

Parish Priest Fr. Nhân Le
St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

Website: www.cam.org.au/avondaleheights

Parish Secretary: Paula McKernan
 Pastoral Associate: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm
 Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vo)
 Phone: 9337 6016
 Fax: 9337 1943
 E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey
 Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano & Maria Aloe
 Phone: 9331 9000
 E-mail: principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au
 Website: www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday English 8:00am & 9:30am
 Italian 11:00am
 Vietnamese 12:30pm
Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday 9:15am
Adoration & Benediction Wed after Mass
Stations of the Cross - After Mass
 Vietnamese Mothers' Group Thursday
 English Friday
Reconciliation Wednesday 9:45am
 Saturday 5:30pm

St. John Bosco's Parish

29 Muriel Street, Niddrie 3042

Priest in Residence: Fr Thomas Toretciu

Parish Secretary: Faye Colaco
 Phone: 9337 9994
 E-mail: niddrie@cam.org.au

St. John Bosco's School

6 Teague Street, Niddrie 3042

Principal: Peter Monaghan
 Phone: 9337 2314
 E-mail: principal@sjbniddrie.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am
Weekday Masses Tuesday - Thursday 9:00am
 Friday 9:15am
Stations of the Cross Friday 7:00pm
Reconciliation Saturday 5:30pm

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court, Avondale Heights
 Phone: 9337 4595
 E-mail: spinelli@bigpond.net.au
 Website: www.asjmoz.org

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick: Veronica Dovey; Liz Miller; Sandi O'Sullivan; Catherine Barrett; Marion Julien; Mary Frewen; Verna Nigli; Dennis O'Sullivan; Lidija Dugandzic; Joe Doran; Sharon Leach; Nancy Green; Eva Abramovic; Marko Samarzija; Linda Piccardini; Joslyn D'Silva.

Recently Deceased:

Gabriele Di Martino; Nayara Ramos Gonzaga (Brazil); Frank Testa; Larry Paulusz; Frank De Giorgio; Sr Carmelina Borg asjm; Sr Nancy Bezzina asjm; Pasqualina Rocca (Italy); Rocco Frachea.

Anniversaries and Remembrances:

Frank Cugliari (1st); Saveria & Gregorio Asta; Aldo Asta; Leonardo Strano; Alfia Di Mauro; Filippa Caruso; Rosa & Sebastiano Caruso; Marguerita Barra; Callum Fox; Patricia Crawford; Roshan Mendoza; Marlene Allen; Francis, Bernarda, Joseph & Maria Consiglia Grima; Emmanuel, Teresa, Filomenu Sammut; Carmelo & Rita Debono; Emmanuel & Nazzarena Farrugia; Dominic Cumbo; Charlie Sciberras; Tonina Darmanin.

ST JOHN BOSCO'S INFORMATION

Collections:

Thanksgiving \$544 Loose: \$840
 Presbytery: \$244 Credit Card: \$765

Position Vacant - Parish Secretary Niddrie

An opportunity for a part time position (approx. 24 hrs /week) is available at St John Bosco Niddrie. For further information and a copy of the Position Description contact Fr Thomas Toretciu or Paula McKernan at avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Bible Study Group

Exploring the wonders of God's word through the guidance of the Holy Spirit will truly enlighten and uplift our hearts.

Please make a note of this year's meetings which are held at 4pm in the presbytery.

24 February; No March meeting due to Easter;

6 April; 27 April; 25 May; 29 June; 27 July;

24 August; 21 September; 26 October; and

20 November which is the final meeting for 2024.

God Bless and in Christ from Pan Giannenas.

Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please contact the office on 9337 9994 if you could help in taking Communion to those unable to attend Mass.

Statue of Our Lady

Please contact the office if you wish to have the Statue of Our Lady in your home for one week,

ST MARTIN DE PORRES INFORMATION

Collections: Parish Support Programme:

Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$1,894 Shortfall: \$694
 Loose: \$864 Presbytery: \$1,723

Instructions for Baptism Starting Soon

Anyone who would like to become a Catholic please contact the Parish Office.



Christian Meditation

Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus

All welcome: Mondays 10 - 11am
 in the Church Parent's Room.
 February 19; March 4 & 18



Devotion to Divine Mercy

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



St Martin's Prep Enrolments for 2025

Applications Now Open

Please apply at the School Office or
 phone 9331 9000.

Lenten Programme

Reflection Sessions with Sr. Connie

Tuesdays after Mass in the Pastoral
 Centre Meeting Room. Commencing
 13th February. All welcome.



Lenten Faith & Fellowship

Lent is a time of great graces! As Catholics, we often wonder 'How does it all fit together?' & 'What difference does it make to our lives?'

