



THE TIDINGS

SERVING THE AREAS OF MELTON, MELTON WEST, AINTREE, BONNIE BROOK,
GRANGEFIELDS, HARKNESS, KURUNJANG, PLUMPTON, ROCKBANK & TOOLERN VALE



The Catholic
Parish of Melton
is committed
to the safety,
wellbeing and
dignity of all
children and
vulnerable
adults

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CHRISTMAS EVE) – Year B | 24 December 2023

CLERGY

Parish Priest: REV. FR MICHAEL MOODY

Parish Deacon: REV. DCN CHRIS CREO

Email: Christopher.Creo@cam.org.au

STAFF & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Parish Secretary: VIVIEN LEMALU

Finance Manager: LORRAINE STAFFORD (Thurs & Fri)

Email: Finance.Melton@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Coordinator: LIZ COUSTLEY

Mobile: 0490 885 515 | **Email:** cso.melton@gmail.com

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 96, MELTON, VIC 3337, Australia

PRESBYTERY & OFFICE

20 Unitt Street, MELTON, VIC 3337

Contact: 03 9743 6515 | **Email:** melton@cam.org.au

Website: <http://www.melbatholic.org/melton>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/parishmelton>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishmelton>

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 9.00am–3.00pm

(The parish office is CLOSED on weekends and public holidays)

MASS CENTRES & MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

- Saturday 6pm (Vigil Mass)
- Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

St Dominic's Church, Melton

Church St, Melton, VIC 3337

- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.15am

CONFESSIONS

St Catherine of Siena Church

Saturday: 5.45 pm | Sunday: 4.45pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT & ROSARY

St Dominic's Church

- Thursday following the 9.15am Mass

SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH

ST DOMINIC'S PRIMARY SCHOOL (Prep-Year 6)

Principal: Mr Jeffrey Parker

Address: Church Street, Melton, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 9743 6225

Email: enquiries@sdmelton.catholic.edu.au

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC

PRIMARY SCHOOL (Prep-Year 6)

Principal: Ms Carmel Marantelli

Address: 108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 9743 2166

Email: info@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Melton West (Year 7-12) | **Cobblebank** (Year 7)

formerly Catholic Regional College Melton

Principal: Ms Marlene Jorgensen

Address: 109-141 Bulmans Rd, Melton West, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 8099 6000

Email: info@sfcc.vic.edu.au

Different View

Virgin Births

SOME critics of Christian tradition argue that the account of the virgin conception and birth of Jesus is merely a literary device used to give status to Jesus' birth. At the time, it was not an uncommon device to accord a significant figure a heroic or even virginal birth. In Greek, Egyptian and even Roman legend, several characters are credited with virgin births.



Some authors point to the fact that it is only the gospels of Matthew and Luke and none of the earlier writings that portray Mary as a virgin. The argument suggests that assigning Jesus a virgin birth was an attempt to place Jesus alongside other historical and legendary figures as a person of great status.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Today's Scripture Readings

2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12, 14, 16; Ps 88 (89); Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

Gen -15:1-6,21:1-3; Ps 104 (105); Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19; Lk 2:22-40

Prayer Requests

Recently deceased: Michael Angelo Tabone, Jhon Tabone, Xavier Tabone, Julian Aquilina and Maria Raic

WEEKDAY MASSES & OFFICE CLOSURE

Weekday Morning Masses have resumed as normal at 9.15am Wednesday to Friday at St Dominic's. The Parish office will be closed from Wednesday 27th December 2023 and will reopen on Tuesday 16th January 2024.



Parish Stewardship Update

November Pledged: \$6,642.09

Actual: \$5,145.85



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.



WHY WE DO THINGS IN THE MASS

Did You Know?

Emmanuel: God Is With Us



WHILE there are two different Easter Masses, one for the Vigil and another for Easter Sunday, four different sets of Mass texts are provided for Christmas - the Vigil Mass, Mass at Midnight, Mass at Dawn and Mass during the day.

It is important that the texts chosen fit the actual time of the celebration as they include images corresponding to a gradual movement from darkness into daylight.

The different Masses now celebrated at Christmas developed over a period of time. The present Mass during the Day was the

original papal Mass celebrated at St Peter's from the feast's establishment in 336. The theme of light shining in the darkness which is predominant in the readings and prayers of this Mass is appropriate for a feast celebrating the triumph of the 'unconquered son' of justice.

The Mass at Dawn, or 'Shepherd's Mass', was the second to develop. It was celebrated at St Peter's from the end of the 4th century. From around 550, however, the Mass of St Anastasia, an Eastern martyr whose feast fell on December 25, replaced it for a while. Later the Shepherd's Mass was restored with a simple commemoration of St Anastasia included. The latter was removed by post-Vatican II reforms of the calendar.

