



**Sacred Heart / Emmaus Parish  
St Albans / Sydenham Western Plains Deanery  
Parish Priest: Fr. Maurie Cooney**



**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - 24th September 2023**

**Parish Details:**

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

**Finance:** Lorraine Stafford: [StAlbans.Finance@cam.org.au](mailto:StAlbans.Finance@cam.org.au)

**Parish Office:** Lauren Maslaris: [StAlbans@cam.org.au](mailto:StAlbans@cam.org.au)

**Office Hours:**

**Monday & Tuesday:** 9:30am—4:00pm

**Wednesday-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

**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](mailto: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 55:6-9](#)

Second Reading: [Philippians 1:20-24. 27](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

**Next Week:** First Reading: [Ezekiel 18:25-28](#)

Second Reading: [Philippians 2:1-11](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 21:28-32](#)

**REFLECTION**

***IT'S NOT FAIR!***

That's the cry of people in the Scriptures who want things to go the way they think they should go – and they find out that they're not in control. They have to realise that GOD has a role in all this. And, as today's First Reading says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks!" Indeed "The heavens are as high above earth as My ways are above your ways, My thoughts above your thoughts."  
'But that's not fair,' we say – we know how things should work!

Jesus' parable in the Gospel features workers in a vineyard. Those who turn up early are outraged when latecomers received the same wages. This teaching was recorded in Matthew's Gospel when there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles' who heard the Gospel of Jesus later. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them the same welcome into the Kingdom!  
God's ways are different from ours! Which is good news if we haven't been perfect all through our lives, and are a bit like those 'slackers' who turned up late –

God welcomes us all into the life the New Life that Christ brings!

*God, we thank you that heaven is not earth, and especially that grace does not abide by our rules. We are grateful that Your ways are not ours.*

*You are generous without restraint. You overpay and overpay. Instead of giving us our just rewards, you heap on us the fortunes of Your everlasting life and love. Lord, lavish on us your spirit of generosity. Help us then to give and never count the cost.*

What of our relationships with those around us, particularly those who don't measure up to our standards. The model is God – patient, continuing to put out the call, not judging harshly along the way but offering another chance. Thank God that God is like this to us!



"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard."

Matthew 20:1

## WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

**RECENT DEATHS:** Lewis Kaucic, Martin Gomez

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Angela Xuereb, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Joe Xuereb, Lewis, Paul & Joe Psaila, Sam & Luke Cassar, Margaret Borg, Emmanuel & Frank Grech, Joe Grech, Cecilia & Frank Cordina, Joseph & Maria Orsini, Tessie Farrugia, Antonia Demecoli, Tessie Farrugia, Paul Aquilina, Fr. Joshua, Peter & Grace Muscat, Peter Muscat, Josset Vella & Carmenu Falzon, Charlie Camilleri, Anton Feist, Mindy McCreedy, Clarrie James, Fonza Tanti, Father Serrie, Joeanne Martin, Pero Kilsanin, Peter Binh, Eusebio Eje, Giuseppe Pribaz, Irwin Coelho, Rita Siamos, Charles Spiteri, Astrid Hines, Derrick Hines, Aaron D'Souza, Leticia Ramos, Alfred Torno

## OUR PASTORAL, SOCIAL & SCHOOL EVENTS



### Bishop's Visitation Timetable

Our regional Bishop, Martin Ashe, will be with us over three days – 6-7-8 October – to become familiar with our Parish. Part of that is his meeting with and listening to Parishioners. As well as his meeting with the Parish Priest, our Parish staff, Ministry leaders, our Parish Advisory Group, Principals of our Schools and Colleges, there are opportunities for Parishioners to talk with the Bishop:

**Saturday 7th October: 9.45 - 10.45am:** all Parishioners are invited to a discussion about Parish life - in Sacred Heart Church, St Albans.

**Saturday 7th October: 7:15pm -**

after the 6.30 Mass at Emmaus Church, Sydenham.

**Sunday 8th October: 11:30am -** after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

The Bishop will be the Celebrant for all Masses that weekend. A fruitful outcome of the Bishop's Visitation will be achieved through his hearing from as many Parishioners as possible: please join in!

*(If you have not received the Briefing Paper that has been prepared for the Visitation, contact the Parish Office and ask for one.)*

### Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals - Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals. Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)



### EMERGENCY APPEALS

Morocco Earthquake and Libya Floods

[www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

### Priests Retirement foundation

Collected: \$1,986.10

Parish Contribution: \$2,500

**TOTAL DONATED: \$4,486.10**



### Ministry Meetings

- **Baptism Team:** Tue 26th September 7pm

- **Music and Digital Projector Ministers:** Thur 28th September 7pm

*Location: Sacred Heart Presbytery Office*



### Vinnies Conference Ministers needed

The society of St Vincent De Paul (Vinnies) is a worldwide Catholic organization that tries to live the Gospel by providing practical support to those in our community that are struggling. The Keilor Downs conference is based at St Mary MacKillop Church, we service the local area including Keilor Downs, Taylors lakes & Sydenham.

**We are looking for Volunteers to join us in this rewarding Ministry. For Further information please contact:** Armando 0400 255 172 or [armandobianco748@gmail.com](mailto:armandobianco748@gmail.com) Michelina 0428 818 906 or [mrruberto@bigpond.com](mailto:mrruberto@bigpond.com)  
**For material assistance contact 1800 305 330**  
**To learn more about the St Vincent De Paul Society Victoria go to: [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)**

*Ministry is needed so that we can "carry forward the life of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit".*

**MASS FOR**  
**Marriage Anniversaries**  
**SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2023, 11AM**  
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, EAST MELBOURNE

Couples and their families are invited to join us as we celebrate our annual Anniversary Mass.

Couples who register and are celebrating the following anniversaries – 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th or 40 years and above – will receive a commemorative certificate.

Register by Sunday 15 October:  
[trybooking.com/CLKRB](http://trybooking.com/CLKRB)

For any queries please contact us  
9926 5761 or [proclaim@cam.org.au](mailto:proclaim@cam.org.au)

### St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

It never gives me pleasure to cross or disappoint anyone. Mary MacKillop 25th. July 1899