



# ST. PAUL PARISH

Under the Care of the Claretian Missionaries

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**PARISH STAFF** Parish Priest: Fr. Renato Manubag, CMF. Assistant Priest: Fr Joseph Van Lang Nga, CMF.

Parish Secretary: Ms. Audrey Williamson

**SCHOOLS** Mr Damian Casamento (Principal) St Paul's Primary School 9363 1568

Ms Karen Bergin (Principal) St Peter's Primary School 8312 6900

Church Bank Account details: National Australia Bank BSB: 083 - 347, Acct : 5531 76372

Presbytery Account details : National Australia Bank BSB: 083 - 347 Acct : 1642 82905

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. Collection Total = \$2617.70

## Advent Week 4: Purple Advent Candle, Peace

On the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the last candle is lit, which is purple. This candle represents peace and reminds us of the importance of Peace as the true Savior of the world is coming.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SALE THIS WEEKEND ONLY IN THE CHURCH FOYER.

Details of available career positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

**NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE?** Disposal of a car from a deceased estate, or when a family member has had to relinquish their licence or go into residential care, can be a challenging process - getting a road-worthy, taking photos to advertise on the internet, cleaning and polishing, taking calls (if they come), even garaging it until a prospective buyer turns up (if indeed they do!).

If you need to dispose of a vehicle either from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, please consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Geelong Foundation", a registered charity with tax deductible status which for nine years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims / survivors of church-related sexual abuse.

Many of these suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and have limited or no employment. A donated vehicle could vastly improve their quality of life.

If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", please contact Fr. Kevin Dillon (0421 777 360, or [frkdillon@outlook.com.au](mailto:frkdillon@outlook.com.au)) or Adam Kaali (0411 486 605, or [adamkaali@hotmail.com](mailto:adamkaali@hotmail.com)).

**WE PRAY FOR: For Healing:** Millie Montario, Danica Marie, Ann Martin, Betty & Thomas, Pat Reynolds, Rose Hurt, Charlie Bonello, **Recently Deceased:** Gorga Bajada, Katrina Gatt, Sebastina Corso, **Anniversaries:** Bezzina & Vella Families **Our Dear Departed:** Iginio Zanni, Natu Portelli, Liberata, Carmelo, Mikelina, Cikku, Carmena, Guzeppi, Mathew & Gloria Montebello, Tereza, Guzeppi & Carmenu Mifsud, Nina, Carmenu & Salvu Portelli, Sam & Vicky Cassar, Grace Avellino, Joe Caruana, Emy Saffarese, Joan & Carmelo Micallef, Patricia Snaize, Snaize, Cleur & Dougherty families, and all Souls.



## Church Diary (Week beginning 18th Dec 2022)

Saturday 17th/18th Dec Baptism: Ava Prasertchaikul

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday Mass	8.00am	English Mass
	9.00am	Vietnamese Mass followed by Rosary till 10.15am
6.00pm	Vigil Mass + Laurie, Frances & Tony Caruana, Mary & Tony Sant, Joseph & Carmen Cortis, Bastian Micallef, Bill Caruana Borg, Gerga Bajada, George, Doris & Spiteri Families, + Tarcisio Cutajar, Tess Abela	
Sunday Masses (Confession half an hour before all Masses on Sunday)		
8.00 am	English Mass + John M. Vella	
9.30am	English Mass + Joan & Carmelo Micallef, & Felix Camilleri, + Salvatore & Cristina Grasso, + Emmanuel Fenech, Ninu, Salvu & Agnes Zammit	
11.30am	Vietnamese Mass	
1.00pm	Spanish Mass	
6.00pm	Youth Mass	



<b>Monday 19th Dec</b>	8.00am	English Mass + Vietnamese Mass
	9.00am	Lady of Knots Novena Mass
	7.00pm	Novena Mass

<b>Tuesday 20th Dec</b>	8.00am	English Mass + Freddy Brockdorff
	9.00am	Vietnamese Mass
	10.30am	Funeral for Georga Bajada
	7.00pm	Novena Mass

<b>Wednesday 21st Dec</b>	8.00am	English Mass + Vietnamese Mass
	9.00am	Novena Mass
	7.00pm	Novena Mass

<b>Thursday 22nd Dec</b>	8.00am	English Mass + Vietnamese Mass
	9.00am	Novena Mass
	7.00pm	Novena Mass

<b>Friday 23rd Dec</b>	8.00am	English Mass + Vietnamese Mass
	9.00am	Divine Mercy
	3.00pm	Novena Mass
	7.00pm	Novena Mass

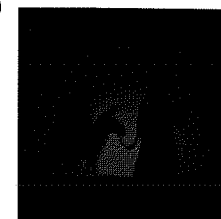
### Saturday 24th/25th Dec Baptism:

Saturday Mass	8.00am	English Mass
	9.00am	Vietnamese Mass followed by Rosary till 10.15am

6.00pm	Vigil Mass	
9.00pm	Vietnamese Mass (Mass in the Hall)	
11.00pm	Mass	

Sunday Masses (Confession half an hour before all Masses on Sunday)

8.00 am	English Mass + John M Vella	
9.30am	English Mass + Joan & Carmelo Micallef, & Felix Camilleri	
11.30am	Vietnamese Mass	
1.00pm	Spanish Mass	
6.00pm	Youth Mass	



Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 1:18–24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

18 DECEMBER 2022

## GOD CARES

While many people can assert that God exists, it is often a huge leap to be able to say with confidence that God cares about what we are going through. It is even a greater leap to be able to say that God actually cares enough to be with us in the complexity and challenges of our lives. Both the first reading from Isaiah and today's Gospel proclaim that God cares enough to be with us and that the living God often works in and through the most disturbing and surprising events. King Ahaz had given in to despair in the face of the imminent attack on Jerusalem by more powerful forces. Joseph was struggling to come to terms with Mary's pregnancy which was both disconcerting and unexpected. Both Ahaz and Joseph were led to recognise that God's presence was to be seen in the birth of a child whose very name – God with us – was a constant reminder not to lose heart in the God who loves us.

As Paul begins the letter to the Romans, he reflects on the marvellous call that he has received to be an apostle. He sets the story of Jesus firmly within the saving history of God's dealings with the people of Israel, but this is not the end of the story. The God of surprises has made it clear to Paul that what happened in the birth of Jesus belongs to all humanity. In Jesus, God has come close to all peoples and Paul's mission is to preach this message to the nations.

## FIRST READING

Isa 7:10–14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men

without trying the patience of God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 23:1–6. R. cf. vv. 7. 10

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. R.

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. R.

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.



## SECOND READING

Rom 1:1–7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**