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ABN No. 28681862552
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PARISH TEAMS

Clergy

Fr. Albert Yogarajah PP
Fr. James Baptist
Fr. An Le
Rev. Deacon William Daw

Pastoral Worker

Kemp Vinson

Home Based RE Coordinator

Benita Ediriwickrema

Finance:

Natascha Eve Klein

Administration:

Cora Ilagan

Tamil Chaplain

Fr. Anton Aseervathampillai

South Sudanese Chaplain

Fr. Stephen Kumyangi

Assistant Chaplain

Rev. Deacon William Daw
9741 4144

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Andrew's Primary

School – Ph. 9741 3686

Acting Principal:

Lisa Black

Corpus Christi Primary

School – Ph. 9741 8440

Principal: Linda Roynic

Bethany Primary School

– Ph. 9742 9800

Principal: Joanne Webster

Our Lady of the

Southern Cross Primary

School – Ph. 9974 8500

Principal: Justin Hilton

St. John the Apostle PS

Tarneit West -

Ph. 8754 4300

Principal: Simon Dundon

St. Joseph Primary

School – 8742 3381

Principal: Troy Rickard

MacKillop Catholic

Regional College –

Ph. 8734 5200

Principal: Chris Caldwell

Thomas Carr Catholic

Regional College -

Ph. 8734 2444

Principal: Rose Connolly



ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

Incorporating the Communities of
Verribee Central, Wyndham Vale, Werribee South,
Werribee North,
Tarneit West, Upper Point Cook
and Little River

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

13TH / 14TH DECEMBER 2025

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand, the Wathaurong People. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

FIRST READING: *A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10)*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended." **THE WORD OF THE LORD.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Psalms 145:6-10*

Response: Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

Response: Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING: *A reading from the letter of St James (James 5:7-10)*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 11:2-11)*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing, and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

St. Andrew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.



GOSPEL REFLECTION:

John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel for his disciples' sake and for ours. He knows that Jesus is doing "the works of the Messiah," foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples and us to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us. The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2). The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord. As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Jesus also points us to a prophet holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples and us to our Savior. We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18). Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

Scott Hanh

PRAYER AT HOME: Use today's entrance antiphon as your prayer this week: *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."*

VOCATION VIEW: "As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." (James 5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God.

RECENT DEATH: Alvira Berton, Daw Majak Daw, Michael Peters, Stanislaw Benedykt Ulkowski

ANNIVERSARY: Carmela Piccolo, Julijana Balog

PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Nimal Pandithakoralege, Hilda Koster Koerntjes, Panakal Auso Raphael, Julie Horkings, Crispin De Silva, Lynne Worsley, Dorothy Rayner, Maria Trang Nguyen, Peter Tho Huynh, Saraswathy Govindasamy, John Hassett, Rustico Socorin, Cecilia Maria, Teresa Goegan, Dinah Elly, Eutiquio Valenzuela, Tony Grech, William Harris, Annette Landicho Manicad Lapworth, Italio Tautunu, Alfredo Landicho Manicad

WEEKDAY LITURGY (14th to 22nd December 2025)

Mon: 9.00am Mass Liturgy of the Word with Communion
 Tues: 9.00am Mass
 Wed: 9.00am Mass
 Thurs: 9.00am Mass
 Fri: 9.00am Mass
 7.00pm Parish Reconciliation
 Sat: 9.00am Mass

WEEKEND MASSES (13th / 14th December 2025)

Sat: 6.00pm Vigil Mass followed by Christmas Carols
 Sun: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am and 5pm Mass

CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE



**Saturday,
 20th December 2025,
 from 9.30 am.**

We warmly invite all parishioners to come along and lend a hand so that together we can prepare our church beautifully for Christmas.

Parish Reconciliation

Friday, 19th December 2025 at 7.00pm.
 Please take this opportunity to make your reconciliation than waiting till the last moment and priest might not be available.



You are invited to a CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENING

**Saturday, 20th December 2025
 by St. Andrew's Carols Group
 in front of the Presbytery Veranda
 after the 6.00pm Mass**

**Join us for a heartwarming
 night filled with carols
 and Christmas spirit.**

**You are welcome to bring a plate
 to share for fellowship.**

See you all there !!!



CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE BROCHURE RACKS AND ON THE PEWS IN THE CHURCH.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE FOR THIS YEAR 2025 ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE BROCHURE RACKS AND IN THE FOYER.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS DURING CHRISTMAS TIME - Parish Office will close for Christmas on Wednesday, 24th December 2025 and re-open on Tuesday, 6th January 2026 at 9am

St. Andrew's Parish, Werribee

WELCOME & THANKSGIVING MASS



We invite all new families in our parish and all volunteers to come for a Mass of welcome and thanksgiving.

13 DEC 2025 9:00 am Holy Mass
9:30 am Fellowship

You are most welcome to bring a plate to share.

