



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 21 December 2025 —Year A

Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife.

Isn't it a story of faith?

Joseph, wondering and afraid of
what was going on in Mary?

Mary, afraid of her call to be the mother of God?

Fear and faith go together.

You believe in a person and maybe you'll be let down.

You believe in God and you can't pin him down.

So much of life is lived in trust:

that love once promised will last,

that children will be safe and will do the right thing,

that health will last and old age will be safe;

we want our security.

And Mary and Joseph were the same;
wanting security in relationship and religion.
And their real safety was in God.

Do not be afraid, the Lord says;

I am your companion all your days.

And Jesus who became a man in Palestine,
is with us today in bread and wine.

Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife.



St John the Evangelist Parish acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the wider Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of this land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

"St John's Parish community, is committed to the Victorian Child Safe Standards & acknowledges that Child Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility."

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

Parish Secretary: Manuela Brambilla

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 trish.chaston@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Committee Co-ordinator: Manuela Brambilla

Visitation and Communion to the Sick & Housebound:

Co-ordinator: Cath Brindle

Parish Priest Fr Dispin John

Supported by Fr Michael Kelly, CSsR and Fr Maurice Cooney

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

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: 1 Samuel 1:24-28

Lk 1:46-56

Tue: Malachi 3:1-4. 23-24

Lk 1:57-66

Wed: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Lk 1:67-79

Thu: Isaiah 52:7-10

Jn 1:1-18

Fri: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22

Sat: 1 John 1:1-4

Jn 20:2-8

THE HOLY FAMILY

Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

Weekday Masses

	St John's	Our Lady's
Tue	10am Mass	6pm Mass
Wed	No Mass	
Thur	No Mass	No Mass
Fri	No Mass	



God counted on Joseph and Mary to handle the situation wisely and patiently. What a risk to take with human beings. Yet God takes risks with us all the time.

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY

We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal life for those who have died recently especially **Blanka Josephina Gregurovic** and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time including



Peter Rasmussen, Rosamma John, Rosemary Fonseka, Clotilda and Francis Silva, Mary MCorkell, Mick McLachlan, Merlyn Alwis, Lorraine and Des Sedunary

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."

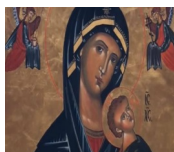
ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

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**



December 27/28	St John's 6.00pm	St John's 8.30am	St. John's 9.45am	St John's 11.15am	St John's 5.00pm
C'Tator Lectors	M Bredhauer A Livy	B Mills H De Kauwue	L Kho M Gartland	B Rudin D Wates	C Lobo
Eucharist	M Livy E Booth R McIntosh	A Tham B Mills	M Lafferty C Bramble R Jess	A Glenn P Darmody S Dowds D Kuruppa	C Kook M Kristan
Laptop operator		J Phoa	J Curtis		
Children Liturgist					

**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

MORNING TEA

Every Sunday after the **8.30am** and **9.45am** Mass you are invited to share a cuppa and a chat in the narthex with other parishioners.



**Children's Liturgy at St John's
Every Sunday at 9.45 and 11.15am
during school term**



Children will move to the Narthex of Church for their own Liturgy of the Word. All ages welcome.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

The Parish Office will be closed from **24th December till 12th January** and will reopen on **Tuesday 13th January**.



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

WEEKDAY MASSES DURING HOLIDAY

There will be no weekday Masses from the **24th of December till the 8th of January**. Normally weekday Masses will resume on **Friday 9th January**.



CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve—Wednesday 24th December

4.30pm - 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 - Thursday 25th December

8.30am - St John's Mitcham
9.30am - **Our Lady's Ringwood**
10.30am - St John's Mitcham

Wednesday 31st December

Midnight Mass (11.00pm)
St John's Mitcham

Thursday 1st January

9.00am - **Our Lady's Ringwood**
10am - St John's Mitcham

FUNERAL SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S



Blanka Josephina Gregurovic
Monday 22 January at 10am

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Carols are happening on Christmas Eve at **4.15pm** (before 4.30pm Mass) **7.45pm** (before 8.30pm Mass) and at **10.30pm** (before 11pm Mass)
All are welcome!



CHILDREN'S NATIVITY MASS

The **4.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve** will be a children's Mass. We will begin at **4.15pm with a carols**, followed by mass. We invite the children attending to come dressed as characters from the Nativity story such as Mary, Joseph, wise men, shepherds, angels or stars. We look forward to seeing lots of smiling faces as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus.

The Children's Liturgy team wishes all families a blessed and joyful Christmas!

**LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER FOLLOWING THE
ACYF CELEBRATIONS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE**

With hearts full of gratitude and wonder, we give thanks for the remarkable grace that has flowed through our Archdiocese during the recent Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), held and hosted in Melbourne. For those few unforgettable days, our Church came alive with the vibrant faith of over 6,000 young pilgrims—a radiant sign of Christ alive among us.

