



Sacred Heart / Emmaus Parish

St Albans / Sydenham Western Plains Deanery
Parish Priest: Fr. Maurie Cooney



Second Sunday of Advent, Year B - 10th December 2023

Parish Office Details:

Address: 4 Winifred Street, St Albans 3021
Phone: 9366 2146

Finance: Lorraine Stafford: StAlbans.Finance@cam.org.au

Parish Office: Lauren Maslaris: StAlbans@cam.org.au

Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 9:30am—4:00pm

Wednesday-Friday: 9:30am—2:30pm

(The parish office is closed on weekends and public holidays)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sacred Heart English Saturday 10.30am
Maltese every 4th Saturday 4.00pm

Baptism: Eight weeks notice is required

Marriage: Six months noticed required

Sacred Heart Church Mass Times:

Weekdays:

Tuesday - Friday 7.30am

Saturday 9.00am

Weekend:

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 7:30am, 10:30am

Polish 9.00am

Slovene 2nd Sunday of month at 5:00pm

Emmaus Church Mass Times:

Saturday 6:30pm

Sunday 9:00am

Website: <http://pol.org.au/stalbanssydenham/Home.aspx>

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. The Parish takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and upholds that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. To report issues and concerns, contact: stalbans.csc@cam.org.au or 0413 841 936

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sacred Heart-Emmaus Parish acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the traditional owners of the land where we gather. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

READINGS

This Week: First Reading: [Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11](#)

Second Reading: [2 Peter 3:8-14](#)

Gospel: [Mark 1:1-8](#)

Next Week: First Reading: [Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11](#)

Second Reading: [1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#)

Gospel: [John 1:6-8. 19-28](#)

REFLECTION

BE PREPARED ... AND GET INTO IT

Our lives have many dilemmas in them, some of which are raised in this weekend's Word of God. Do I prepare and wait, or do I throw myself into it now? Do I consider death and thereafter, or do I get on with living live my life here and now?

It's not fair to suggest that we have to choose between these points in a dilemma – for there is great value in both parts of these issues. Do I put my efforts into our relationship as husband and wife, or do I focus on our children and what they need?

These double questions which occur throughout our lives show the wisdom of our tradition of faith which tells us that we are 'both-and' people – that it's important to have a broad grasp on life because it is complex, and if I focus too much on one aspect, I may be relinquishing involvement and responsibility in another part.

The Scout Movement* and the Guide Movement have as their mottoes 'Be Prepared' – and that is John the Baptist's message in today's Advent gospel reading and in the First Reading.

The founder of the movement didn't leave it there: "*Be Prepared* so that you know the right thing to do at the right moment, and are willing to do it, making yourself strong and active and able to do the right thing at the right moment; be prepared at any moment to face difficulties and even dangers by knowing what to do and how to do it".

One way to take up this advice is to listen for the Wisdom of God, as our First Reading proposes. That is what prayer is largely for, as well as praising and thanking God for the gifts we share and anticipate.

(* Our Principal at Catholic Regional College Sydenham, Brendan Watson, has been appointed as Chief Commissioner of Scouts Australia: CONGRATULATIONS!! Brendan continues as Principal for our 11-12 CRC.)

"I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way."



Mark 1:2

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Recent Deaths: Robert Phillips, Frances Micallef, Fr Gerard Dowling, Milan Persich, Ana Kauric.

Anniversaries: Joe Aruliah, Zita Aruliah, Sebastian Baracho, Estafania Baracho, Lorraine Stringer, Avileli Family, Dias Family, Rodrigues Family, DeSouza Family, Patric Augustine. Aaron D'souza, Joseph Grech, Mark Farrugia, Joseph Xuereb, Salvina & John Borg, Angela Xuereb, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Joe Xuereb, Joe Grech, Emmanuel & Frank Grech, Tony Calleja, Cecilia & Frank Cordina, Joseph & Maria Orsini, Tessie Farrugia, Salvina & John Borg, Paul Aquilina, Frank Siracusa, Bernadina Siracusa, Pero Kilsanin, Antonia Demecoli, Pribila – Johan & Stefania, Skuranjec – Stefan & Flora, Jure Bilic, Clarrie James, Sarha Shulze, Katie Meyer, Luke Taylor, Roy Richter, Kelly Catin, Tito Morale, Fr. Joshua, Peter Muscat, Paula & Joe Muscat, Carmelo Falzon, Leli Bugeja, Charlie Camilleri, Marie, Malcolm & Michael Fernandez.

