

ST MARTIN OF TOURS – PARISH OF MACLEOD

4th SUNDAY Of ADVENT

'A faith community where Christian Service thrives and shared ministry is developed'

St Martin's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all Children, young people and adults at risk.

ADVENT THEME: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.

Exploring The Word -In Palestine, the betrothal period was akin to our period of engagement but was somewhat more binding. The couple are considered married but have not yet come to live together. An indiscretion of the nature described by Matthew requires a formal divorce and thus public knowledge. Joseph seeks to spare Mary this public disgrace, but God intercedes and alerts Joseph to the real identity of this child, which is in her 'by the Holy Spirit'. For Matthew, this is the most important point of his infancy narrative. The child Jesus is the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy that the maiden will conceive 'God-with-us'. God has freely chosen to come among people. The second important point in this text is Joseph's response. The anguish and turmoil he must have felt is overcome by his trust in God's ways, and he obeys. He simply 'did what the angel told him to do'. Through his trust and acceptance of God's will, human history will never be the same because 'God-is-with-us'.

- You could tell something of the story of King Ahaz (featured in the first reading) and his disregard of God's commands and compare this with the response of Joseph.
- What does this convey of the nature of faith?

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr Michael O'Connell

Parish Priest

Sr. Maria Bui

Pastoral Associate

Maria.Bui@cam.org.au

ADMINISTRATION

Candice Cheung

Parish Secretary

macleod@cam.org.au

Elizabeth Jernejcic

Parish Accounts Manager

Elizabeth.Jernejcic@cam.org.au

SCHOOL

St Martin of Tours School

Angela Lacey

School Principal

Principal@smrosanna.catholic.edu.au PH 8458 7500

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Marianne Love (Chair)

PH 9401 6338

Child Safeguarding Committee

Robert Broadbent

Julie Lane

Marie D'Souza

PH 9401 6338

Communion to the sick

PH 9401 6338

St Vincent De Paul

1800 305 330



Fourth Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Peace

The final Advent candle marks the beginning of the final week before Christmas. It is featured as the Angel's Candle and is a white candle representing purity, peace, and justice brought to the world by Christ. The white candle also reminds us that Christ is sinless and pure and the "light of the world".

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE (Wednesday 24TH DECEMBER)

CHILDREN'S VIGIL MASS 4:30pm Carols/ 5:00pm Children's Mass

FAMILY VIGIL MASS 7:30pm Carols/8:00pm Family Mass

MASS DURING NIGHT 10.00pm Carols/10:30pm Night Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY (Thursday 25TH DECEMBER) 10am Mass only

✨ CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 5pm – NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSAL ✨

Our young stars are getting ready to bring the Christmas story to life! Rehearsals for the Nativity Play at the Children's Vigil Mass will be held on Tuesday, 23 December at 10:00am and Wednesday, 24 December at 10:00am in the church. For more details, please contact Sr Maria at maria.bui@cam.org.au, or Ann Wang (School mum) annw15410@gmail.com



☀ Volunteers Needed for Christmas Masses ☀

An updated Christmas Mass roster is available on page 4 of this newsletter. We warmly invite parishioners to consider helping fill the remaining gaps. Volunteers are needed for the **Children's Vigil, Family Vigil, Night Mass, and Christmas Day Mass**. Please add your name to the sign-up sheets in the main foyer or Contact **Sister Maria**. Your generosity of time and service is greatly appreciated.

Our Parish acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation who are Traditional Owners of the land on which the parish resides, and we pay our respects to elders past and present.

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY FOR LAST WEEK:

Stewardship \$ 981

Presbytery \$ 401

Loose \$540

**RECENTLY DECEASED:****ANNIVERSARIES - THOSE WE REMEMBER FONDLY AT THIS TIME**

Noel DeBurgh, Dot Hempenstall, Fr. John Lanigan, Giovanni Panaccio, Meynardo Fernando, Sheila and Bill Jackson, Robert Cruise, Giuseppe Bisucci, Eileen Mcphee, James Trevascus, Maria Di Ciocco, Silvester Eaves, Dean Stella, Vito Arena, Damian Mason, Frank Orders, Remo Guglielmana, Innocente Visona, Marie Greer, Kathleen Grimes, Charlotte Cullin, Stipan & Anna Ispanovic, Ron Ettery, Alexander Ballinger, Margaret Lane, Barbara Sluz, Mark Pollock, John Roberts, Shirley Nelson

