrugia, Anne Meade, Rita Farrugia, Greg Dore and Geoff Bolt**



Tuesday Mass for healing of the sick



Prayers are offered and are followed by a **Novena of Saint Mary MacKillop**. If you know of someone who might need our special prayers or to be added to the Novena List please email the parish office mitcham@cam.org.au and leave a message for those you wish to be prayed for **by Monday afternoons**. Keeping you in our prayers. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to keep the name/s of your loved one, as we are updating the current list."

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: Parish Office 9401 6366



Dec 30/31	St John's 6.00pm	St John's 8.30am	St. John's 9.45am	St John's 11.15am
C'Tator Lectors	M Bredhauer A Livy	A Buchanan	L Kho M Gartland	B Rudin D Wates
Eucharist	M Livy E Booth R McIntosh	R Jess J Kaithavelil A Tham	G Gartland M Lafferty C Bramble	A Glenn P Darmody M Holmes S Dowd
Laptop operator			J Curtis	D Garcia

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
RINGWOOD NEWS**



Weekend Masses:

Saturday at 5pm
Sunday at 9.30am

Weekday service

6.00pm Tue: Mass and Novena
9.15am Thurs: Mass

Ringwood Parish website:

<http://pol.org.au/ringwood/Home.aspx>

Phone: 0468 589 039

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY @ ST JOHN'S

"Pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16)

For prayer requests, please call Loredana 0423 313 336 or contact the Parish Office.
God bless, Loredana

God, thank You for this day

and for the love shared by all on this Holy day.

We remain eternally grateful for the gift of Jesus into our world, and we pray that our eyes be opened to the ways in which He continues to be active in our lives, blessing us each day.
Amen.

MORNING TEA



The Morning tea after the **8.30am** and **9.45am** will resume on the 21st January 2024.

HOLY ROSARY

Come and pray the Holy Rosary at St John's on the first Friday of the February at 9.30am.



**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

The Parish Office will be closed from **23rd December till 15th January** and will reopen on **Tuesday 16th January**. If you wish to include in the newsletter an anniversary name during the holiday closure please contact the Parish office at 9401 6366 or send an email to mitcham@cam.org.au by the 20th December.

During the closure for emergencies or urgent matters please call the office mobile on 0402 330 128, send an email to mitcham@cam.org.au or call Fr Dispin on 0413 683 153

**PRESBYTERY RENOVATION APPEAL
AN UPDATE**

The target to complete the renovation was **\$95,000**. With the generous donations received from parishioners this appeal has raised **\$58,000**.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this fine result. We are still short of our target amount, and the appeal will remain open for another week. If you haven't yet contributed, I ask you to please consider doing so during the week, or next weekend. See the back of the Bulletin for how to contribute. Thank-you again for your generosity. Leo Hennessy, Finance Committee Chair.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Carols are happening on Christmas Eve at **4pm** (before 4.30pm Mass) **7.45pm** (before 8.30pm Mass) and at **10.30pm** (before 11pm Mass)



St John's Card Making Group 2023 Update



We have had a fantastic and productive year this year. We welcomed Marianna Suppa and Val Box to our group who have added their artistic talents to our card selection.

We were thrilled to present a \$1,500.00 donation to St Vincent de Paul, Mitcham Conference to benefit the incredible work they provide to the those who need it so much in our community, especially at this time of the year.

We would like to sincerely thank you, our St. John's Parish Community for your wonderful support, encouragement and for purchasing our cards during the year. Whether it was from the Piety Stall, House of Books or from the Parish Office, it is your ongoing support that enable us to pass on this fantastic contribution to the works of St Vincent de Paul. We would like to thank Trish Chaston who leads the Parish Sacramental Program for the generous contribution and for the beautiful cards the children created for us this year.

On a personal note, I would like to sincerely thank Ann Glenn, Joanna Rajtar, Nola Rush and Sandy Roberts for their outstanding and never ending hard work in producing beautiful cards throughout the year.

On behalf of us all, we would like to wish you all a very safe, happy and Holy Christmas and God's blessings for the New Year.

