



St Peter Julian Eymard Catholic Church Mooroolbark Parish

We are a Welcoming, Eucharistic and Spirit Filled Community

SPJE IS A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE, THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EDITION

24th December 2023 Issue No: 47

LISTEN AND REFLECT ON THE STORIES

Where am I in my Faith Journey ?

- ♦ John the Evangelist says that we cannot love God and hate our neighbour. How can we welcome others so as to receive Christ this Christmas?
- ♦ Can you think of a time when you or someone you know had to say 'yes' to God and God's way, which involved a difficult 'no' to something else?

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Mass

SPJE School Oval Mass 6.00 pm
Carols commence at 5.30pm

Note: If light showers occur as predicted, Mass will be held at the SPJE school under croft.

9.00pm Church
Carols commence at 8.30pm
NO Mass at 11.00 pm
Christmas Eve in the Church

Christmas Day Mass
9.00 am & 10.30 am

Monday - 1st January 2024
Mass 10am in the church

How great is our joy on this holy day! The Lord of heaven and God of all creation has come to earth and made his dwelling among us as flesh as blood, as one like us in all things but sin. For millennia, God's faithful people waited for the Messiah to come. They recalled the stories of their ancestors and gathered hope from the words of the prophets. How lucky are we to know that the Christ has come, and that God's kingdom is at hand! How blessed that we can know the Lord, meditating on his Word and receiving him in the Eucharist.

Saint Athanasius described the incarnation (God assumed a human nature and became a man in the form of Jesus Christ, the son of God) thusly: God became human so that humanity might become divine. Christmas is not just about the baby lying in the manger, heralded by the angels, and adored by shepherds. Christmas is about God coming into our world so that he could destroy death forever and welcome all who believe into eternal life – the first Christmas gift. Let us treasure this first Christmas gift with a grateful heart!

Merry Christmas!

Fr Joseph Xin Lu

St Peter Julian Eymard Parish Mooroolbark Parish

Parish Priest
Fr. Joseph

Parish Secretary **Parish Assistant**
Mrs. Adriana De Leo Mr. Brian Twining

Parish Office
234 Hull Road (PO Box 2) Mooroolbark 3138
Telephone: 9723 4275

Office Hours:
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri - 9.00am - 3.00pm
(Office unattended on Wednesday)

<http://pol.org.au/mooroolbark/Home.aspx>
Email: mooroolbark@cam.org.au

Parish Hall - Contact Parish Office

SPJE Parish School
Reay Road, Mooroolbark 3138
Telephone 9725 0595
School Principal – Mr. Greg Thomas
Email: office@spjemooroolbark.catholic.edu.au
<http://www.spjemooroolbark.catholic.edu.au>

St. Richard's Parish School
672 Mt. Dandenong Rd Kilsyth, 3137
Telephone 9728 4378
Email: office@srkilsyth.catholic.edu.au
School Principal - Mr. Marcus Gill
<http://www.srkilsyth.catholic.edu.au>

Normal Mass Times at SPJE

Weekday Masses
Tues & Wed : 9.30 am
Saturday: No morning Mass
Saturday: 6.00 pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 9.00 am
Sunday: 11.00 am

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.15 pm
or by arrangement with Priest.
Sacraments (Baptism, Weddings)
Ring Parish Office 9723 4275

WEEKDAY MASS

**NO WEEKDAY MASSES DURING
JANUARY 2024**

New Years Day 10am

This Week's Readings - 24th December

**2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16: Ps 88:2-5, 27,29:
Rom 16:25-27: Lk 1:26-38**

Prayers for the Sick

We pray for parishioners and friends who are ill,
especially

**Ignatius Suan Lian Thang, Reji, Annette,
Sr Moira Sheedy, Benito Cordedda.**

✠ Remembrance Diary ✠

We remember those who have died,
especially

Sr Joan Toole
(Sisters of St Joseph at Mooroolbark)

and all those whose anniversaries occur
about this time.

**We pray for all those whose
anniversaries occur in late December
and January**

THANK YOU BRIAN

We wish to advise that Brian will be retiring
from his role in the parish after 11 years of
service.

On behalf of Fr Joseph and parish community we
wish to thank Brian for all his hard work both in
the parish office and on the grounds.

In the new year Brian will continue volunteering
in the church gardens.

ROSTERS

Counters - Month of January 2024

Jan Phippard & Philomena Turner

Flowers - Month of January

No Flowers required

Church Cleaners - Month of January

Frances Braganza & Laurel Simpson

(Please arrange to collect church key from
parish office or the lock box at the front door)
Monday - Friday — 9.30am - 3.30pm)

Readers & Commentators January

As per church noticeboard

Musicians January 2024

As per church noticeboard



Ladies January Luncheon 2023 **Ora D'oro**

23 Hewish Rd Croydon

Tuesday January 9th

Please note this is the second

Tuesday in January

Meet at 12 midday for lunch at 12.30

Contact Philomena Turner 0417 208 077 or

Nancy Gough 0411 137 251

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If assistance is
required, please contact
1800 305 330

Mon to Fri 10am to 3pm

Archbishop Comensoli's 2023

Christmas Message

Dear friends, we hear these words from the ancient
prophet Isaiah (52:7):

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announc-
es peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation ...*

These are beautiful words—old words, first spoken in old
days, yet so sorely needed in our day!

Amid this time of conflict, suffering and exile, Isaiah
speaks to us words of peace and the good news about the
Prince of Peace.

Our hearts ache for reconciliation of peoples; respect for
our shared humanity; care for our crying planet. Our
world and its people seem to be groaning and railing
against pathways to true peace.

Yet we experience the hope of God through simple words
of joy, mercy and peace.

The shepherds experienced this. So did the Magi. Mary
and Joseph knew it intimately.

God knew we needed his Son to come amongst us, to
show us the way ahead.

As we come to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord this
year, might we be attentive to the broken people across
the world who are held captive by the tragedy of war and
old hatreds.

Might we also remember those exiled in other ways—
bereft of knowing God; lost and searching for identity and
purpose.

We too can be the messengers whose footfalls bring light
into the world, announcing mercy, bringing joy, offering
Good News.

God has come among us, simply, humbly and hopefully
in a little child, his Son, our Brother.

May the peace that comes through this child, the Prince of
Peace, be with you this Christmas.

And with every footstep, may you take His message,
and life, out into the world.

Happy Christmas to you all!

