

IN THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL WE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick: Dianne Hutchinson and those of our community.

Recently Deceased: Vilma Forbes

Repose of the Souls: Dianne Vella & Josephine Micallef and those whose anniversary occur about this time and those whose names are on the memorial wall.

Church Cleaning	Saturday 27th December — Filipino Community
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Safeguarding of children and vulnerable young people.

St Dominic's Community holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. A cultural of safety within the Church ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community. **We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.**

Attention Parents and Carers!
If your child goes to the toilet or just outside of the Church, one of the parents must accompany him/her.

Sacramental Program 2026

The Parish will be taking enrolments in January for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to attend Sunday Mass if they would like to enrol their children. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Please Note: NO Sunday Bulletin During the month of January.

For Sale at the Piety Stall
2026 Columban Art Calendar at \$10.00 each
and Packet of 8 Christmas Cards at \$3.00

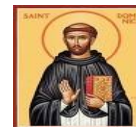
Fay Donohue, would like to thank everyone for their kindness greetings on her 90th birthday last Sunday.

**THANKSGIVING
OFFERING ONLINE TO:
ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH
BSB: 083 347
ACCOUNT NUMBER:
67441 1404**

PLEASE TYPE YOUR THANKSGIVING
ENVELOPE NUMBER WHEN YOU DO
THE TRANSACTION.

The Parish has the facility of
**EFTPOS DEBIT, VISA CARD
and MASTER CARD.** This is a
good option for those who do
not carry cash and would like
to contribute to the church.
**The set up is of: \$5.00;
\$10.00; \$20.00 and \$50.00**

ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH PRIEST: Fr Octavian Masao, CSSp; Email: Octavian.Masao@cam.org.au

ASSISTING PRIEST: Fr Rogasian Msami CSSp;

PARISH SECRETARY: Ana Miriam Guardado

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 8.00am-2.00pm

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL—PRINCIPAL: Katie Broadbent, Phone: 03 9309 4146



PARISH MASS TIMES

Sundays: 6.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday evening)
9.00am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Vietnamese Mass
9.00am 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays: English Mass
11.00am: English Mass
1.00pm: Spanish Mass

Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am Mass
Morning Prayer of the Church: Tuesday to Saturday at 8.25am
Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday before Mass.
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday from 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Benediction: Every Friday following the 9.00am Mass.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesday to Saturday before or after Mass.
Baptism Information/Preparation: Every First Sunday of the month at 3.00pm.
Anointing of the Sick: Every Third Wednesday of the Month at 9.00am Mass.



Fourth Sunday of Advent — Year A

21st December 2025

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14
The virgin will conceive.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23: 1-6
R/ Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7
Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24
Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS: Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3: 12-21; Matthew 2: 13 - 15, 19-23

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.

Living the Gospel – Advent

Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us **now**, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

Scriptural context

Today's first reading is from the prophet Isaiah and contains the prophecy that is quoted in the gospel passage. The book of Isaiah was written at a time when the people of Israel were under threat and had once again fallen away from their covenant with God. Isaiah's prophecy is one of the 'Messiah' prophecies but despite the future-focus is a promise to the people of the time that God-is-with-us. The promise is that God-is-with-us now, despite the conditions we find ourselves in, and God-will-be-with-us in the future when God's Messiah is born of a young woman.

Gospel Focus – What's in a name?

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.



Christmas Offering Envelopes are available on the pews and please place the envelope with donation in the collection bag at Sunday Masses or on Christmas Day. Thank you and God's Blessings.



Christmas and New Year Programme

Christmas Eve:
Wednesday 24th December
1.00pm Spanish Christmas Mass
6.30pm Christmas Carols
7.00pm Family Mass



Night Mass:
10.30pm Christmas Carols
11.00pm Holy Mass.

Christmas Day:
Thursday 25th December
9.00am Christmas Mass
10.30am Christmas Carols
11.00am Holy Mass

Friday 26th December
Feast of St Stephen, Mass at 9.00am



Wednesday 31st December
New Year's Eve

9.00am—Morning Mass
11.00pm—Mass for the New Year

Thursday 1st Jan 2026:
**"Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God"**
11.00am English Mass
1.00pm Spanish Mass

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

As we approach the celebration of Christmas the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is a great time to thank each one of you for the support given to the Parish in the three months that we have been here.

A Big thank you to everyone who have contributed in all different ways for the Installation and Thanksgiving Mass last Sunday, it was such a great celebration with the spirit of the Lord.

Christmas Celebration is time for us to reflect on what is important, sharing God's love in the community and in families.

May the birth of Christ renew our spirit, fill our hearts, deepen our faith and inspire us to share His love.

With blessings for a safe, peaceful and Merry Christmas.

Fr Octavian Masao, CSSp
Fr Rogasian Msami, CSSp