



## CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

## The Presentation of the Lord. Year A 2 February 2020

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev Martin Ashe
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	Rev Shymon Thekkekalathungal
<b>Parish Secretary:</b>	Margaret Stanford [Tues & Fri: 9.00a.m. – 4.00p.m]
<b>Pastoral Associate:</b>	Sandy Starbuck Tue, Wed, Fri [9401 6322]
<b>Baptisms:</b>	Christine Hall [Mon & Tues]
<b>Sacraments:</b>	Contact Parish Office [9412 8493]
<b>Finance/Admin:</b>	Monique Heckmann Tue, Wed, Thur [9412 8493]
<b>Parish Office:</b>	48 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda 3754
<b>Postal address:</b>	P.O. Box 221, Mernda 3754
<b>Phone Number:</b>	9412 8493
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au">merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.cam.org.au/merndawhittlesea">www.cam.org.au/merndawhittlesea</a>

### Nazareth Centre

#### (St Joseph's Primary School)

44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754

Weekend Masses: Nazareth Centre:

Sat. 5:30 pm Sun. 8 am Sunday 10:30 am

Children's Liturgy each Sunday 10.30am

#### St Mary's

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 am

Weekend Mass: Sunday 10 am

Children's Liturgy each Sunday 10am

Reconciliation 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 10 am

#### St Mary's

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763

Weekend Mass Sunday 8:30 am

#### St Joseph's

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754

Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15 am

Reconciliation 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 10 am

*We pray for those who have died recently:*

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Antony Thomas, Mary Buttigieg

*We pray for those who are ill in our community:*

We pray for those who are welcomed into our community with Christ this weekend: Mason Verrocchi, Aleksandra Bloomfield, Michael Bloomfield

#### **Entrance Antiphon:**

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple.  
Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**First Reading:** Malachi 3:1-4

#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 2:14-18

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

#### **Next week: 5th Sun Ord Time Year A**

First: Isaiah 58:7-10

Second: St Paul to Cor 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

#### **Gospel Reflection:**

##### **Learning from Simeon and Anna.**

Mary and Joseph must have often pondered, as did Simeon and Anna, wondering what destiny lay ahead for their child. Like most parents, they probably had high hopes for him, which are echoed in the words of Anna, while the prophecy of Simeon contains a somewhat more ominous tone.

Incidentally, the custom of blessing candles today comes from an ancient Roman custom. The special location ("station") for celebrating today's feast was a church in the ruins of the Forum called *Santa Maria in Foro* and, since it was in the dark of wintertime, the people used lighted candles to find their way among the ruins. The devotion to the baby Jesus, as the Light of the World, presents him as one who overcomes the darkness.

Both Simeon and Anna have something to show us about how to receive the Lord. Simeon's response on meeting the infant Jesus was a hymn of praise to God. Anna's response was to speak about Jesus to others, especially to those who were waiting for God's help in time of need. While Simeon worshipped, Anna bore witness, calling others to Jesus.

Today's feast invites us to welcome the Lord in prayer and in witness. We thank our loving God for the gift of his Son, the light of the world. We share our joy with others because the Lord who entered his temple has entered our lives too. Today we learn from Simeon and Anna how to welcome his gracious coming.

**Association of Catholic Priests.**

**2019 PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM RESULTS.** On behalf of my fellow priest Father Shymon, members of the Parish Renewal Program team and our entire parish staff, we want you to know how much we appreciate your presence and participation in our parish communities. It's been an eventful past two months and we would not have achieved our Program results without the engagement of parishioners who offered their time and God-given talents and financial pledge commitments. Effective 22 December 2019, Christ the Light Catholic Parish has pledged Stewardship income of \$2,809 per week (a 40% increase) from 204 givers, i.e. 171 existing and 33 new contributors. Your willingness to be part of our Groups and Ministries has resulted in 92 parishioners committing to help support everything that we do. Thank you all very much. With sincere gratitude, Fr Martin.

**Our Parish Feast Day of Christ the Light.** On this weekend we celebrate our Parish Feast Day of Christ the Light. We are reminded in our gospel of Simeon lifting up the child in his arms on the light for all nations. The light of Jesus comes to save and liberate us from the darkness of all that is dehumanising and evil. In embracing us with mercy and compassion, we find new hope through the life-giving presence of Jesus. May we become beacons of this light within our families and all those we come to meet in our daily life. On Saturday 15th of February we are all invited to celebrate as a parish community. It is an opportunity for all to deepen our sense of belonging and involvement with each other within one Parish of Christ the Light.

**Parish Feast Day BBQ:** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 6.15 pm at St Joseph Primary School, 44 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda. A family BBQ to be held on the lawn area of the school grounds. Sausages and steak in bread, salads, cold cans of drink and sweets/desserts available for purchase. Coin toss and children's games, will be held, for all to join in and enjoy. (Don't forget to bring your gold coins for the coin toss). Bring your own alcohol, drinking glasses, picnic rugs or folding chairs. If anyone can donate any sweets/desserts it would be greatly appreciated, please remember to list ingredients for anyone with allergies. Looking forward to seeing you all there helping to celebrate our combined Parish feast day. Don't forget to pray for good weather.



**We congratulate Ray Rosales**, from our Parish Community, who was awarded from The City of Whittlesea Council, an Australia Day Award for Senior Citizen of the Year. Here is a link from Whittlesea City Neighbourhood Watch Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/100002239651783/posts/2724403957644233/?d=n>

**Gathering to Pray During Lent** --Lenten Prayer will be offered to our Parish community on the five Fridays of Lent following the inspiration and teaching of St Ignatius. The prayer life of Pope Francis is based on this form of prayer developed over many years. This will provide an opportunity for deepening our prayer life –join us on **Friday, 7 February – 7pm – 8.30pm at the Nazareth Centre** to learn more.

**Wednesday Mass, 5th February**

Nazareth Centre

At 9:15am



Thank you to all those who responded to God's invitation to volunteer in the various areas of Ministry within the Parish of Christ the Light. At present, we are processing the many Groups and Ministry Forms completed during our recent Parish Renewal Program. Details of Volunteer Induction including Training and Formation will be forthcoming. A 3 month roster was sent via email that includes the experienced volunteers in Ministry rostered on. Please call Sandy Starbuck, Pastoral Associate, 9401 6322.



Christ the Light Parish welcomes the **Catholic families whose children attend schools other than Catholic** who are interested in their child preparing for the Sacraments of the Church, to contact us to discuss the **preparation program for 2020**. Preparation for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** commences with a **Registration Evening on Wednesday 5 February, 7pm** – at the Nazareth Centre-St Joseph's Primary School, Mernda. For more information please call – Sandy Starbuck, Pastoral Associate – 9401 6322.

**Social/Fundraising Meeting:** Tuesday 4th February at the Parish Office at 7pm

**MERENDA COMMUNITY**

**Nazareth Centre Set up:** Saturday 8th February at 4:30pm.

Deepthi Fernando, Dinesh Fernando, Ushmani Fernando, Rosa Rinaldi, Maria Mathew

**WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** Saturday 8th February at St Mary's, Fir Street, Whittlesea at 10am.



*We are a Child Safe Parish. We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.*