

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

🌐 www.melbcatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Nhân Le

Secretary: Paula McKernan

Office Hours: 9:30am to 5pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm

Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

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St Martin de Porres School

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Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

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🌐 www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10:00am

Saturday 5:30pm

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,
Avondale Heights

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Website: www.asjmoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Nancy Apostolidis; Nancy Green; Helen Borg; Charlie Coxhead; Phyllis Xerri; Frank Logha; Silvia & Thomas Galic; Patrick & Norma Moore; Milvia Cutajar; Mary Jones; Alexander, Felipe, Anne; Phillip; Elena and Lorenzo.

Recently Deceased:

Helen Bloomquist; Maria Granato; Corry Mifsud; Tony Gangemi; Rev. Leonard Thomas PE; Janet Dunne; Concetta La Pila; Joseph Giliberto; Maria Ferraro.

Anniversaries & Remembrances

Maria Dinh Thi Nhu; Peter & Maria Dau; Domenico & Maria Nguyen; Amalia Gangemi; Anunzia & Fantino Avignone; Tonina Darmanin; Francis, Bernarda, Joseph & Maria Consiglia Grima; Emmanuel, Teresa, Filomenu Sammut; Charlie Sciberras; Carmelo & Rita Debono; Emmanuel & Nazzarena Farrugia; Victor Apap; Dominic Cumbo; Charlie Galea; Victor Micallef.

Contributing to the Collections

You may wish to use the QR code if you have left your cash at home.



HOLIDAY MASSES

Wednesday - New Year's Day 10:00am

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Benediction

After Mass



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays 2:30pm in the church.
All Welcome!



The Season of Christmas



Thank You to Our Many, Many Parish Helpers & Supporters

A special thanks to the musicians & singers for all their work during the year - especially the Christmas Masses. Our thanks also to the Parish Office Helpers, Pastoral Team, Liturgy Committee, Parish Catechists, Baptism Team, RCIC Team, Pastoral Care Group, St Vincent de Paul Members, Parish Council, Finance Committee; Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, Altar Servers, Counters, Collectors, Sacristy Team, Flower Donors & Arrangers, Church & Window Cleaners, Garden & Grounds Team, Working Bee Teams, Electricians, Plumbers, Painters, Handymen, St Joseph The Worker Maintenance Group, Social Committee, Hall Fundraising Committee, St Martin's School Teachers & Administration Staff, School Parents & Friends, and the School Board for all their support throughout the year. A final thankyou to the helpers during the Christmas season delivering Christmas cards, decorating our Christmas tree, constructing our nativity scene, preparing the church and all those who have left a gift under the tree.

*Wishing everyone a
Holy Christmas and a
Safe and Happy New Year.*

Fr Nhân



NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make yourself known to us by completing the *New Parishioners Form* in Documents and Forms under Recommended Links on our website and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.

Christmas Prayer

Meister Eckhart once said:

'What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago if he is not born now in your heart?'

Lord, we do far too much
celebrating your actual coming in our heart.

I believe in God,
but do I believe in God-in-me?
I believe in God in heaven,
but do I believe in God-on-earth?
I believe in God out there,
but do I believe in God-with-us?

Lord, be born in my heart.
Come alive in me this Christmas!
Amen.

Living Faith, Vol. 4, # 3



The Presence of Christmas

by William Arthur Ward

Christmas is not just a season,
Christmas is not just a day,
Christmas is more than a reason
For parties, presents and play.

Christmas is truly the essence
Of joy that the Saviour brings;
Christmas is surely the presence
Of Jesus, the Kings of Kings!

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The specifics of customs and roles played within the family may be culture-bound, but the values out of which they emerge are not. Though Sirach sketches a picture of ancient family customs, it is easy to look beneath them and find values that are enduring and that speak to us today. There we discover mutuality, respect and service between wives and husbands, between parents and children and between the young and the old.

The model placed before us is the Holy Family. There we find mutuality in the relationships; compassion, kindness, and humility; gentleness and patience; obedience to parents along with respect for the uniqueness of children. In this portrait of the Holy Family, people do not claim privilege. Jesus, who was the Son of God, submitted himself to his human mother and father. Mary and Joseph, who exercised authority over Jesus, also stood in wonder of him.

While this feast considers the family unit, it also celebrates the Church as the Family of God. Thus the values of mutuality, respect and service become characteristics of the Church or the ecclesial family. What binds the family of God together are virtues that are as relational as are the ties that bind the members of the natural family together. Within the family of God, the virtues outlined by Paul are to be lived in a mature manner. We are all called in one body to live in a collaboration of love, of mutuality, and of service. We are joined in a bond of perfection.



ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 38 New Missal: 137



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year C

29 December 2025

First Reading Sirrach 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life. (R.)

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!**