



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Third Sunday of Advent Year A, 13-14 December, 2025

Announcement: Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod

Dear friends in Christ, the faithful of Melbourne, On this Third Sunday of Advent, in the days following the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, and as we ready our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, I write to share with you an important moment in the life of our local Church in Melbourne.

This Jubilee Year of Hope has been a time of great grace for us. Throughout the year, I have been meeting with clergy and lay leaders, listening to them, and discerning with them as to how the Archdiocese of Melbourne might respond to the call to hold an Archdiocesan Synod.

From this time of prayer, grace and reflection, I now wish to share that I have initiated preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026. I have asked Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ to assist me in leading this process, drawing on the Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod 2025—2028, endorsed by Pope Leo XIV. I have also appointed Ms Cathy Jenkins as Synod Program Lead.

Over recent years, the whole Church has been invited into a renewed way of walking together. This way—synodality—is rooted in our baptism and asks each of us, whether lay, religious, or ordained, to listen deeply to the Holy Spirit and to one another. This is to be "the ordinary way in which the Church seeks to live and work in our time." (International Theological Commission)

Here in Australia, this journey has been unfolding for many years. The Fifth Plenary Council (2021—2022) arose from a nationwide effort of prayerful listening and discernment. We then contributed to the global Synod (2021—2024), which invited us to reflect on how we live communion, foster participation, and carry out Christ's mission in the Church.

I am grateful for the many people across the Archdiocese who took part in these consultations. You have offered insights filled with faith in Christ, love for the Church, and hope for our future. The fruits of Take the Way of the Gospel, the development of parish formation through the Bethany Way, and the vibrant witness of young people at the recent Aus-

tralian Catholic Youth Festival likewise continue to shape our discernment.

Three themes will be taken up in the Synod process:

- Young Discipleship
- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation

These three themes have not arisen in isolation. They have emerged consistently and clearly through all the listening, discernment, and consultation undertaken in recent years across the Archdiocese, including the Plenary Council process, the global Synod, and our local pastoral initiatives. Together, they will now form the foundational focus of our Archdiocesan Synod. They are vital to the missionary endeavours of the people of God in Melbourne because they speak directly to how faith is awakened, how leadership is exercised in service, and how every baptised person is formed and enabled to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church. When these three are alive and flourishing, they bring life, vitality, and vibrancy to the heart of the Gospel as it is lived and proclaimed in our parishes, families, schools, and communities throughout our world.

The first step in our journey toward the Synod will be the establishment of a Synod Commission. Following prayerful discernment and consultation—including with the Council of Priests—I will invite the Commission to help us explore the three foundational themes and prepare us for the journey ahead. More information about the Archdiocesan Synod process will be shared with you in early 2026. For now, I simply ask for your prayers and your openness to journey together as the Church in Melbourne—across our parishes, apostolates, works and communities.

May this Advent season renew within us a spirit of hope and a desire to welcome the Lord who comes to dwell among us.

With every grace and blessing,
Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

*Please note
Sunday 11am online
Mass is*

*No live-stream Mass
this weekend*

**Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am**

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

**St Paul Apostle North
Primary School**
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

**St Paul Apostle South
Primary School**
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

**St John's
Regional College**
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Fourth Sunday of ADVENT Year A, 2025

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test."

Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary the people, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
Someone who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up their soul to what is false.

That person will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the Gospel of God, which God promised beforehand through his Prophets in the holy Scriptures: the Gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, in-

cluding yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin shall be with child and bear a son
and they shall name him Emmanuel, God is with us
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

The birth of Jesus the Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the Prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

This is the Gospel, the Good News of the Lord

Reflection

"How does Mary's 'Yes' and her visit to Elizabeth mirror my own journey of faith, and where do I need to 'leap for joy' in recognizing God's presence in my life and world right now?"

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



PARISH PLAYGROUP

The group runs on Thursdays at ANNEXE of St Paul Apostle Church from 10:00am to 11:30am. This year, the last play will be on Thursday 18 December. They will resume on early January 2026. If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the sheets in the gathering space. Please note: All child safeguarding requirements must be met for anyone wishing to volunteer.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Please remember to deliver the hampers to the church no later than **SUNDAY 14 Dec before 6pm Mass**.

