



THE TIDINGS

SERVING THE AREAS OF MELTON, MELTON WEST, AINTREE, BONNIE BROOK,
GRANGEFIELDS, HARKNESS, KURUNJANG, PLUMPTON, ROCKBANK & TOOLERN VALE



The Catholic
Parish of Melton
is committed
to the safety,
wellbeing and
dignity of all
children and
vulnerable
adults

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Year B | 8 December 2024

CLERGY

Parish Priest: REV. FR ALEX CLEMENTE

Assistant Priest: REV. FR WILFORD URMAZA

Parish Deacon: REV. DCN CHRIS CREO

Email: Cristopher.Creo@cam.org.au

PRESBYTERY & OFFICE

10 Unitt Street, MELTON, VIC 3337

Postal Address: PO Box 96, MELTON, VIC 3337

Phone: 03 9743 6515

Email: melton@cam.org.au

Website: melbcatholic.org/melton

Facebook: facebook.com/catholicparishmelton

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9.00am–3.00pm

(The parish office is CLOSED on weekends and public holidays)

STAFF & SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

Parish Secretary: LIZ COUSTLEY (temporary)

Finance Manager: LORRAINE STAFFORD (Mon & Tues)

Email: Finance.Melton@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Coordinator: LIZ COUSTLEY

Mobile: 0490 885 515 | **Email:** cso.melton@gmail.com

MASS CENTRES & MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

- Saturday 6pm (Vigil Mass)
- Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm
- Wednesday 9.15am

St Dominic's Church, Melton

Church St, Melton, VIC 3337

- Thursday & Friday 9.15am

CONFESSION

St Catherine of Siena Church

Saturday: 5.45 pm | Sunday: 4.45pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & ROSARY

St Dominic's Church

- Thursday following the 9.15am Mass

SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH

ST DOMINIC'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Address: Church Street, Melton, VIC 3337

+61 3 9743 6225 | enquiries@sdmelton.catholic.edu.au

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Address: 108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

+61 3 9743 2166 | info@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

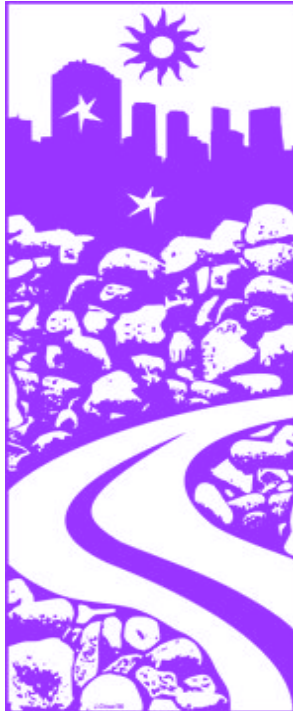
ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Melton West Campus (Year 7-12): 109-141 Bulmans Rd,
Melton West

Cobblebank Campus (Year 7-8): Bridge Rd, Cobblebank
+61 3 8099 6000 | info@sfcc.vic.edu.au

Have You Thought?

Make Way!



Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives.

The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us.

The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Today's Readings: Baruch 5:1-9 Philipians 1:3-6. 8-11 Luke 3:1-6

Next Week's Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 125 (126); Ph 1:3-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Prayer Requests

Death Anniversaries:

Vlastimil Mencl, Paul Grech, Josephine Attard, Mary Vella, John Motha, Jo Groot, Dot Wilke, Jenny Sharman, Sam Singobahu, Frances Sait, Molly Ellis
Josephine Grima, Zygmunt Kordus, Mario Germano, Maureen Stojanovic, Margaret Frawley, Jim Sullivan, Lawrence Micallef, Tilly Matheson, Liz Watt, Alice Coburn, Claire Dillon, Upati Ramanayake, Mick Dalli, Frances Kealy, Roberto Bascuña Sr, Lawrence Brown, Louis Sundanum, Jason Frigo, Tilly Matheson, Katherine Spillman, Phillip Galea, Phil Wright, Yan Nowicki, Eileen Waller, Antonio Biviano, Tony Vella, Clarence De Beaufort, Myra O'Leary, Albert Muscat, Michael Dalli, Kazimierz Wroblowski, Carmela Tiberio

DIRECT DEBIT STATEMENTS AND PARISH OFFERTORY GIVING ENVELOPES

These are now available for collection in the Gathering Area
of the church.

Reflection by Fr Alex Clemente, RCJ

As we continue our Advent journey, the liturgy leads us to John the Baptist. From the wilderness, his voice cries out; "prepare the way of the Lord!".

We need to see what needs straightening out in our lives. The imagery of filling in the valleys and leveling hills is a call to care about justice for the whole creation and all God's people.

One could say that the Baptist called for a level playing field for all, so that everybody has fair access to the amenities of this world. He was against hoarding, dominance and aggression. Isaiah offers hope that "all people will see the salvation sent to us from our God." God's word has a message for me. I am to turn from my sins, and to prepare the way for him. I am to help ensure fair play and justice for others.

Filling valleys, leveling mountains, straightening the crooked road, preparing a pathway for the Lord: all this is our preparation for Christmas. Of course it involves self-examinations, discernment and decisions. But these decisions should come out from the realities of my life. How can I personally respond to this challenge of the Baptist?

