

Sunday 26th December 2021



Mass Times: Monday - Friday 9.30am, Saturday: 9:30am, 5:30pm Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am

Baptisms & other sacraments: please call the office to organise.



Parish Priest:

Fr Ian W Ranson

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Carmel Cristiano

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Tues & Thurs

9.00am –3.30pm

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St Finbar's Catholic Parish

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Year C

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C

Forget the tinselly sentimentality of most depictions of the Holy Family. This Gospel is real life. Anyone who has temporarily lost their child in a crowd knows the stabbing pain of uncertainty and fear. Even more real, and occurring more often, is the adolescent impatience of Jesus: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

Every parent, bewildered and saddened by the growing up and the growing distance of a son or daughter, knows what Mary and Joseph must have felt.

By the time Mary and Joseph found Jesus, he had found the words to express his unique identity. In this little scene so full of pathos and heartbreak, we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospels: 'Did you not know I must be about *my* Father's business?'


What was his 'Father's business' which was so engaging for Jesus? To draw every human being into the same family relationship as He enjoys.

But did you note that it is our privilege to celebrate this realisation as a community? Only Jesus can say 'My Father'. We say 'Our Father'. We enter into the grace of intimate relationship with God, not as an atomised individual, but as a person within a society of baptised Christians – the Church.

We could take a moment to pray for the integrity which will enable us to express this sense of identity in the unfolding of our lives. We can pray also for those saddened or bewildered by our following of the One who taught us to pray 'Our Father'.

© Fr Michael Tate





Have YOU thought? Mary

We're told in today's gospel that Mary 'stored up all these things in her heart'. Mary is a model of the reflective life. When extraordinary, life-altering events occur to her, she is portrayed as pondering these events in her heart. She responds to these events by allowing them to speak to her and speak to her heart rather than simply 'reacting' as so many of us do. The ability to reflect on events, rather than react to them, can lead to a much better considered response and less chance of making the same mistakes over and over again.

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**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY SPECIAL & JOYOUS CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY 2022 FILLED WITH PEACE AND LOVE.**

God bless, Fr Ian Ranson



Please refer to the following Archdiocesan guidelines and resources for the COVID-19 pandemic:

<https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>



DECEMBER:

Month of the Immaculate Conception

27th St John the Evangelist

28th The Holy Innocents

29th St Thomas Becket

30th St Felix I

31st St Sylvester I

1st Jan The Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God



Let us pray

[as the family of God who share in his life]

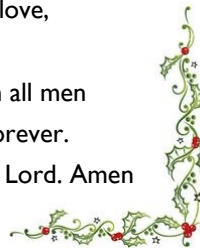
Father in heaven, creator of all, you ordered the earth to bring forth life, and crowned its goodness by creating the family of man.

In history's moment when all was ready You sent your Son to dwell in time, obedient to the laws of life in our world.

Teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace with all men that we may share in your life forever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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MASKS ARE NOT MANDATORY IN CHURCHES, HOWEVER DUE TO NO DISTANCING RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE, THEY ARE RECOMMENDED IN A CONSTRICTED SETTING WHERE PHYSICAL DISTANCING CANNOT BE UPHELD.

Vaccinations are no longer required to be viewed in Churches, however QR check in is still required.

Thank you. Fr Ian Ranson

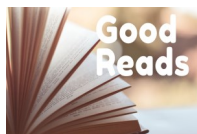


Rosters for Next Week

Parish Roster 1 st week	5.30pm	9.00am	11.00am
Lectors	John Reddie	Rod Watson	Richard Wakeham
Special Ministers	Clare Sabatino	Mary Callea	Jenny Reiche
Data Projector	Cristiano	Dials	Teresa Meyer

QR check-ins were still required at Places of Worship, even though vaccination status does not need to be checked.

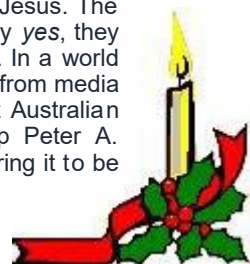
The Vic Gov Coronavirus page has the following:
- Remember to check in everywhere every time using the Service Victoria app.



Christians: The Urgent Case for Jesus in Our World, by Greg Sheridan (2021)

Greg Sheridan is foreign editor of *The Australian* and one of Australia's most highly respected journalists. He graciously gave *Melbourne Catholic* the time for an interview about his latest book, which serves as a sequel to his previous "coming out" in the public square as a Catholic, *God is Good for You* (2018).

This new book has two halves. The first is a survey of the field of biblical academic literature, and an attempt to determine whether or not the Gospels and the New Testament can, broadly speaking, be trusted as a source of understanding Jesus. The historical literature has developed in strides over the past few hundred years, and his discovery is that overwhelmingly yes, they can be trusted as witnesses to real, historical events. The second half is more about Christianity in the modern world. In a world sceptical of Christianity, he brings our attention to stories of new life, where faith is blossoming in unexpected places – from media and the arts, to Africa, China, England, America, and Australia. He also includes interviews with several prominent Australian figures, including Prime Minister Scott Morrison, former Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson, and Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli of Melbourne. Despite the subject matter, this book is a breeze. Sheridan writes with energy and wit, ensuring it to be one of the least taxing books you'll read on the subject. © (melbournecatholic.org)



SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

St Finbar's Parish hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.