



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

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 3 December 2023 —Year B

PRESBYTERY RENOVATION FUND – UPDATE DECEMBER 2023

Dear Parishioners

As always you, parishioners of Mitcham Parish, have yet again shown your generosity.

In late September all parishioners were invited to contribute to a fund for the much needed renovations of the parish presbytery. Such a request of Mitcham parishioners is an unusual event.



Works of this nature would generally have been completed using parish reserves. However, as a result of an unusually high call on reserves for essential works to both the church and hall together with our reduced income during and since Covid lockdowns the decision was taken to initially call on parishioner generosity.

And, the level of funds raised to date, \$54,000, is a testament to our parishioner generosity. To all who have contributed to achieve this level of fundraising, thank you.

When the fundraising commenced the target for the complete renovation was \$95,000 with \$75,000 being required for essential works and the balance to provide a fully refurbished interior.

In the event the target funds are not received the works will proceed to full completion and the required balance will be borrowed or funds re-directed from other planned parish activities.

To avoid having to consider these options a further \$31,000 needs to be raised by Christmas.

If you are reading this and are yet to make a contribution please consider doing so at an early opportunity. If you have already been generous please consider your capacity to gift a little more.

I understand that everyone has a different capacity to contribute. Within your own circumstances please consider gifting generously. It is the amount raised from the collective generosity of parishioners that is the finest outcome.

How to donate - See the Parish News back page for the options available for contributing your gift.

The fund will close on Christmas Day 2023 or earlier if \$95,000 is raised.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Prayers and Blessings.

Dispin

"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: Isaiah 2:1-5	Mt 8:5-11
Tue: Isaiah 11:1-10	Lk 10:21-24
Wed: Isaiah 25:6-10	Mt 15:29-37
Thur: Isaiah 26:1-6	Mt 7:21. 24-27
Fri: Genesis 3:9-15. 20	Lk 1:26-38
Sat: Isaiah 30:19-21. 23-26	Mt 9:35-10:1. 6-8

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Weekday Masses

	St John's	Our Lady's
Tue	10am Mass	6pm Mass
Wed	10am Mass	
Thur	No Mass	9.15am Mass
Fri	9am SJV 10am SJM	

AMONGST OUR PARISH FAMILY

We ask for the grace and peace of Eternal life for those who have died recently especially **Brendan Cooke** and for those whose memories are sacred to us at this time including, **Gwen Bourke, Mark Rasmussen and Leo Hortin**



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**



Ask yourself,
Who is God to me?
And who am I to God?

Dec 9/10	St John's 6.00pm	St John's 8.30am	St. John's 9.45am	St John's 11.15am	St. John's 5.00pm
C'Tator Lectors	L Hennessy M Solomons	M De Almeida M Campbell	V Burnie T Wursthorn	T Black C Black	E Umashankar M Day
Eucharist	C Pearson B Meehan	R Smith G Smith A Kook	P Taggart S Harrison V Menon N Wursthorn	J Rea J Kiekebosch N Nguyen	S Solomons
Laptop operator Children's Liturgists	C Kohomban.	G Campbell	A Wursthorn	A O'Reilly	

**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

**Holy Father, we adore You,
we praise You and we worship You.
As we approach the Advent Season,
help us prepare for the birth our Lord
and be blessed with God's love.**
(St John's anonymous parishioner)



BAPTISM WELCOME

Today we welcome

**Piper Mae Holland, Mishka Emilia Costa,
Mael Joseph Silva, Matilda Isabel Mirlenska-Kunz,
Amari Rose Harrison, Luke Aiden Gonaduwege**

*who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism
at St John's during the month of December*



The Funeral Service for

Kevin Buzza

will be celebrated on
Thursday 7th December at 10.30am

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:

Every second Wednesday of the month at 10:30am

St John's Parish Office

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

HOUSE OF BOOKS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This will be on
Sat 9th December at Mitcham Hotel
12.30 to 3.00pm

All volunteers and friends are invited
Please RSVP to the House of books by
Thurs morning **November 30**



**Children's Liturgy at St John's
Every Sunday at 9.45 and 11.15am
during school term**

We have a thriving Children's Liturgy program at St John's but are in dire need of new liturgists. We supply everything you need to lead the session and all activities are prepared for you. We only run during the school term so we ask you to please consider volunteering to help us continue to offer this program to our smallest parishioners who, together with their families are the future of our Parish. The new roster will begin next year. For more information or to register your interest, please contact Diane Hancock on 0418128408.