This Lent the Parish is presenting 4 stunning episodes of Augustine Institute's "**Symbolon - the Catholic Faith Explained**" over 4 Tuesdays at 7pm starting **Tuesday 27th February in St Martin's Parish Hall**. (Discussion Guides & Refreshments provided). Register online: <https://bit.ly/3Sg8Kjk> or email: rosecalandra22@gmail.com or call 0411 040 669

Lenten Regulations from the Archdiocese

Copies in the foyer of the church.

St Martin's Parish Picnic

Sunday 17 March. Keep the date free. Venue to be confirmed.



First Sunday of Lent 17/18 February

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion

through Project Compassion boxes & envelopes, by scanning the barcode, by calling 1800 024 413 or go to caritas.org.au/project-compassion



Project Compassion Prayer 2024

God of all hope,
 we pray for our world with all its beauty and need.
 We thank you for the love in our lives that is a mirror
 of your unending love.

May all creation know your compassion this Lent
 and may we take courage to share it,
 especially with those who don't
 have what they need.

In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to
 Moses:

'I will be with you,'

when you ask us to do courageous things.

Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving,
 move us to act in the company of your Spirit,
 showing compassion and acting for justice
 to renew the face of the Earth,
 now and for all future generations.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen

St Monica's Charismatic Prayer Meeting

Extends a warm welcome to you to praise and
 worship God our Father through Jesus in the power of
 the Holy Spirit. Your musical talents are especially
 welcome. Contact Gerald 9337 0475.

Thursdays 7:30pm Symons Centre, Mt Alexander Rd.

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parishes of St Martin de Porres and St John Bosco,
 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.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make yourself
 known to us by completing this form and leaving it
 in the collection basket.

Parish of: _____

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

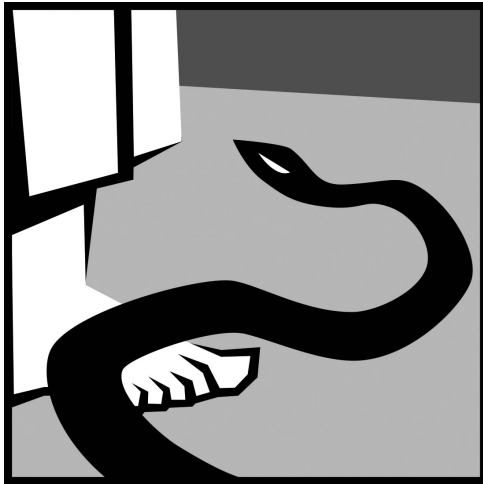
Phone No. _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAMME

We encourage you to join our programme.
 Please ring the Parish Office or visit our website.



REFLECTION by Fr. Thomas Toretciu

Jesus was tempted by Satan. The word 'tempted' can be translated as tested to ascertain. The forty (40) days of lent are a period of discernment and a period of asceticism. The word 'asceticism' comes from the Greek word 'askesis' which means 'exercise' or 'training.' Ascetics in the literal sense is 'to keep fit' or 'disciplined' by our exercise or training well as spiritually fit, as we keep fit by our physical exercise. During lent by giving up something such as ice cream, a cup of coffee, smoking, etc., by denying myself some legitimate pleasure, I am strengthening my 'will' assisted by the grace of God. This exercise will strengthen me in fighting against temptation. Lent is a time of asceticism and discernment of what God is asking of you. "The spirit drives Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan" (Mk 1.12). The gospel of Mark invites us to hear the new story 'the greater story of the exodus, Israelites fleeing from slavery in Egypt and pass through the sea. Israelites tested for forty years in the desert before entering into the Promised Land. Jesus undoes history and gave us great hope. The desert is the arena where God chooses to meet us. A place of revelation, conversion, and transformation. A place of new being born again through our inner revelation to revolution. "I am going to seduce her and lead her into the desert and speak to her heart" (Hos 2.14). The desert is the place to eliminate the distractions and attachments to hear the voice of God. Noah's Ark was a means of salvation that cleansed the world of sin, so baptism is an inner cleansing. Lent calls us to be more deeply aware of our choice to live as a Christian life and the values. In the midst of a secular world, Christians are invited to live the gospel values of generosity, compassion, self-giving, and forgiveness. Lent provides us to refocus our lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested and to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone but for all who will heed his words and follow his calls. In announcing the good news, Jesus made two demands: repent and believe.

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Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

*No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

Gospel Mk 1:12-15

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Mark**

*He was tempted by Satan, and the angels
looked after him.*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



ST MARTIN DE PORRES & ST JOHN BOSCO'S

Catholic Parishes

Avondale Heights & Niddrie



1st Sunday of Lent, Year B

18 February 2024

First Reading Gen 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

**(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and
truth to those who keep your
covenant.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*The water of the flood is a type of the baptism
which saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.