We also require volunteers to help in delivering the hampers to the recipients. This will be done on **MONDAY, 15th Dec from 10.30am**.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

After the Hamper Mass, 6pm this Sunday, we will gather at Martin Place (located behind the parish office) for Christmas Carols. Come along with your family and friends.

For this year's Parish Carols we have the privilege to be led by Fr Chris & his band as well as our Choir groups.

Below, please find the details of the Carols evening:

To be held on **SUNDAY, the 14th of DECEMBER** from 7pm-9pm at MARTIN PLACE (the back of the parish office)

There will be a sausage sizzle for all and ice-cream for both the young and young at heart.

Please don't forget to bring a picnic mat, as this will be an outdoor event, on the lawn.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

This year our Advent Reconciliation will be on **TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER** at 7pm in the Church. This will be communal reconciliation and will also be private reconciliation. There will be around 4-5 priests helping us on this night.

CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTERS

By now the special roster for ministers at Christmas Masses are sent out already. We sincerely apologise to those who may missed out this time.

NATIVITY PLAY—for Christmas Eve Mass 6pm

Our team is steadily growing. Thank you to those who came to the first practice. Whilst we have filled some roles in the play, we still need more actors/actresses. Please contact the parish office on

97003781 if your child/children/ grandchildren (aged 5 to 12 years old) would like to join in this play.

Our next practice will be **December 16th at 4pm in the church**. Please also note, even if your children are not part of the play, they are invited to come to the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve dressed up as their favourite Biblical Character

MINISTERS

The livelihood of the Church, including that of our parish, greatly depends on volunteers. Many of you may wish to be more involved in our Church. At this stage, we need help on Sunday's, 11am and 6pm Mass. If you are interested in becoming a communion minister at one of these Masses, please approach Didi after Mass or contact the parish office. We will provide more details regarding the role. You will only be rostered on once a month.

2026 Sacrament Programs

Reconciliation:

Registration form must be in by Wednesday, 11 February 2026

First Family night Tuesday 17 February at 7pm

(Follow by 3 classes at parish schools or ASRE)

Last Family night Tuesday 10 March at 7pm

Service Tuesday 17 March at 7pm

(depending on the number, maybe 2 shifts)

First Communion

Registration form must be in by Thursday, 1st April, 2026

First Family Night Tuesday 5 May at 7pm

(Follow by 5 classes at parish schools or ASRE)

Last family night Tuesday 16 June at 7pm

Masses Saturday 20 June (maybe 2 sessions)

Confirmation (Please note that the registration for this sacrament is required to be in EARLY IN THE YEAR)

Registration form must be in by **Thursday, 1st April, 2026**

First Family night Tuesday 15 September at 7pm

(Follow by 4 classes at parish Schools or ASRE)

Last Family Night Tuesday 17 November at 7pm

Session with Bishop To be advised

Masses Saturday 21 November at 12pm
(maybe also at 2pm))

**** Donation for is \$25 per child, per sacrament ****

Readings:

Third Sunday of ADVENT Year A

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 1:18-24

www.universalis.com

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT Year A

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 11:2-11

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Doug McGuinness, Marian Meade-Salzer, Pedro Llerena, Anne McCallister, Mareta Dunlop, Bongsing Noto, Giuseppina Materia, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Tyronne Walles, Cecile Potier, Fr. Michael Willemsen, Sebastian Nowakowski, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Adrian Dal Lago, Fr Michael Shadbolt, Stephanie Kinson, Mario Clemente, Desiree Madeira, Ron Barber, Annabelle Ghatt, Paul Sanders, Jim Souter, John Santospirito, Brian Gatt, Nicky D'Rozario, Donald Macleod, Rosa Gangemi **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Rinku Arora	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating Luiza Monteiro
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Janina Gorski	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira David Goh Rinku Arora	Sharon Normington Sai Dlinger Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe David Goh Daphne Goh	Naomi Falo Sharon Normington Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora Daphne Goh	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Peng Chee Jenny Catania Marg Keating

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