St Andrew's Nativity Play



All Children are invited to be part of St Andrew's Nativity Play Rehearsals in the Church~

Monday 15th & 22nd December 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday 24th December - 4:00pm

Performance date ~ **Wednesday 24th December**

5:30pm Mass

SCAN TO REGISTER

Susanne ~ 0438 372 952

WYNDHAM VALE COMMUNITY MASS UPDATE

Please note that there will be **'NO Wyndham Vale Community Mass'** during the month of December 2025. Our next Community Mass will be on Sunday, 18 January 2026 at 10:00 AM at OLSC Primary School Hall. We look forward to gathering again in the New Year to celebrate the Eucharist together. Wishing you and your families a blessed and peaceful Christmas season. *WVCC Leadership Team*

ROSTERS FOR THE WEEK 14th to 22nd December 2025

	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am	5.00pm
LECTORS 20 th / 21 st Dec	Gerry Ilagan	Darren Giese	Nelly Bautista	Aubrey Gantalao	Young Adult Group
MUSIC 20 th / 21 st Dec	St. Philomena's Choir	St. Anthony's Choir	St. Andrew's Choir	Ensemble of Faith	Young Adult Group
Communion Minister 20 th / 21 st Dec	Desiree Galea Kim Beyer Kristine Ventura	Nimal Pandithakoralege Peter Walters David Cox	Ana Balanza Maria Malanyaon John Faranda	Michelle Calafiore Clare Taylor Stealth D'Rozario	Nadia Richards Maria Parba Stephen Hart
COMMUNION SERVICE (MONDAY)		This week: Next week:	Mon 15 Dec: Mon 22 Dec:	M. H. Chong C. Ilagan	
CLEANER		Cleaning: Vacuuming:	Mon 15 Dec: Fri 19 Dec: Mon 15 Dec:	M. Tong, N. Chol A. Ucala, R. Nykuy Volunteer	
ALTAR CLOTH		This week: Next week:	Sun 14 Dec: Sun 21 Dec:	M. Galea C. Demate	
OUR LADY'S STATUE		This week: Next week:	Sun 14 Dec: Sun 21 Dec:	G. Ilagan G. Ilagan	

PARISH ROSTERS FOR 2026 - If you are currently on one of our rosters for Reading, Music, Church Cleaning/Vacuuming, Altar Cloths, Communion Service, etc. and **DO NOT WISH to continue** on the new roster for 2026, please let the Parish Office know as soon as possible, so you can be removed from the new rosters. If we don't hear from you, we assume you are happy to continue on the roster. Thank you for your continued commitment and assistance in this matter. We are also looking for ***new people to join our cleaning and vacuuming roster***, if you can spare an hour or two, we would love to hear from you! Please call the Parish Office on 9741 4144, Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 4pm.

HOME BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (HBRE) AT ST. ANDREW'S PARISH WERRIBEE

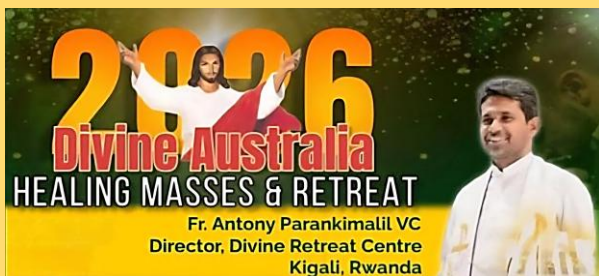
Parents of children attending *Non-Catholic Primary Schools* in the Werribee area who are interested in their child attending the Sacramental Program for 2026 are asked to leave their details at the Parish Office via email werribee@cam.org.au or call 9741 4144. The program is conducted for children in Grade 3 Pre-Sacrament, Grade 4 Reconciliation, Grade 5 Eucharist and Grade 6 Confirmation. Please note Enrolments close 20th December 2025. *Thank you.*

Benita. HBRE Coordinator.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF STUDENTS (RCIS)

St Andrew's Parish will be conducting workshops for Secondary Students residing within the Parish of St. Andrew's and wishing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and/or Confirmation in 2026. Please contact the Parish Office at St. Andrew's Parish on Ph. 9741 4144 or werribee@cam.org.au for more information and to leave your details. Enrolments close 20th December 2025. *Thank you - Benita*

RINNOVAMENTO NELLO SPIRITO SANTO: ricorda che il nostro gruppo di preghiera si conclude Mercoledì 10 Dicembre 2025 con la santa messa. Auguriamo a tutti un santo natale e felice anno nuovo. Il gruppo di preghiera riapre Mercoledì 18 Febbraio 2026 dalle ore 10.00am alle 12.00pm nella Penola Hub, 33 Mortimer Street, Werribee. Siete tutti benvenuti.



17th January 2026

9.00am to 5.00pm

**Our Lady of Southern Cross Primary School
2 - 20 Howqua Way
Wyndham Vale**

For more information contact
Ralph - 0425 797 355
Nicola - 0410 423 350



SPORTS EQUIPMENT DRIVE

EASING THE LOAD FOR CLUBS,
LIFTING UP COMMUNITIES, &
KEEPING SPORT OUT OF LANDFILL.



Bring your pre-loved & new
sports equipment
(including bikes)
to help those in need.



**SPORTS SHARE
2-9 GERVES ST,
WERRIBEE**



**CONTACT
PETER CULLEN
0421 442 340**



**SPORTS SHARE ACCEPTS
DONATIONS ALL YEAR
ROUND**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OF WHAT IS
HAPPENING IN THE PARISH, PLEASE SEE
FLYERS ON THE NOTICE BOARD.**



Thank you for your generous response for
the **Philippines Emergency
Appeal: Typhoon Tino (Kalmaegi)** on the
weekend 22nd and 23rd November 2025.

We have raised \$2053.35.

This will be sent to the
Sisters of the Good Samaritan

PRAYER OF WELCOME BEFORE BAPTISM

Dear Parents, as you prepare for your child's Baptism, the people of St. Andrew's rejoice that you have chosen to baptize your child, and we pray that in the coming years you and your family will continue to know and grow in the love of God that is everlasting.



We now have an official parish facebook page: **St. Andrew's Catholic Parish, Werribee**. This will be used to post announcements and other events in our parish. Please like and share our page.

St. Andrew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.