The Mass during the Night is the newest of the Christmas Masses. Since the middle of the 5th century, Roman Christians have celebrated the liturgy 'at night' (neither the old or new Latin missals specify midnight) near a replica of Bethlehem's manger in the Basilica of St Mary Major. In fact, the original Mass seems to have been celebrated at cockcrow at the end of an all-night vigil. By this time, the theme of the feast had changed from a holistic celebration on the incarnation and manifestation of Christ to a more particular celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

When we gather for Christmas Mass as a community of faith, we leave behind the commercial hype and the vaguely religious figure of Santa Clause. We don't come together to listen to lovely music or to watch a splendid ritual, but to meet and worship the Lord, who is God's great gift to the world.

A week after Christmas is the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Church's most ancient and most important festival related to Mary. It is also New Year's Day. What liturgical New Year resolutions might we make to extend this season of peace and goodwill throughout 2006? Perhaps to become better informed about liturgy which is, after all, "the work of the people", or to support those who prepare and lead worship in parishes by offering positive feedback rather than only

Fourth Advent Candle: Love

"And in the end, everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child, and Love." — St Pope John Paul II

The fourth candle of Advent represents **Love**, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "**Angel's Candle**," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the colour **purple**, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.



Advent Prayer – Henri Nouwen

If you're struggling to find the words for prayer, this Advent prayer from [Fr. Henri J.M. Nouwen](#) encapsulates what many of us feel and [hope](#) for during Advent:

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your [Holy Spirit](#) upon our preparation for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence.

We are Your people, walking in darkness yet seeking the light. To You, we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Source: <https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/>

2023 SACRAMENTAL SATATISTICS

This year the parish has conducted:

248 Baptisms 130 First Communions
117 Confirmations 2 Weddings 13 Funerals

We pray for every child, individual and couple who have been given the many graces of these sacraments that we as a parish can continue to nurture them in their spiritual life and that we can be a safe place where their faith can flourish. We pray also for the repose of all the souls who have passed!

criticism when something doesn't suit us, or to enter wholeheartedly into parish liturgical celebrations by being attentive and welcoming and by singing and responding enthusiastically!

*"When the Word became man,
earth was joined to heaven.*

*May he give you his peace and good will,
and fellowship with all the heavenly hosts."*
(Solemn Blessing, Midnight Mass)

A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

The article originally published in **LITURGY LINES** (17 November 2016)
by Elizabeth Harrington.

CHRISTMAS

2023 MASS TIMES

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, MELTON WEST

15th-23rd Dec	Christmas Novena Masses	8pm
23rd Dec	Saturday Vigil Mass	6pm
24th Dec	Sunday Mass	9am
	Sunday Mass	11am
	Christmas Vigil Family Mass	6pm
	Christmas Vigil Mass	8pm
	Midnight Mass	10pm
25th Dec	Christmas Day Mass	10am
	Christmas Day Swahili Mass	1pm

Christmas Carols will begin 30 minutes before Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day masses.

O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will close from Wednesday December 27th 2023 and will reopen on Tuesday January 16th 2024. For emergencies and anything urgent, please contact Fr Michael directly at the parish office on 9743 6515 or leave a message. Big thank you also to all of our parishioners and volunteers who have generously given their time and treasure to serve in groups, events and ministries within the parish this year — God bless you all!

Prayer for Life

Feast of The Holy Innocents

Thursday 28th December 2023 at St Mary Star of the Sea
(33 Howard St, West Melbourne)

- 11am Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Brendan Lane
 - 12.15pm Rosary – with lunch provided afterwards
- Sponsored by Helpers of God's Precious Infants**

PLEASE RING THE MASS MANAGERS IF UNABLE TO ATTEND:

6 pm	Maria Abela	0423 929 555	11am	Bruna Tomassi	9743 0341
9 am	Theo Franken	0411 040 897	5 pm	Josephine Krajina	0407 042 133
		or Vickie Cassar 0418 348 946			

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASSES

4th Sunday of Advent

	Saturday Dec 23,	Sunday December 24, 2023	
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM
Mass Managers	Maria Abela	Theo Franken	Bruna Tomassi
Welcomer	Margaret Richards		Chelsea Amato
The Word		Michael Higgins	Lea Jacuta
Responder		Anne Stokie	Cira Cleary
Presentation of Gifts			Chelsea Amato
Holy Communion	Bill McGuinness	Maureen Mohr	Bruna Tomassi
PowerPoint Operator			Liz Coustley
Gift Shop			
Choir	Divine Mercy	Veneration Choir	Veritas Choir