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.



**CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS
AT CHRISTMAS MASSES**

We need volunteers to assist at Christmas Masses as special ministers, lectors, commentators and laptop operators. You can register your name on the list in the church or contact the parish office mitcham@cam.org.au or 9401 6366. Thanks for your participation.

SENIORS GROUP MASS & LUNCH

The next St. John's Seniors monthly 11am Mass (including anointing of the sick) & Lunch will be held on **Wednesday 6 December**. For catering purposes please call the Parish office 9401 6366 to confirm your attendance by Monday 5 December. All are welcome.



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



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

St John's Parish Community Fete Raffle

Many thanks for your support of the 2023 St John's Parish Community Fete Raffle. Our wonderful prizes would not be possible without the financial support of our sponsors:

Biggin and Scott Mitcham, Whitehorse Medical Centre, Cycle Science Mitcham, Vermont Junior Football Club, Bucatini Restaurant and Bar, Mitcham Junior Football Club, Snap Printing Ringwood

Thank you to everyone who assisted in the selling of tickets both on Fete Day and after Masses, and especially Manuela in the Parish Office.

Special thanks to the Verona & Dave, the School Secretaries and the School Families of St John's Primary School and St James' Primary School who supported this important Fete initiative.

2023 Raffle Winners

1 st Prize	Ticket 00208	6 th Prize	Ticket 08081
2 nd Prize	Ticket 05397	7 th Prize	Ticket 05458
3 rd Prize	Ticket 04493	8 th Prize	Ticket 08563
4 th Prize	Ticket 08032	9 th Prize	Ticket 04047
5 th Prize	Ticket 00572	10 th Prize	Ticket 07446

Many thanks, Gracie and Robin Smith

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The St. Johns Music Ministry are about to start practicing for this year's 8.30pm and 11.00pm Christmas Eve services. We are extending an invitation to Parishioners who would like to be a part of the Ministry for these services. If you are a singer or someone who plays a musical instrument other than keyboard or guitar and is available for practices in the church on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.00pm then please contact the Parish Office.

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 the Parish Office at \$10 each.

HOUSE OF BOOKS

Monday—Friday 10am - 4pm

Saturday 10am-1pm

Closed Sundays & Public Holidays.



The shop has a great range of good quality second hand books at very low prices. Proceeds support St John's and St Vincent de Paul. Phone: 9401 6306

CAFÉ @ ST JOHN'S

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

When: Wednesday 20 December

Time: 10:30am to 11:30am

Venue: Church Narthex



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

ST JOHN'S CARD MAKING GROUP

 Our handmade Christmas cards will be on sale after Masses in the Narthex this weekend 2/3rd December and next weekend 9/10th weekend or unless sold out.

We have a wonderful supply of cards this year so please shop early to avoid missing out. Cards will also be available to purchase from the Parish Office and the House of Books. 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—CHRISTMAS GIFTS

We are again requesting the donation of Gift Cards that recipients of our Christmas hampers can use to choose their own gift. Cards from Big W, Kmart or similar retailers offering a wide range of products would be best. Gift cards can be left after Mass in a basket at the Piety Stall in the Narthex or with the Parish Office. It would be appreciated if these could be delivered by **December 12th**. Thanks, The Vinnies team.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL—CHRISTMAS FOOD

The Vinnies team provide Christmas food hampers to needy people in the area. Food donations of tinned ham, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, long life custard, shortbread biscuits, tinned fruit would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made at the Parish Office from Tuesday to Friday between 9am-3pm, or in the Narthex in the Mass center. Thank you to all our parishioner who continue to generously support this worthy cause. All enquiries contact Ross Hancock on 0419 117 343.



“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.