We are all invited to go into the wilderness; away from the busy crowd, far from festivities and distant ourselves from the noise of the city. The most fitting place to prepare for the Lord's coming is in the silence of our hearts, where we deeply encounter our inner selves.

Let's have personal moments of silence, reflection and prayer to prepare a heart ready for the child Jesus to dwell come Christmas time.

Best Wishes

We wish Vivien, our parish secretary, and her husband all the best as they wait for the safe arrival of their second child later this month. Big sister will also be sharing in the excitement and preparation for the new arrival into the family.



Vivien will return from maternity leave to the parish office in November 2025.

Temporarily, Liz Coustley will be in the office until Christmas.

In January 2025 we will warmly welcome Wilma Chua as parish secretary until Vivien's return.

Baptisms 2025

Baptism information for 2025, dates and application form are now available on our parish website:
www.melbcatholic.org/melton
or in hard copy in the Gathering Area of the church.

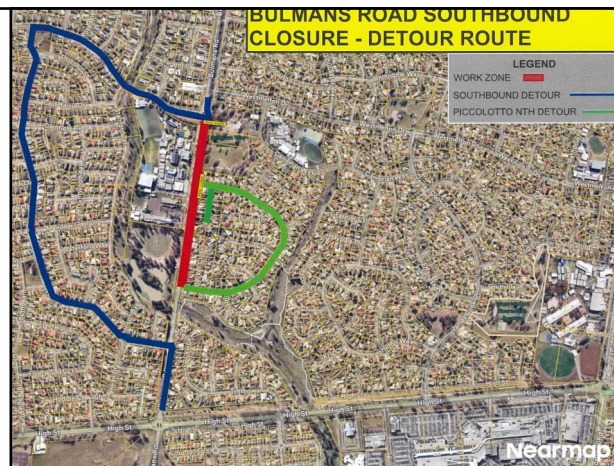


UPCOMING CLOSURE ON BULMANS ROAD

This closure will encompass a section of Bulmans Road **southbound**, spanning from Sovereign Boulevard to Piccolotto Drive(South).

This will commence on Monday, December 9 till Friday, December 13.

Traffic flowing Northbound along Bulmans Road will not be impacted by the closure.



Second Advent Candle: Peace

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women." — Pope Francis

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace.

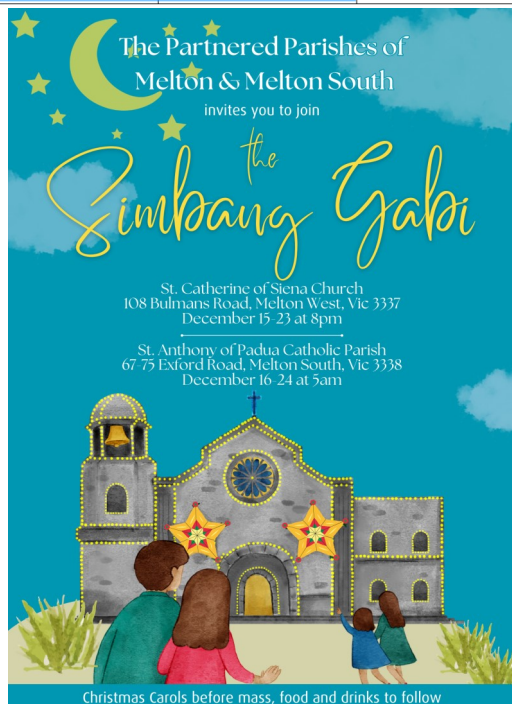
Like the first candle, it is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," the second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all of the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace. As we read in the quote from Pope Francis, this light of peace shone forth from Bethlehem for all the world.

Source: <https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/>

Parish Calendar

December 2024

9	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10	OUR LADY OF LORETO	11	9.15am Mass at St Catherine of Siena Church	12	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	13	ST LUCY	14	ST JOHN OF THE CROSS	15	3rd Sunday of Advent
											6pm Vigil Mass	9am, 11am & 5pm Sunday Masses	
												Simbang Gabi 8pm @ St Catherine of Siena	
16		17		18	9.15am Mass at St Catherine of Siena Church	19	9.15am Mass at St Dominic's Church	20	9.15am Mass at St Dominic's Church	21	6pm Vigil Mass	22	4th Sunday of Advent
												9am, 11am & 5pm Sunday Masses	
				Simbang Gabi 8pm @ St Catherine of Siena, Melton West									
				Simbang Gabi 5am @ St Anthony of Padua, Melton South									
23		24		25	CHRISTMAS DAY	26	ST STEPHEN	27	ST JOHN THE APOSTLE	28	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	29	THE HOLY FAMILY
				Please see notice of Christmas Mass Times in the Tidings			BOXING DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY			9.15am Mass at St Dominic's Church		6pm Vigil Mass	9am, 11am & 5pm Sunday Masses
	Simbang Gabi 8pm @ St Catherine of Siena	Please see notice of Christmas Mass Times in the Tidings											
	Simbang Gabi 5am @ St Anthony of Padua	St Anthony of Padua											



PLEASE RING THE MASS MANAGER IF UNABLE TO ATTEND:

6 pm Tania Walters 0492 952 478
 9 am Theo Franken 0411 040 897
 11am Bruna Tomassi 9743 0341
 5 pm Josephine Krajina 0407 042 133

Christmas Gifts in the Piety Stall

Check out the variety of Christmas gifts on display, and are now available for purchase, in the Piety Stall.
 St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards will be available shortly (hopefully next weekend).



