



Second Sunday of Advent - 4th 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 11:1-10

Next week: First Reading: Is 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading: Rom 15:4-9

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11

REFLECTION

What a guy!

Even though they share the same colour, Advent and Lent are different from each other. Lent is much more 'penitential', calling us to review our lives, seek forgiveness where needed, and to change. Advent is about hope and joy – already last Sunday's Responsorial Psalm had us calling "Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord!". For God's promises to come amongst the people and save them have begun to come true!

Advent's John the Baptist figure comes to us this week. He does, however, talk about the need to 'repent' and to grow in the life of the Kingdom which Christ brings amongst us. If he appeared amongst us today what would we make of him? John caused discomfort in his time, so much so that he was thrown into prison and executed!

He preaches the coming of God amongst the people.

People can recognise truth, can't we? At times it may not be easy; at times we may try to avoid it: but we cannot fully hide from the truth. John the Baptist speaks the truth about God: God is near, God is amongst us – and asks 'does your life show up this awareness of God or not?'

This 'repent' means something like 'change your way of being, change your heart'. John doesn't go into details of how to do this: exactly what this 'repent' means is left to each individual. Whatever it means to you, John asks us to consider what in our lives assists the coming of the Kingdom of God and what blocks it: and then to take appropriate action for change.

John is critical of people who just go through the motions of change without doing the hard work of re-a-l-l-y growing in the ways of the Kingdom of God.

Overall he is a hopeful Advent figure – for the Kingdom of God is coming in Christ: we can become part of that and help to bring that to people around us. And there is great joy in that!

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

RECENT DEATHS: Rosaria Ignaccolo, Emmanuela Vella, Lorraine Stringer

ANNIVERSARIES: Philomena Lazaro, Carmen & Giacomo Matina, Michael & Teresa Farrugia, Cecilia & Frank Cordina, Antonia Demicoli, Angela Xuereb, Mr Hilary Goveas, Peter & Ceclia Menzie,, Fr Herman Castelino, Fr Joe D'Abreo, Fr Michael Paes, Anthony & Carmine Menzies, Benjamin & Pauline Loveas, Patrick & Maggie Pinto, Ms Berta, John, Lily & Victor Menzies, Fr. Joshua Muscat, Peter & Grace Muscat, John & Doris Falzon, Tong, Gorg, Nini & Jane Falzon, Charlie Camilleri, John Cassar, Maria Lopriore, Vesna Milovac, Luca, Ivo & Luba Jajcevic, Michael & Teresa Farrugia, Leli & Enis Bonnici, Gwendolyn Fraser, Maureen, Derrick, Jack & Ivan Gonzalez, Anne Farrugia, Barbara Cuitak, Jose Manuel Raeul, Andrea Rodrigues, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Pero Kilsanin, Aaron D'Souza, John Bosco Periera, Peter & Clara Parnis, Annie & Aloysius Perera, Paul Aquilina

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!



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

"Reject no one, you never know what grace can do." Mary MacKillop 2nd. June 1867