



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

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 17 December 2023 —Year B

Witness for the light

May my life speak as a witness for the light;
Where there is darkness may I bring light,
Where there is loneliness, may I bring companionship,
Where there is pain, may I bring healing.

May my words bring comfort to others,
As the morning dawn lightens the darkness,
And may my prayers bring hope to others,
As the moon gives its light to the city.

May my touch lighten
The loneliness and fears of young and old,
And may my sufferings and struggles,
As these were part of the life of Jesus,
And part of the life of Mary and Joseph,
Bring hope and depth to others.

And when like the Baptist, I cry,
In the wilderness of anxiety, fear and hopelessness,
May I be heard by God
And may the light of Jesus
Lit in the love of Mary and Joseph,
Shine through the ways I deal with pain,
And comfort the pain of another.

May I believe,
That each person,
Like John the Baptist,
Is a voice speaking the word of God.

May the way of Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace, Son of God,
Be bright in my soul and the souls of others.



**"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

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: Jeremiah 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-24
Tue: Judges 13:2-7. 24-25	Lk 1:5-25
Wed: Isaiah 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
Thur: Song of Songs 2:8-14	Lk 1:39-45
Fri: 1 Samuel 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56
Sat: Malachi 3:1-4. 23-24	Lk 1:57-66

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Weekday Masses

	St John's	Our Lady's
Tue	10am Mass	6pm Mass
Wed	10am Mass	
Thur	No Mass	9.15am Mass
Fri	10am Mass	



The Holy Spirit of God is at work in the world, at work in you. Lean into it.

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY

We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal life for those who have died recently especially **Gerard Frances Kealy, Gerard Mendes and Gavan Farrelly** and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time including, **Bernie Hanlan, John Duncan, Mary McCorkell, Merlyn Alwis, Patricia Miller, Val Maus, Thomas Bowen, Geraldine Hortin and Anthony Winter**



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 23/24	St John's 6.00pm	St John's 4.30pm	St. John's 6.00pm	St John's 8.30pm	St. John's 11.00pm
C'Tator	M Bredhauer		E Umashankar	A Menon	J Kiekebosch
Lectors	A Livy		P Cowan	G Rodrigues	D Kennedy
Lectors			C Cowan	J Kiekebosch	M Day
Eucharist	M Livy	D Hancock	T McLaughlin	G Gill	C Kook
	E Booth	J Kearney	S Harrison	C Bantawig	T McLaughlin
	R McIntosh	M Bredhauer	A Wilson	V Menon	
		M McMahon	B O'Reilly	C Brindle	
Laptop operator		J Crema		E Go	T Luna

**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

**We like to wish people
a Merry Christmas
as we celebrate Jesus's birthday.
Whilst we celebrate this Holy day of the year,
may God's love touch our lives.**

(St John's anonymous parishioner)

JOURNEY THROUGH LOSS

When we lose a loved one, the emotions can be overwhelming, grieving can take many forms. Our friendly and informal gathering gives an opportunity to support each other as we journey through grief and loss.

Please join us:

On Wednesday 14th February at 10:30am

St John's Parish Office

*"But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength".
2 Timothy 4:17*

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.

CAFÉ @ ST JOHN'S

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

When: Wednesday 20 December
Time: 10:30am to 11:30am



**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



BAPTISM

Today we welcome

**Mishka Emilia Costa, Mael Joseph Silva,
Luke Aiden Gonaduwege**
*into the life of the Catholic Church
through the Community of St John's*

RCIA Rite of Welcome

This weekend

**Jaxon, Emilia, Jade, Wayne,
Jordan and Jermaine**



are welcomed as they seek to complete their Christian Initiation through the sacraments. May we, as their parish, surround them with special care and support as they make their personal journeys towards Easter.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS VIGIL

Sunday December 24

**Commencing with Family Carols and Nativity Story
at 4pm. Followed by Family Mass at 4:30 pm**

St Johns Children's liturgy team invites all families to come and be part of this special family celebration. Children may like to come dressed in Nativity theme: shepherds, angels, wise men etc.

All children present will be invited to take part in a short enactment of the Nativity Story before Mass begins.

We need some older children who would like to be the main Nativity characters. (No speaking parts). We also need one parent and one child to be narrators. Main characters and narrators will meet in the Narthex at 10am on Saturday morning 23/12 to do try on costumes and do a quick run through.

Please call Di Hancock (0418 128 408) or Jenny Kearney (0413 826 468) if your family is available for these extra roles

We look forward to seeing you at 4pm before the 4.30pm Mass. Come early so you don't miss out !

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.

RSVP by Friday 22nd December at the Parish office by phone 9401 6366 or by email mitcham@cam.org.au

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE



Advent Penitential celebration

Wednesday 20th December

7.30pm – St John's Mitcham

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

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.

HOUSE OF BOOKS

House of Books will be closed from Friday 22nd December and reopen on Monday 29th January

Monday– Friday 10am–4pm

Saturdays 10am–1pm



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) All are welcome!



THE MANGO FUNDRAISER

Our juicy Mangos will be ready for collection next week on Thursday 21st December 2023 between 3.30pm and 6pm.

As the school is closed, collections will now be in the Narthex at the Church.

If you are unable to collect your orders during this time please contact Donna donna.bright@hotmail.com

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



ST JOHN'S CARD MAKING GROUP



Our handmade Christmas cards will be on sale at the Piety stall, House of books and Parish office. We have a wonderful supply of cards this year so please shop early to avoid missing out. Thank you for supporting us. All profits from the sale our cards continue to benefit the work of St Vincent de Paul. If you have any queries, please contact us via the Parish Office. With sincere thanks for your continued support. Monika on behalf of the Card Making Group.

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



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.