



Third Sunday of Advent, Year B - 17th 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 61:1-2. 10-11](#)

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

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

Next Week: First Reading: [2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16](#)

Second Reading: [Romans 16:25-27](#)

Gospel: [Luke 1:26-38](#)

REFLECTION

Ordinary ... but in a special way!

What a cast of characters fills the Advent readings, on weekdays and Sundays! An unorthodox prophet, who doesn't come from the religious establishment and who attracts crowds in the desert – this John the Baptist comes back again this weekend into the gospel reading. And there are the homeowner, a Roman centurion, fishermen, a shepherd, a paralytic, a son who rethinks his original 'no' to his father, an unwed mother, her puzzled fiancé, her older pregnant cousin and two babies.

Ordinary people ... just like us! Look how ordinary people have a role in the unfolding story of God's being amongst the people. In case you might think that they are somehow 'specially chosen and set apart', think of the preaching of Jesus as he repeatedly surrounds himself with 'ordinary' people. And he entrusts the mission of his kingdom to them. This is the way that John the Baptist (who was a bit unusual!) appears this week – preaching the coming of God amongst the people.

Remember those words of St Francis of Assisi: 'you are to be preaching the presence of Christ always: if necessary you might occasionally have to use words'.

Yes: by the way we live our lives we can be like John the Baptist, being a sort of light, shining in the lives of others by the way we are with them – hopeful, positive, supporting, compassionate, enjoyable. He did that in his own particular way. And people came to him for his baptism.

Mary MacKillop had John the Baptist as one of her favourites. What are the ways you can be this sort of pointer – showing that the coming of Christ and his Way are really in our world? Whatever it means to you in your circumstances, John asks us all to consider what in our lives assists the coming of the Kingdom of God.



"He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light."

John 1:7

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Recent Deaths: Fiona Mockridge, Robert Phillips, Frances Micallef.

Anniversaries: Joseph Xuereb, Salvina & John Borg, Angela Xuereb, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Joe Xuereb, Emmanuel & Frank Grech, Cecilia & Frank Cordina, Joseph & Maria Orsini, Tessie Farrugia, Paul Aquilina, Frank Siracusa, Bernadina Siracusa, Pero Kilsanin, Aaron D'souza, Joe Aruliah, Zita Aruliah, Sebastian Baracho, Estafania Baracho, Guy D'Cunha, Thomas & D'Cunha Families, Peter & Dorothy Gill, George Muscat, Emmanuel & Adriana Caruana, John & Carmen Camilleri, Stella & Georgina Muscat, Kerry Dobson, Emmanuel & Julia Sammut, Carmelina Said, Mizzi Family, Camilleri Family, Rosy & George Gass, Fr. Joshua, Peter Muscat, Maria & Anthony Mercieca, Hyacinth, Melville & Marcel Legay, Ursula Aruliah, Molly Miranda.

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

Parish Phone - As you may have noted the office phonenumber is not working. We cannot access messages left nor can we put a forward in place. Please email and we will get back to you.



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

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop - Quotes
It is our good God who is our support and strength. Mary MacKillop 10th, Oct. 1871

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

NEW YEARS DAY - Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God - 9am at Sacred Heart

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.