LORD THAT I MAY BE WELL AGAIN - PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Fr Brian Carey, Sr Maureen Sheehan MSC, Louis Sarkady, Judy West, Ahmed Abdulwahid (9yo), Jerome & Salvina Pace, Milka Mikac, Monsignor Pete Jeffrey, Megan Whittle, Fr Prakash Cutunha, Patrick Kennealy, Anita Muscat, Maureen Kavanaugh, Joshua Mullins, Bob Mc Aliece, Marlena Calo, Denise Eagan, Irene & William Burgess, Audrey Tunks (1yr old), Marie Lloyd, Bishop Terry Curtin, Pippa Vecchio, Baby Felix Diep, Joe Basile, Monica Ragheb, Liliana Bariola, Nancy Gheno, Jess Cabitac, Augusto DaSilva, Henry DaSilva, John Capaletti, Lauren, Phillip Minnelli, Patricia Valente, Pat Walsh, Julie & Joe Morris, Stephen Lau, Fr Tony Kerin VG

The Promise – Advent & Christmas Reflections 2025

Available in the Main Foyer – \$6 (Cash only; please place payment in the box)



REQUEST FOR ROSARY BEADS A retired Dominican Priest who is living at Nazareth House would appreciate donations of rosary beads. They can be in any condition, full sets, broken or loose beads. He reconstructs the beads to make full rosaries to be distributed to those in needs. A box has been placed in the main foyer of the Church should you have a donation. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL CHOIR & MUSIC REHEARSAL - Rehearsal for the Christmas Vigil Mass will be held **on Sunday 21st December from 6.30pm–8.30pm in the church.** All are welcome to join the **Christmas Vigil choir or music group (instrumentalists).**



We have parts for most instruments and warmly invite anyone interested to come along. For more information, please contact **Patrick Broadbent** on **0407 907 300.**



Monthly Cuppa will return in **2026**, starting on **Sunday 1 February**, after the **10.00am Mass.** All parishioners are warmly invited to stay for a cuppa.

Communion to the Sick – End of Year Update Communion to the Sick visits will conclude for the year on **Friday, 19 December**, and will resume on **Friday, 30 January.** We extend our warmest wishes to all for a joyful and blessed Christmas season.

WISER WOMEN GROUP - diary date!

The proposed date for the next gathering is Thursday 12th February 2026 at 11am. Venue to be decided. Watch this space for further details. All welcome!

**Online Parish Donation**

Available now

**SCAN HERE**

**Make a Difference to the
Parish
With Every Donation**

**Pastoral
Home Visits**

**Sr Maria is available
for home visits
on Tuesdays,
Wednesdays & Thursdays**

For an appointment call
9401 6338
or email Sr Maria at
Maria.Bui@cam.org.au

★ **2026 Catechist
Program**

SUNDAY | 11:00 AM

The Catechist Program supports children who live in our parish and are preparing for Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, but do not attend St Martin's Primary School.

📱 Scan for
enrolment and
more details



All kids welcome!

4th Sunday Of Advent 20th & 21st December (Year A)

SATURDAY VIGIL 5.30PM

SACRISTAN: J. JACOB
COMMENTATOR: F.FRIJO
READERS: F. FRIJO, M. CASSAR
COMMUNION MINISTERS:
 * R.WEBSTER, C. ANDERSON, I.FRIJO
WELCOMERS: S.YEOH, T.MCIVER
MUSIC: M.O'LEARY /M. PUSPA

SUNDAY 8.00AM

SACRISTAN: F. CARNOVALE
COMMENTATOR: J. PURCELL
READERS: T.VITEZ
COMMUNION MINISTERS:
 * F. CARNOVALE, M. D'SOUZA

SUNDAY 10.00AM FAMILY

SACRISTAN: F.GROBBELAAR
COMMENTATOR: R.BROADBENT
READERS: J. LEWIS, J.NEWELL
COMMUNION MINISTERS:
 *T D'ALESSANDRO, M. GRASSO, P. FUMEI
WELCOMERS: L. ANGEL, G. SCHWABE
MUSIC: BROADBENTS
RELIGIOUS GIFT SHOP: C. HARTE/
 C. STARMANS
CHILDREN'S LITURGY: N/A
ALTAR FLOWERS: M. FLEMNG
COUNTING TEAM: 4, 22/12

The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 27th & 28th December (Year A)

SATURDAY VIGIL 5.30PM

SACRISTAN: S. FITZGERALD
COMMENTATOR: M. FITZPATRICK
READERS: M. DI FABIO, J.O'CONNELL
COMMUNION MINISTERS: * J.
 SCANLON, K. D'SOUZA, B.ANDERSON
WELCOMERS: M. CASTILLO, J. OWEN
MUSIC: M.O'LEARY /M. PUSPA

