



Third Sunday of Advent - 11th December 2022

Parish 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— Wednesday: 9:30am—4:00pm

Thursday & Friday: 9:30am—2:30pm

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 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 Mass Times:

Saturday 6:30pm

Sunday 9:00am

If you would like to receive the weekly 'Parish Update' emailed to you, please send your email address to the Parish: stalbans@cam.org.au

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: Is 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11

Next week: First Reading: Is 7:10-14

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7

Gospel: Mt 1:18-24

REFLECTION

HAVE COURAGE AND DO NOT BE AFRAID

As we keep remembering, the goal of the Church – that is you and me, as well as those in leadership positions and the systems and structures of the Church – is “to carry forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit”. Getting closer to the practical meaning of that, Advent repeats through its Readings that we are sent to proclaim to all those we meet – through our actions and words – that God is not distant from our lives, but rather is part of our lives and everything that composes them. We are therefore people of hope, reassurance, action, determination, and underlying joy.

In a homily Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that ‘God does not allow himself to be shut out’. God finds space in our world, and that may mean by entering via our own lives to the lives of others.

To make such an entry, the Pope went on, we must ask ourselves some very important Advent questions like *Do we have time and space for God? ... Can God enter into our lives? ... Does God find room in us, or have we occupied all the available space in our thoughts, our actions, our lives for ourselves?*

Amidst all of the busyness and hectic pace of this time of year, let's do what we can in these last two weeks of this Advent not only to rejoice as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus, Son of God, into our human story. Let's also open our hearts to the presence of God amongst us in Christ and the Spirit, mindful of the words of the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading “have courage and do not be afraid”. What a helpful message that can be to the world given the troubling circumstances in so many places ... ;perhaps in our own lives too.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

RECENT DEATHS: Serafina Pisani, Rosaria Ignaccolo, Emmanuela Vella, Lorraine Stringer,

ANNIVERSARIES:

Leli, Carmelo, Mary, Joseph & Grace Pulis, Tony & Jane Dalli, Birdy Fernandez, Angela Xuereb Anna Pribaz, Maria Grego, Charles Camilleri, Emmanuel Xuereb, Maria Tam, Peter My, Fr Joshua, Peter Muscat, Connie Catiana, Joe Giaccotto, John & Alfredo Colerio, Ursula Aruliah, Sebastian Baracho, Leo Aruliah, John Bosco Periera, Peter & Clara Parnis, Annie & Aloysius Perera, Paul Aquilina, Aaron D'Souza, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Pero Kilsanin

OUR PASTORAL, SOCIAL & SCHOOL EVENTS

A NOTE OF THANKS

Our Parish Finance Committee met during the week to receive and analyse a report on our recent THANKSGIVING REVIEW AND



RENEWAL, prepared by Stephen Littleton of Parish First who guided us through the process.

THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS to all who participated in this significant aspect of Parish life!!

Highlights of the Report are that we have pledged that will increase our weekly Thanksgiving income by \$2,700 - an increase of 45% from the weeks prior to this renewal. This is the result of 64 new contributors, and existing contributors reviewing their contribution.

Another great outcome is that we have been able to update our Parish data base to 'best practice' condition.

This is a wonderful indication of Parishioners' commitment to our Parish and to participation in real ways.

This will enable to work towards some of those goals that were outlined in the Renewal process.

Our next project will be a new recruitment drive in February to draw Parishioners into our various Ministry Groups.

For now: a huge THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS from all Parishioners to one another!

FAIR COMMITTEE ACHIEVEMENT

Following those years of lockdowns, our Parish Fair Committee became very active during this year with the regular 'sausage sizzles' at Bunnings (Watergardens). Through their marvelous efforts, they have presented a cheque for \$15,000 to the Parish Education Account!! Our three Parish Primary Schools (Sacred Heart, Emmaus, Cana) are now invited to name a 'special project' in their School to which their (equal) share of these proceeds will be applied. What a wonderful outcome for our Schools! What great Ministry from our Fair Committee! Early next year the Fair Committee will consider possibilities and plans for 2023.



At the foot of the Christmas trees in our churches are boxes for donations which you may wish to contribute to the local VINNIES Conference for their support for needy families in the lead-up to Christmas. With all the regulations of these times, the VINNIES' preferred way of receiving support is in financial donations: this also enables them to support families in specific ways according to their circumstances. It is best to donate over the next two



weeks so that the VINNIES can do their great work before Christmas!



ADVENT PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION

EMMAUS: Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm

SACRED HEART: Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

SACRED HEART:

Christmas Eve: 5.00pm

7.00pm

12am midnight (*11.30pm Christmas carols*)

Christmas Day: 7.30am

9.00am (*Polish*)

10.30am

EMMAUS:

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm

8.00pm

10.00pm

Christmas Day: 9.00am



St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

"Does God ever allow anyone that trusts in him to be confounded?" Mary MacKillop 26th. Dec. 1872