

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

Website: www.cam.org.au/avondaleheights

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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.

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Phone No. _____

Address: _____

PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAMME

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Val McMahon; Antonio Pisera; Leanne Roe; Luningning Pinpin; David Foster; Anna Giunta; Magdalen Sugiharto; Peter Falzon.

Recently Deceased:

Paul & Cencina Brincat (Malta); Milagros Longo; Frank Patti; Paolo Giordano; Marianna Raffa; Frank Kennedy; Sr Beniamina Portelli asjm (Malta); Louis Farrugia; Paddy Fitzgerald; Maria Renda; Fr Gerard Dowling; Noel Eudey; Letterina Comerchi.

Anniversaries and Remembrances:

Maria Dinh Thi Nhu (1st); Joseph Tran Luan; Emma Cutajar; John & Tonina Darmanin; Joseph & Maria Consiglia Grima; Emmanuel & Teresa Sammut; Francis & Bernarda Grima; Emmanuel & Nazzarena Farrugia; Victor Apap; Carmelo & Rita Debono; Charlie Sciberras; Phillip & Judy Sammut; Marshall Gomes; Anna, Grace & Salvatore Mazzurco; Frank Giunta; Dominic Cumbo; Victor Micallef.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday New Year's Day Mass 10:00am
Vigil Mass 6:00pm

Sunday

English 8:00am & 9:30am
Italian 11:00am
Vietnamese 12:30pm

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Mass Tuesday to Friday 9:15am
Adoration & Benediction Wed after Mass

RECONCILIATION

Wednesday 9:45am Saturday 5:30pm

NOTICES

Available in the Foyer

Columban Calendars \$10

60th Anniversary Book of Memories \$10



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays 2:30pm in the church.
All Welcome

The Season of Christmas



Thank You to Our Many, Many Parish Helpers & Supporters

A special thanks to the musicians & singers for all their work during the year - especially the Christmas Masses. Our thanks also to the Parish Office Helpers, Pastoral Team, Baptism Team, Wednesday School Catechists, RCIC Team, Pastoral Care Group, St Vincent de Paul Members, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, Altar Servers, Counters, Collectors, Sacristy Team, Flower Donors & Arrangers, Church & Window Cleaners, Garden & Grounds Team, Working Bee Teams, Electricians, Plumbers, Painters, Handymen, Parish Council, Finance Committee; Liturgy Committee, Social Committee, St Martin's 60th Anniversary Committee, Hall Fundraising Committee; St Joseph The Worker Maintenance Group, Magazine Committee. St Martin's School Teachers & Administration Staff, School Parents & Friends, and the School Board for all their support throughout the year.

A final thankyou to the helpers during the Christmas season delivering Christmas cards, constructing our crib, decorating our Christmas tree, preparing the church and all those who have left a gift under the tree.

*We wish everyone a
Holy Christmas and a
Safe and Happy New Year.*

Fr Nhân & Fr Thomas



Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres, Avondale Heights 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.

Christmas Prayer

Meister Eckhart once said:
'What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago if he is not born now in your heart?'

Lord, we do far too much celebrating
your actual coming in our hearts.

I believe in God,

but do I believe in God-in-me?

I believe in God in heaven,
but do I believe in God-on-earth?

I believe in God out there,
but do I believe in God-with-us?

Lord, be born in my heart.
Come alive in me this Christmas!

Amen.

Living Faith, Vol. 4, # 3



The Presence of Christmas

by William Arthur Ward

Christmas is not just a season,
Christmas is not just a day,
Christmas is more than a reason
For parties, presents and play.

Christmas is truly the essence
Of joy that the Saviour brings;
Christmas is surely the presence
Of Jesus, the Kings of Kings!

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

‘Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the
nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.’

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see



this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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ST MARTIN DE PORRES
Catholic Parish, Avondale Heights
Today's Celebration is on pages:
Old Missal: 38 Gospel: 471
New Missal: 137 Gospel: 523



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

31 December 2023

First Reading Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! (R.)

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.