



Sacred Heart / Emmaus Parish

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



4th Sunday of Lent, Year B - 10th March 2024

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: 9am - 5:00pm

Thursday & Friday: 9am - 4:30pm

(The parish office is closed on Wednesdays, 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: [2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23](#) **Second Reading:** [Ephesians 2:4-10](#) **Gospel:** [John 3:14-21](#)

Next Week: First Reading: [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) **Second Reading:** [Hebrews 5:7-9](#) **Gospel:** [John 12:20-33](#)

REFLECTION

What is your image of God?

We are familiar with that repeated proclamation in the New Testament that 'God is love'. At times the image of God presented in other places is different from this, however.

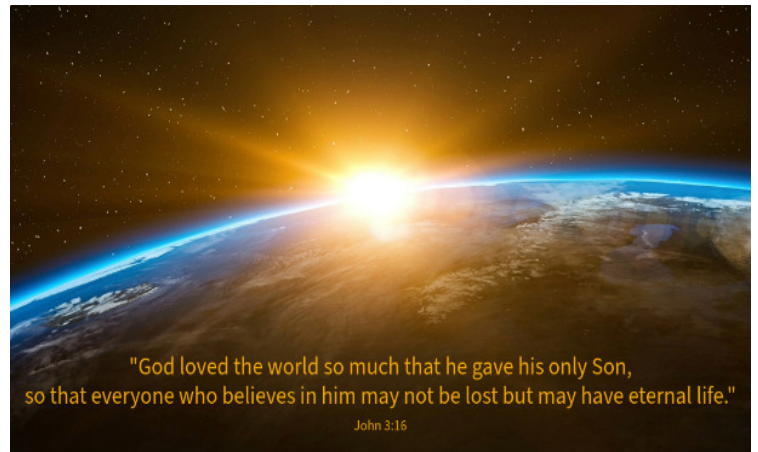
References to God on TV or some other popular media – and even in some Christian spiritualities (!) - sometimes present a judging, revengeful, punishing God. This sort of image can play well when so much violence and revenge are presented for our entertainment, and in real time across our world. Perhaps it's easier to deal with a God who is perceived to be 'on the opposition'. Perhaps it's easier to dismiss God as irrelevant, not needed, or to be feared if we can paint God in that sort of image - thunderclaps, bolts of lightning and booming, disapproving voice from above. It's much harder to dismiss a God of love who will go to extremes to demonstrate that love, coming amongst us in Jesus, drawing us further into God's own life!

Today's gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, 'so that through him the world might be saved'. This drives the actions and teachings of Jesus. Jesus is to be our primary reference point: it's Jesus who shows us and tells us what God is like.

God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we persist in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves.

During Lent, God invites us to recognise God's own uplifting, empowering, patient love for us.

Like our symbol of the twisted willow in our churches, our sometimes inaccurate images of God may be another 'old leaf' to discard so that a new one may grow.



"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life."

John 3:16

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Recent Deaths: Michael Kiselis, Joseph Cini

Anniversaries: Aaron D'souza, Joe Aruliah, Zita Aruliah, Sebastian Baracho, Estafania Baracho, Joseph Grech, Stan Kakos, Albin Periera & Robert Periera, Romaldina, Matthew, Angelo, George Ballard, Fo Heang Ly, Joseph Xuereb, Salvina & John Borg, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Paul Aquilina, Frank & Bernadina Siracusa, Pero Kilsanin, Antonia Demecoli, Mark Farrugia, Angela Xuereb, Joe Xuereb, Joe Grech, Tessie Farrugia, Emmanuel & Frank Grech, Tony Calleja, Joseph Grech, Stan Kakos, Carmelo Falzon, Charlie Camilleri, Josset Vella, Tereza Mallia, Emily, Ant, Tony Fenech, Emanuel & Josephine Pisani, Peter & Fr. Muscat, Anna Pribaz, Maria Grego, Pino Grego, Emanuel & John Fenech, Joseph & Maria Orsini, Cecilia & Frank Cordina, Frank Lucchini, Michael & Jane Saliba, Mary Barbuto, Stella Borg, Anthony, Katrin, Vicky Zammit, Daniella Zahra, Rita Joseph Muscat

OUR PASTORAL, SOCIAL & SCHOOL EVENTS



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
FOR ALL FUTURE
GENERATIONS

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations.*



Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations.*

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Palms for Palm Sunday: please bring branches for people to hold to the garage at Sacred Heart during the week of 18-22 March. Thank you.

LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2024

LENT PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION SERVICES

EMMAUS Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm

SACRED HEART: Thursday 21ST March at 7.30pm *with the opportunity for one-on-one Sacrament.*

PALM SUNDAY 23 - 24th March

SACRED HEART: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am (Polish), 10:30am

EMMAUS: Saturday 6:30pm, Sunday 9:00am

Procession of Palms commences at the front of the Churches.

HOLY THURSDAY 28th of March

EMMAUS: 7pm

SACRED HEART: 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY 29th of March

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 11am on 'the oval' at SACRED HEART

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S PASSION

EMMAUS: 3pm

SACRED HEART: 3pm

HOLY SATURDAY 30th March

BLESSING OF FOOD - SACRED HEART: 10am

EASTER VIGIL 30th March

EMMAUS: 7pm

SACRED HEART: 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY 31st March

EMMAUS: 9am

SACRED HEART: 7:30am, 9am (Polish), 10:30am

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop - Quotes

God is good and has brought light and help when all was very dark. *Mary MacKillop 18th. Jan. 1899*

**Catholic Regional College
Sydenham
2024
COLLEGE TOURS
WITH THE PRINCIPAL**

COLLEGE TOUR DATES

Tuesday 19 March - 11:00am
Thursday 16 May - 9:30am
Thursday 13 June - 4:00pm
Tuesday 15 October - 11:00am

To register for a College Tour, scan the QR Code below.

Or visit our website: cres.vic.edu.au and navigate to 'Join our Community' and 'College Tours / Events'

*Every Student
Every Pathway*

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is having their next weekend event which is only 6 weeks away Friday April 12th -14th, 2024 at St Paul's Retreat Centre in Wantirna.

**Experience a Weekend.
Enrich your Marriage.**

Contact to book now:

Andre & Maria 0411 225 992

Sue & Steve Hollowood 0412 130 845

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au