OUR PASTORAL, SOCIAL & SCHOOL EVENTS



GIVING TREE

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

Food on the table or a gift under the tree? No family should have to choose. To enable Vinnies to do their great work for us with less fortunate families in our local area, at the foot of the Christmas trees in our Churches are boxes for Donations. You can donate money to enable Vinnies to allocate the funds as needed. It is best to donate over the next week so that VINNIES can do their great work before Christmas! **Thank you for your generosity.**

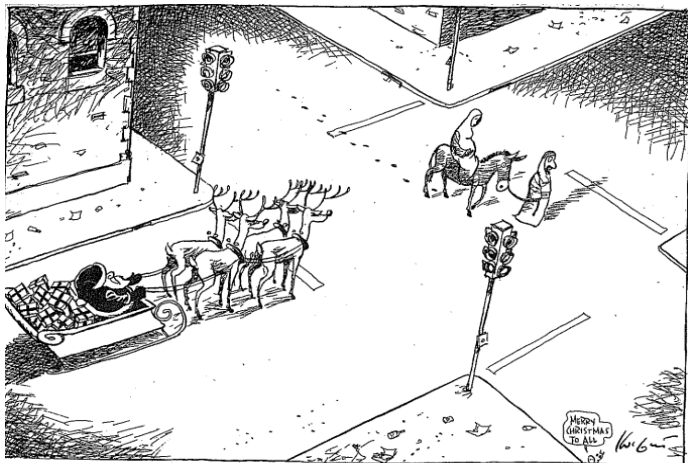


Important Updates

Over Christmas / New Year our Parish Office will be closed from Friday 22nd December 2023, re-opening on Wednesday 10th of

January 2024. The final Bulletin will be the weekend of Christmas 24th December, returning 28th of January.

The usual 7:30am weekday morning Mass at Sacred Heart Church will be held at **9am** between Christmas and New Years.



Ministry Meetings:

RCIA Tuesday 19th December, 7:30pm @ Emmaus

Bereavement Team Thursday 25th January 2024, 7pm @ The Parish Office

Baptism Team Wednesday 31st January 2024, 7pm at The Parish Office

Rosters:

Over the month of January we **will not** have a Roster for Readers of the Word/Prayers of the Faithful or Special Ministers. We understand many Parishioners will be away. If you are at Mass and have your

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Let us ever hope that you look for strength from God, who alone can give it. Mary MacKillop. 2nd. June 1867

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

◇ **Saturday 23rd & Sunday morning 24th December:**
The 4th Sunday of Advent: Usual weekend Mass times

◇ **CHRISTMAS EVE - Sunday 24th December**
SACRED HEART: 5pm, 7pm & 12am midnight
(with Carols from 11:30pm)

◇ **EMMAUS: 6pm, 8pm & 10pm**

◇ **CHRISTMAS DAY - Monday 25th December**
SACRED HEART: 7.30am, 10.30am

◇ **EMMAUS: 9.00am**

POLISH MASSES

◇ **Monday 25th December Christmas Day: 9am**

Tuesday 26th December boxing day: 10am

Monday 1st January 2024 New Years Day: 10am

Advent Prayer and Reconciliation Times:
please note updated locations from last week

EMMAUS: Wednesday 13th December 7:30pm

SACRED HEART: Thursday 14th December 7:30pm

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

As Christmas nears, is time to plan ahead. You will notice that we have sign up sheets for the 'Christmas Masses'. We require additional volunteers for the 9 masses Christmas Eve & Day at both our Churches. Any volunteers who are able to assist please put your name down. **Please Consider Offering Your Help.**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024 ENROLLMENTS NOW OPEN!

Our Parish is joining with **Resurrection Parish Kings Park** who will welcome into their preparation programmes young Parishioners who are at government and other schools. Contact our Office for details.