

**Parish Priest Fr. Nhân Le**  
**St Martin de Porres Parish**

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034  
Website: [www.cam.org.au/avondaleheights](http://www.cam.org.au/avondaleheights)

Parish Secretary: Paula McKernan  
Pastoral Associate: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm  
Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)  
Phone: 9337 6016  
Fax: 9337 1943  
E-mail: [avondaleheights@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au)  
Website: [www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au](http://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 Toretkiu**

Parish Secretary: Faye Colaco  
Phone: 9337 9994  
E-mail: [niddrie@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:spinelli@bigpond.net.au)  
Website: [www.asjmoz.org](http://www.asjmoz.org)

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Sick:** Veronica Dovey; Peter Falzon; Maria Rinaldis; Catherine Barrett; Marion Julien; Mary Frewen; Verna Nigli; Dennis O'Sullivan; Lidija Dugandzic; Joe Doran; Eva Abramovic; Marko Samarzija; Sharon Leach; Nancy Green; Eileen Rhodes; 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; Mario Bellistri; Maria Catalano.

**Anniversaries and Remembrances:**

Sebastian Lamari; Francesco Bond; Francis Bugeja; Rita Cabral; Ellen Duffy; Francis, Bernarda, Joseph & Maria Consiglia Grima; Emmanuel, Teresa, Filomena Sammut; Carmelo & Rita Debono; Emmanuel & Nazzarena Farrugia; Charlie Sciberras; Dominic Cumbo; Tonina Darmanin.

**ST JOHN BOSCO'S INFORMATION**

**Collections:**

Thanksgiving: \$265 Loose: \$922  
Presbytery: \$180 Credit Card: \$965

**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 Toretkiu or Paula McKernan at [avondaleheights@cam.org.au](mailto: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.

This year's meetings – 4pm in the Presbytery:  
2 March; 6 April; 27 April; 25 May; 29 June; 27 July; 24 August; 21 September; 26 October; and 30 November - Final meeting for 2024!

**Communion to the Sick and Elderly**

Please ring the office on 9337 9994 if you could help take 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: \$2,097 Shortfall: \$491  
Loose: \$816 Presbytery: \$1,610

**Christian Meditation**

*Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus*  
All welcome: Mondays 10 - 11am  
in the Church Parent's Room.  
March 4 & 18



**CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEKEND**

**First Reconciliation Rite of Enrolment:**

First Reconciliation children from St Martin's school will be making their Commitment at the 6pm & 9.30am Masses.

**Lenten Programme**

**Reconciliation**

Vietnamese Monday 18th March 7pm  
English & Italian Tuesday 19th March 7pm

**Easter Rosters in the Church Foyer**

Please indicate where you can help.



**Reflection Sessions with Sr. Connie**

Tuesdays after Mass in the Pastoral Centre Meeting Room. All welcome.

**Lenten Faith & Fellowship**

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/3Sq8Kjk> or email: [rosecalandra22@gmail.com](mailto:rosecalandra22@gmail.com) or call 0411 040 669



**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.

**Instructions for Baptism Starting Soon**

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

**St Martin's Parish Picnic**

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



**Second Sunday of Lent 24/25 February**

After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow 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](http://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 Peter's Parish, Keilor East - Lenten Pilgrimage**

to Ta' Pinu Marian Shrine, Bacchus Marsh - Saturday 2nd March. See noticeboard for details.

**Handcrafted Bethlehem Olivewood Carvings**

On sale 2/3 March in the foyer. Purchases will help support the Catholic community in the Holy Land.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

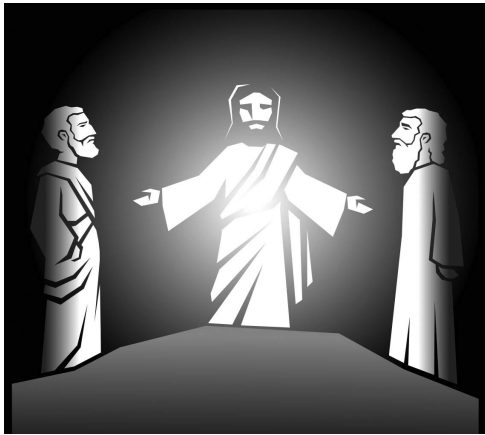
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

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



**Gospel** Mk 9:2-10

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

*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience. Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.

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**ST MARTIN DE PORRES & ST JOHN BOSCO'S**

**Catholic Parishes**

**Avondale Heights & Niddrie**



**2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B**

**25 February 2024**

**First Reading** Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

**(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.'  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 8:31-34

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us -he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:**

**this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**