Monika

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Do you have a child who does not attend a Catholic school, that you want to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First



Eucharist or Confirmation in 2024. Classes for First Eucharist begin on Thursday 15th February 2024 and Confirmation on Thursday 7th March. To enrol or find out more please email Trish at Trish.Chaston@cam.org.au

Share the Joy of Christmas

You are invited to the

Christmas Lunch

at St John's

on Monday 25th December at 12.30pm

If you are spending Christmas by yourself or if you simply want to share the joy of this day with other people please join us at the Christmas lunch that will be held at St John's in the Coghlan centre.

The food will be offered by the Parish and you are invited to bring a sweet plate that you normally love to eat at Christmas to share.

If anyone feels to give a donation for the lunch please contact the parish office and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

All are welcome!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Christmas Masses

Sunday 24th December

9am (Sunday Mass) St John's Mitcham

9.30am (Sunday Mass) - Our Lady's Ringwood

Christmas Eve

4.15pm - St John's Mitcham

5.00pm - Our Lady's Ringwood

6.00pm - St John's Mitcham

8.00pm - Our Lady's Ringwood

8.30pm - St John's Mitcham

11.00pm - St John's Mitcham

Christmas Day - Monday 25th December

8.30am - St John's Mitcham

9.30am - Our Lady's Ringwood

10.30am - St John's Mitcham

Sunday 31st December

8.30am, 9.45am, 11.15am
and midnight Mass (11.00pm)
St John's Mitcham

9.30am - Our Lady's Ringwood

Monday 1st January

9.00am - Our Lady's Ringwood

10am - St John's Mitcham



A MESSAGE FROM ARCH. PETER COMENSOLI

Dear friends, we hear these words from the ancient prophet Isaiah (52:7): How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation ... These are beautiful words—old words, first spoken in old days, yet so sorely needed in our day!

Amid this time of conflict, suffering and exile, Isaiah speaks to us words of peace and the good news about the Prince of Peace. Our hearts ache for reconciliation of peoples; respect for our shared humanity; care for our crying planet. Our world and its people seem to be groaning and railing against pathways to true peace.

Yet we experience the hope of God through simple words of joy, mercy and peace. The shepherds experienced this. So did the Magi. Mary and Joseph knew it intimately.

God knew we needed his Son to come amongst us, to show us the way ahead.

As we come to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord this year, might we be attentive to the broken people across the world who are held captive by the tragedy of war and old hatreds.

Might we also remember those exiled in other ways—bereft of knowing God; lost and searching for identity and purpose.

We too can be the messengers whose footfalls bring light into the world, announcing mercy, bringing joy, offering Good News. God has come among us, simply, humbly and hopefully in a little child, his Son, our Brother.

May the peace that comes through this child, the Prince of Peace, be with you this Christmas.

And with every footstep, may you take His message, and life, out into the world.

Happy Christmas to you all!

PIETY STALL

The Piety Stall has a new spot in the narthex and new items too. Statues, Rosary beads, rosary bracelets and pouches. Scapulars brown and green and 25 different medals, also prayer cards and holy pictures.

If you are looking for a piety item we may be able to order it for you. **Columban calendars** are now available at the Piety Stall or at \$10 each.

CAFÉ @ ST JOHN'S

Please come, enjoy a cuppa & chat with friends in the Narthex following the 10am Mass.

All are welcome

When: Wednesday 17 January

Time: 10:30am to 11:30am

ST VINCENT DE PAUL— DECEMBER—FOOD

Donations can now be left in the plastic tub in the **Narthex**. We are currently requesting: **coffee, rice, biscuits, long life milk.** All Enquiries to Ross Hancock 0419 117 343



HOUSE OF BOOKS

House of Books will reopen on
Monday 29th January
Monday— Friday 10am—4pm
Saturdays 10am—1pm



SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING MODULE

The Safeguarding Essentials online training technical issue has been resolved. The training module is now accessible. You can access it at

<https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/?>

“PRESBYTERY RENOVATION FUND” - HOW TO DONATE?

Bank Direct Debit: BSB 083-347 - A/c No. 294 362 890 - “Future Maintenance Account”

This account has been opened specially for the Appeal.

Cash / Cheque – Envelopes for the “Presbytery Renovation Fund” are available at each of the Church doors to use for cash or cheque donations.

Please make Cheques payable to: “Future Maintenance Account”

Please put envelopes with cash or cheques in with the weekend Mass collection or drop them into the parish office (not in the letterbox).

Prefer instalments?

If gifting by instalments suits you best, please feel free to do so.

Any queries please contact the Parish Office.