SUNDAY 8.00AM

SACRISTAN: S.SAMUEL
COMMENTATOR: J. FERGUSON
READERS: N. RAJASINGAM
COMMUNION MINISTERS:
 * F. CARNOVALE, F. ESPOSITO

SUNDAY 10.00AM FAMILY

SACRISTAN: M. Love
COMMENTATOR: J. LUNARDI
READERS: J. PAVONE, G. NICHOLLS
COMMUNION MINISTERS:
 *C.STARMANS, J. STARMANS,
 M.CASHMORE
WELCOMERS: P.BASILE, T.JORDAN
MUSIC: TBC
RELIGIOUS GIFT SHOP: Closed
CHILDREN'S LITURGY: N/A
ALTAR FLOWERS: M. Thorn
COUNTING TEAM: 4, 29/12

DATES THIS WEEK

Friday	19 December	9:15am	Mass
Saturday	20 December	8.30am	Mass
		10:00am	Reconciliation
		5:30pm	Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday	21 December	8:00 am	Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent
		10:00 am	Mass
Monday	22 December	9:15am	Mass
Tuesday	23 December	9:15am	Mass
Wednesday	24 December	4:30am	Carols
		5:00pm	Children Vigil Mass
		7:30am	Carols
		8:00pm	Family Vigil Mass
		10:00pm	Carols
		10:30pm	Mass During Night
Thursday	25 December	10:00am	Mass
Friday	26 December	9:15am	Mass
Saturday	27 December	8.30am	Mass
		10:00am	Reconciliation
		5:30pm	Vigil Mass for The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Sunday	28 December	8:00am	Mass for The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
		10:00am	Mass
Monday	29 December	9:15am	Mass
Tuesday	30 December	9:15am	Mass
Wednesday	31 December	5:00pm	End of Year Thanksgiving Mass
Thursday	1 January	10:00am	New Year Mass – Mary Mother of God

READINGS

First Reading:

Responsorial Psalm:

Second Reading:

Gospel Reading:

THIS WEEK

Is 7:10-14

Ps 23:1-6

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24

NEXT WEEK

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Ps 127:1-5

Col 3:12-21

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

The **RELIGIOUS GIFT SHOP** sells beautiful Christmas cards, Christmas gifts, 2026 Columban Religious Art Calendars are available. The **SHOP** will close after Sunday 21st December and re-open early February 2025.



NEW PARISH WEBSITE

We are pleased to share that our new parish website is now live:

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/macleod>

Our previous website address www.smot.org.au will **continue to redirect to the new site for a certain period** to help everyone transition smoothly. Please visit and bookmark our new site for the latest parish news, Mass times, and updates.



Welcome to our Catholic Community of St Martin of Tours, Rosanna/Macleod Parish.

A Pastoral Message of Prayer, Light, and Hope in Response to the Bondi Beach Tragedy

In recent days, many people across our communities have felt unsettled and deeply affected by tragic events. At times like these, we are reminded of our call as Christians to turn to prayer, compassion, and hope in Christ, who is our Light.

This week, we have needed that Light more than ever. In response to the shocking act of violence and desecration at Bondi Beach on Sunday evening, **Pope Leo XVI**, together with Church leaders and civic authorities, has spoken clearly and firmly, saying “enough” to anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred and violence.

As people of faith, we are called to stand for peace, dignity, and respect for all, and to reject violence in every form.

► **Read the statement from Church leaders:**

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/enough-of-antisemitic-violence-say-pope-archbishops-and-other-leaders-after-bondi-attack>

We also invite parishioners to reflect on a short pastoral message from **Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy**. This reflection encourages us to respond to painful moments not with fear or anger, but with **prayer, presence, peace, and trust in Christ**.

► **Watch the message here:**

<https://brucedownes.org/view/item/bondi-shooting2025/>

May these reflections guide us toward healing, unity, and hope, and may we continue to keep all those affected in our prayers.

Christmas Roster

	Children's Vigil Wed 24/12	Family Vigil Wed 24/12	Night Mass Wed 24/12	Christmas Day - Thu
	4:30pm Carols / 5pm Mass	7:30pm Carols / 8pm Mass	10:00pm Carols /10:30pm Mass	10am Mass
Sacristan		M. Love		F. Grobbelaar
Welcomers	1. 2.			D. Grasso J. Grobbelaar
Commentator		R. Broadbent	J. Lunardi	J. Lunardi
Altar Servers	1. O. Don Paul 2.			
Lectors	1. 2.	M. Di Fabio G. Nicholls		J. O'Connell
Ministers of the Eucharist	1. P. Ryan 2. 3. 4. 5.	M. Anderson B. Anderson		M. Grasso A. Calderone
Screen operator			T. Motta	

Hairdressing for Women and Men:

Phone: Yuni on 0433 614 399 Pensioner Rates.
Can attend home.

Hear With Me Audiology Care (All Ages)

Dr Gerard William -hearwithme.com.au or contact:
03 9002 4237