 **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**

441 Bluff Road, East Hampton. VIC 3188 Australia

Parish Priest: Fr. Vittorio Ricciardi

***Tel: + 61 (03) 9598 5246***

**E-mail:** **IHMC@optusnet.com.au**

**Web:** [**www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast**](http://www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast)

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS **

**JOIN IN SINGING THE CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH MASS**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS**

It is an important moment for all of us to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas. This year, Fr Vittorio will be available for the individual confessions. In other words, we will adopt the first rite of the sacrament of penance. From the 21st December until 24th December, Fr Vittorio will be available for confession at 10.15am.

**GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING OUR MASSES**

The restrictions relating to Church gatherings as they currently affect us are:

1. The numbers who can attend Mass in our Church are now 100. This is based on the Government’s formula of one person for every four-square metres of floor space.
2. Masks are **NOT** required to be worn in Church (if social distancing can be observed).
3. Social distancing (1.5 m separation) must be observed during movement into and seating in the Church and our pews have been marked accordingly to assist.
4. Attendance/contact rolls must be maintained as is presently the case.
5. We have, as many parishioners now attending Mass know, continued to have a "Duty Officer" in the Narthex to take bookings and record attendees details as required. This has been done to avoid bottlenecks on entry to the Church (which would occur if we were to leave parishioners to complete the roll themselves or we would have to have multiple rolls).
6. Our attendances are increasing and at Christmas we anticipate a surge in numbers which will mean it is important that Parishioners book for Mass (ring 95983979) to guarantee that they have a seat at the Mass of their choice. Just turning up means you could be turned away if the nominated Church capacity of 100 has been reached.

Collection bowls are located in the main aisle for the Thanksgiving collection and the Presbytery collection. Thank you to all who have helped financially over this difficult year.

**MASS TIMES**

We have now resumed all our weekday Masses (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am) together with Masses on Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 9am and 10:30am. In this Christmas week Masses will be as follows:

**Monday 21 December 9:00am Mass (to book call 95983979)**

**Tuesday 22 December 9:00am Mass (to book call 95983979)**

**Wednesday 23 December 9:00am Mass (to book call 95983979)**

**Thursday 24 December 9.00am No morning Mass**

 **6:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass**

 **12.00pm Midnight Christmas Mass**

 **(to book call 95983979)**

**Friday 25 December 9:00am Christmas Day Mass**

 **10:30 am Christmas Day Mass**

 **(to book call 95983979)**

**Saturday 26 December 6:00pm Mass (to book call 95983979)**

**Sunday 27 December 9:00am Mass (to book call 95983979)**

**Sunday 27 December 10:30am Mass (to book call 95983979**

All Sunday Masses will still continue to be broadcast on Zoom (login via the Parish website on [www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast](http://www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast)), until further notice. Weekday Masses will continue as normal **without Zoom.**

Follow the link on our Parish website for the liturgy and songs, including a copy of this bulletin.

All information about our Parish is on our website [www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast](http://www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast)

 **CONTACT TRACING**

In order to help reduce the clerical workload on the Parish the Archdiocese has helped in facilitating the introduction of a system for people who have so called “smart phones”. The system has been referred to as a “QR code for contact tracing” system. The “new system” would allow Parishioners with “smart phones to scan a code on entering the Church allowing this parishioner to enter their details (Christian Name, Surname, email address and Phone Number). While this system could perhaps reduce some of the clerical workload of the Parish, the current manual system would still have to be run in parallel for those without smart phones and bookings would still be recorded manually. The Parish will investigate this system after Christmas.

 **OFFICERS AT MASS**

With the Covid restrictions affecting our Masses our rosters with nominated readers, eucharistic ministers, those carrying up the gifts, collections etc have not operated as before. With things returning to some normality we hope to reintroduce at least some of these responsibilities and parishioners who would like to become involved should advise Father Vittorio.

**REFLECTION ON 4th Sunday of Advent – Luke 1:26-38**

The Annunciation to Mary inaugurates “the fullness of time,” the time of the fulfillment of God’s promises and preparations.

Mary was invited to conceive him in whom the “whole fullness of deity” would dwell “bodily.” The divine response to her question, “How can this be, since I know not man?” was given by the power of the Spirit: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you. “The mission of the Holy Spirit is always conjoined and ordered to that of the Son. The Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the giver of Life,” is sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary and divinely fecundate it, causing her to conceive the eternal Son of the Father in a humanity drawn from her own.

The Father’s only Son, conceived as man in the womb of the Virgin Mary, is “Christ”, anointed by the Holy Spirit. From the beginning of his human existence, the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the events of the birth of Christ takes place only progressively: to the shepherds, to the magi, to John the Baptist, to the disciples. Thus, the whole life of Jesus Christ will make manifest “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.”

At the announcement that she would give birth to “the Son of the Most High” without knowing man, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary responded with the obedience of faith. Certainly true is that “with God nothing will be impossible”: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word.” Thus, giving her consent to God’s word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus. Espousing the divine will for salvation wholeheartedly, without a single sin to restrain her, she gave herself entirely to the person and to the work of her Son; she did so in order to serve the mystery of redemption with him and dependent on him, by God’s grace.

**Thanksgiving Collection Weekend: 13/12/2020 – $417.00**

**Loose Money: 13/12/2020 – $119.80**

**Once again thank you for your generosity. My dear Parishioner, You are fantastic!!**

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Christian James; Filippo and Sara, Joe Harb, Sophia, Daniel Rivalland, Georgette Kheir, Christine Banerjee, Ettore Poletta, Francesco Paolo Ricciardi, Gemma Foster, Victoria Foster; Millie D’Alton, Claire Posten, James Morrison, Catalina Morrison,; Rosa Maria Santos,Ben, Mary Muscat, Patrick Lakagreagrow, Brian Tierney, , Carmel Kanci, Jo Arena, Pam Montgomery, Helen Mille; Jason Denis; Mary Westhead; Rosa Nistico, Margaret Denis; Arthur Astarlis, , Lourenca Fernandes, Prithie Pereira, Madison Kelly, Pat Flarve.

**SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

Mickey Mascarenhas**;** Vincent & Tina Giglio; Louisette Harris; Connie Kilpatrick, Nelson Trapani; Jim Walsh; Miriam Proctor; Elva Ebdon, Vince Giglio, John Rivalland,Douglas Gonsalves, Charlotte Godfrey, Linda D’Souza; Felix Lobo, Margaret Herbstreit; Trevor Anthony Fernandez,Pauline Burke, Sandra Highland, Rudolph D’Souza, Michelle Fowler, Sam Molino, Margherita M. La Macchia, Joan Elliot, Archimede Camba, Denzel D’Souza, Melissa D’Souza John Noal, Lorraine Thompson, Peg Smith, Gladys DeRosario, Molly Wintle, Florencio David Sr, Kathy Taranto, Maureen Collins, John Palamara, May Ray, Milan Lozo, Albert & Hillary D’Souza; Shannon Baker; Margaret Dowsey, Janine Capiron; George Tickner; Jack Foley; Marie Rivalland; Sheila McKenna; Peter Dunne; Tony Molloy; Dulcie Jopling; Gerard Bourke, Alfred Foster, Joan Mealing; Judith Buckley; Genevieve Rodrigues Jean Allday; Gloria James; Earnie Breznik; Margaret Daveron; Patrick & Maurice Kelly; Edward Majda; Elizabeth Mary McKay; John H. Moloney; +Fr. Frank Maher; +Fr. Victor Crennan.