Counters: Elizabeth Marshall, Jennifer Peters

Sunday December 24

Monday Dec 25

MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	8 PM (No Deacon Cris)	10 PM (No Deacon Cris)	10 AM
Mass Manager	Michael Higgins	Lea Jacuta	Bruna Tomassi	Liz Coustley
Welcomer		Margaret Richards		
The Word	Josephine Krajina	Michael Higgins	Janet Estrada	Cira Cleary
Responder			Cira Cleary	Vickie Cassar
Presentation of Gifts			Bruna Tomassi	Cira Cleary
Holy Communion	Michael Higgins	Michael Higgins		Anne Stokie
	Maureen Mohr	Lea Jacuta	Bruna Tomassi	Vickie Cassar
PowerPoint Operator			Chelsea Amato	Adela Marinjira
Gift Shop				
Choir	Tongan Choir	Samoan Choir	Filipino Choir	St Anuarite Choir

Counters

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Saturday & Sunday December 30 & 31, 2023

MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Manoj D'Silva	Sanghaya Creo	Cira Cleary	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
Responder		Karl Metha	Liz Coustley	Frank Unferdorben
Presentation of Gifts	Robert Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Bruna Tomassi	
Holy Communion	Sally Grero	Theo Franken	Lea Jacuta	Ismael Sosa -Sanchez
PowerPoint Operator	Kate Mulholland	Sanyata Creo	Theo Balebanga	Daniella Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Graham Dempsey	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Choir		Veneration Choir	St Anuarite Choir	
Counters	Leslie Gordon, Elaine Neely, John Woof			



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Wishing Tree

A huge thank you to the Parish community for your generosity in donating to the Wishing Tree.

As a result of your donations we were able to collate 20 Christmas Hampers full of treats just in time for Christmas. The Hampers have been delivered to families in our community and have been received with love.

Merry Christmas!



NEW TO OUR PARISH? WELCOME!

Please collect a Welcome Pack from the Gathering Area of the church. Once census form is completed place it in the white return box in the Gathering Area.

MISSED OUT ON THE TIDINGS?

Back issues of the parish Tidings are available on our parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton



CLICK to VIEW
PREVIOUS BULLETINS



Mailing
List

Would you like to receive
The Tidings
prior to the weekend Masses?

Send an email to melton@cam.org.au requesting The Tidings or subscribe on our website.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE DURING SUMMER HOLIDAYS

During the summer break, children often spend more time online. Help them to have fun and keep them safe from online risks like inappropriate contact, online grooming and sexual extortion. Here's how:

- 1. Stay involved** – regularly check their online activities and connect with them by playing online games together.
- 2. Set family rules together** – decide which devices and apps are okay and when to use them.
- 3. Teach consent** – Use holiday photos to discuss why asking people before taking or sharing their picture is important. These everyday opportunities to talk about consent can make it easier to say no to an online request that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- 4. Stay informed** – A new joint resource with Crime Stoppers NSW and the ACCE includes tips on signs to look out for and ways to protect your child online. eSafety also has several resources for parents on how to keep your child safe online.
- 5. Know where to get help** – If your child is under 18, the best way to get help on inappropriate contact is to report it to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. For reporting to eSafety, learn what you can report and how to report.

Keep your child safe online and enjoy the holidays!

Enrich your Marriage with The Marriage Kit by SmartLoving – 50% off Advent Sale

An enrichment course for married couples wanting a lasting, passionate relationship as God intended. Accessed from the privacy of your home on your own timetable, this online course will energise your relationship, revitalise your passion and equip you with practical tools for every day.



For 50% off use coupon code: **Advent**
(Advent sale ends 31 December 2023)

TO FIND OUT MORE:
SMARTLOVING.ORG/MARRIAGE-KIT

APPLICATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR OUR PARISH'S ST LUKE'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024



for children and young people who do not attend a Catholic School, or attend a Catholic secondary school, and wish to receive the Sacrament of Penance, Eucharist or Confirmation.

Available online on our Parish Website. Hard copies are available in the Gathering Area of the church.

HOME VISITATION & BLESSING REQUESTS

For Home Visitation & Blessing requests, please speak to Deacon Chris safter Mass or fill out the online request form:

<https://tinyurl.com/HBlessing>

PARISH BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Announcements & Notices: Please submit your announcement or notices not later than 5pm every Wednesday. Bulletin notices are normally retained in **The Tidings** for two weekends. Notices and announcements submitted after the deadline will be considered for publication on the following weekend.



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