CHRISTMAS 2024 MASS TIMES

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, MELTON WEST

15th-23rd Dec	Christmas Novena Masses	8pm
24th Dec	Christmas Vigil Family Mass	6pm
	Christmas Vigil Mass	8pm
	Midnight Mass	10pm
25th Dec	Christmas Day Mass	11am
	Christmas Day Swahili Mass	1pm

CHRISTMAS CAROLS WILL BEGIN 30 MINUTES BEFORE CHRISTMAS VIGIL AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES.

2 nd Sunday of Advent			Saturday & Sunday December 7&8, 2024	
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome		Maureen Mohr	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
The Word	Manoj D'Silva	Alzira Mascarenhas	Liza Fernandes	Josephine Krajina
Responder	Tania Walters	Vickie Cassar	Cira Cleary	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
Presentation of Gifts	Leny Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Chelsea Amato	Elainne de los Santos
Holy Communion		Maureen Mohr	Bruna Tomassi	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
PowerPoint Operator	Kate Mulholland	Faith Tuputala	Liz Coustley	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Tania Walters	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
Choir	Divine Mercy	Veneration Choir	Veritas Choir	Filipino Choir
Counters	Maria Abela, Tania Walters			

3 rd Sunday of Advent			Saturday & Sunday December 14&15, 2024	
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Kate Mulholland	Karl Metha	Liz Coustley	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Maria Prasetyono	Theo Franken	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Responder	Tetchie Hadfield	Jennifer Peters	Cira Cleary	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
Presentation of Gifts	Robert Obtinalla	Faith Tuputala	Chelsea Amato	Josephine Krajina
Holy Communion	Sally Grero	Vickie Cassar	Liz Coustley	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
PowerPoint Operator	Tania Walters	Sanyata Creo	Choir	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Maureen Mohr	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Choir	Divine Mercy	Samoan Choir	St Anuarite Choir	Tongan Choir
Counters	Karl Metha, Anne Stokie, Maureen Mohr			



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.

THE SACRAMENTS OF PENANCE, EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION 2025

An invitation is extended to join our partnered parishes of Melton and Melton South, after hours Sacrament Program called:

St Luke's Sacramental Program

for young people who do not attend a Catholic Primary School, or attend a Catholic Secondary School and are baptised, but *have not* received one or more of the above Sacraments.

We begin with an Information Night on Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 7pm sharp in St Dominic's Parish Hall - entry via the gate on Smith St, Melton.

Information and the application form for these programs is available online on our Parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton or in hard copy from the Gathering Area of St Catherine of Siena church.

Please complete the application form and either:

- Email it to the parish office at: melton@cam.org.au,
- Drop it off personally at the office between 9am and 3pm, or
- Place it into the return box in the Gathering Area of the church.

The Sacrament of Penance program begins on Thursday February 6, 2025.

*Growing Together
In Faith*



Prayer For The Feast of Immaculate Conception

O immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Through you we have been reconciled with our God.

You are the advocate of sinners, and the secure haven of those who are sailing on the sea of this life. You are the consolation of the world, the ransom of captives, the joy of the sick, the comfort of the afflicted, the refuge.

O great Mother of God, cover us with the wings of your mercy, and pity us. We are given to you, and consecrated to your service.

O immaculate Virgin, we are under your protection and bring our pleas before Jesus our Son, our Lord. Amen

Mary Immaculate, pray for us!



NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome!

Please collect a Welcome Pack from the Gathering Area of the church. Once census form is completed place it in the white return box in the Gathering Area.

Parish Offertory Giving

If you would like to make either a one-off donation or to set up recurring donations to the parish, please scan the QR code or head to our website: TINYURL.COM/GIVEMELTON



You may also like to use the Smart Terminal at the welcome desk to contribute to the Parish.

MISSED OUT ON THE TIDINGS?

Back issues of The Tidings are available on our parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton

CLICK to VIEW
PREVIOUS BULLETINS



Would you like to receive

The Tidings before the weekend?



Head to our website to subscribe to The Tidings or simply scan the QR code to enter your email to receive a digital copy. You will then receive a verification link via email to confirm your subscription.

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, the safety and wellbeing of all persons is of highest priority.

HOME VISITATION & BLESSING REQUESTS

For Home Visitation & Blessing requests, please speak to Deacon Chris after Mass or fill out the online request form:

TINYURL.COM/HBLESSING

PARISH BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Announcements & Notices: Please submit your announcement or notices no later than 5pm every Wednesday. Bulletin notices are normally retained in *The Tidings* for two weekends. Notices and announcements submitted after the deadline will be considered for publication on the following weekend.



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