Throughout the Festival, we witnessed a Church deeply alive: young people singing with joy, kneeling in reverence, seeking God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and uniting in the Eucharist with profound love. Their faces reflected hope, their hearts radiated faith, and their voices echoed the joy of knowing Christ. It was a living encounter—a testimony that the Church is young, and Christ is truly alive in the midst of His people.

To our parish communities, schools, families, teachers, and staff: thank you. Your support, encouragement, and faithful accompaniment opened the door for so many of our young people to walk this sacred journey. Whether you prayed from afar, volunteered, spread the word, or walked alongside our youth—your role mattered, and the fruits are already visible.

A special acknowledgment goes to the countless hands and hearts who made this Festival possible: to our clergy, volunteers, leaders, and organisers. Their efforts—most especially those of Festival Director Teresa Rhynehart and the Proclaim Team—bore witness to the unity, professionalism, and generosity that defines our Archdiocese. To those who could not attend: seek out someone who did. Ask them what they saw, heard and felt. Let their stories renew your own faith.

As we look ahead to World Youth Day 2027, we carry with us the blessings sown during ACYF. May these seeds grow into deeper discipleship, vibrant vocations, renewed mission, and lasting holiness in every corner of our Church—in homes, schools, and parishes alike.

Let us continue to walk together, young and old, clergy and lay, rejoicing in what God is doing among us. May Mary, Help of Christians, accompany our young people always, and may the Holy Spirit fan into flame the gifts we have received.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Share the Joy of Christmas

You are invited to the

Christmas Lunch

at St John's
on Thursday 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.

RSVP by Tuesday 23rd December
at the Parish office by phone 9401 6366

FINDING SOLUTIONS

Looking at how to cope with what life throws at you? Trying to find peace and happiness in a troubled time? Call Clare to have a chat in a safe place. I can do face to face, online or phone counselling.

Email: counselling.findingsolutions@gmail.com

Phone: 0409 990 907

Registered Counsellor with Australian Counselling Association. Change is only a conversation away.

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.

HOUSE OF BOOKS

The shop is closed and will reopen at 10 am on Tuesday 27th January 2026. The shop thanks all our customers for their support during a very successful 2025.

Please note: if you want to donate books to the shop please do not leave them outside the shop when the shop is not open. All donations must be made when the shop is open so our volunteers can check the suitability of donated books. Please check the donations policy before visiting the shop to donate. Not all books can be accepted. Thank you.

Phone: 9401 6306

POEM FOR PEACE

These thoughts I offer
as I hear from afar, the sad news of 'Bondi'
which seems so bizarre.
We need to stop discord between Arabs and Jews,
as it's no surprise to hear of this bad news.
Why is hatred so strong
and why do we allow it to continue on?
Our aim is to 'heal' to find love, to strive,
for then we can hope
that hate won't survive.
Our future is surely to care
and create our lives
to be good and lovingly relate,
then we know we will meet at God's heavenly gate.
So love is the key, as now we do know,
to be part of God's Kingdom
is where we hope to go.

ST JOHN'S CARD MAKING GROUP

We are very excited to announce our donation to St Vincent de Paul, Mitcham Conference this year is \$2,000.00 in addition to \$500.00 donated to the Winter Appeal mid year.

We would like to sincerely thank you, the St John's Parish Community, for your generosity, wonderful support, encouragement and for purchasing our cards during the year and especially at Christmas time. Whether you ordered cards for a special occasion or purchased cards from the Piety Stall, House of Books or from the Parish Office, it is your incredible ongoing support that enables us to pass on this fantastic contribution to the works of St Vincent de Paul.

I would like to thank our talented card makers for the beautiful cards they have created this year. We all look forward to making wonderful cards for you next year. On behalf of us all, we would like to wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

With thanks, Monika



FREE DESK

A parish family has an Officeworks student desk in very good condition and free of charge.

If you are interested, please call the Parish Office.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL— DECEMBER—FOOD

Donations can now be left in the plastic tub in the Narthex. We are currently requesting: **coffee, rice, tinned vegetables long life milk.** All Enquiries to Danny Rafferty 0437 498 877



HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARISH

The QR Code is unique to St John's Church and will give parishioners direct access to our account. To make a payment, parishioners simply scan our QR code with their mobile phone and follow a few easy steps.



Thank you for your continued support

If you would like to support our Parish via TAP and GO please use the terminals located in the narthex and in the church. All you need to do is to select the amount displayed and tap the terminal with your credit card / debit card / smart phone or smart watch—your contribution will go straight into our Church account.

If you would like to contribute to the support of our Priests here are the Bank details:

Account name: St Johns Presbytery Account
BSB 083347
ACCT NO. 459 634 437