



Parish of St Justin

48 Whalley Drive Wheelers Hill 3150, Telephone # 9401 6335
Email: WheelersHill@cam.org.au Website: pol.org.au/wheelershill

St Justin's Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

24th December 2023

PARISH PERSONNEL

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Andrzej Madry CR

Congregation of the Resurrection

PERMANENT DEACON:

Deacon Neil Daculan

PARISH SECRETARY:

Jeanne Bernard

PARISH PASTORAL

COUNCIL CHAIR:

Jamie Davin

SAFEGUARDING TEAM:

Mai-Ling Sholl

Ophelia D'Souza

Wheelershill.safeguarding@cam.org.au

ST JUSTIN'S SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL:

Patrick Torpey 9561 7644

NAZARETH COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL:

Sam Consentino

9795 8100

ST JUSTIN'S

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am
& 5 pm

WEEK DAY MASSES:

Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday 9.15 am,
Saturday 9.15am

GOOD SHEPHERD

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 11.00am

WEEK DAY MASSES:

MONDAY, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday,
9.15 am,
Saturday 10.00am

Baptisms, Marriages, Pastoral Care of the Sick:

For details regarding the celebration of these sacraments, please contact the Parish Office or speak directly to Fr Andrzej

First Reading

A reading from the second book of

Samuel

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12. 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The Word of the Lord,

Response - Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the

Romans

Rom 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord,

Response - Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Alleluia!



Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response - Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Next Week's Reading

MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

Num 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7: Lk 2:16-21:



We pray for the sick of our Parish:

Carmel Welsh, Francis & Joanne Downs, Tiana Mugagulio, David Booth, Maria Macan, Rita, Steven & Georgette Mizher, Annette & Stephen Sachie. Dilini Abeysekara, Senaka Fernando, Fred Clarke, Cathy Faux, June Ferguson, Delani Hakan, Nicolette Thomas, Eileen Doyle, Piroska Tertelyi. Cameron Wales, Alan Sullivan, Melinda Anderson, Marie Rabot, Helena De Costa, Marise Peiris, Jenny Williams, Nigel D'Lima, Troy Eccles, Ondie & Robert Goold, Mary Rasiah.

We pray for all who have died recently ..
We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time including Olive Ridler.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

Thanksgiving Collections 17th December 2023

1st Collection (house)
Presbytery - \$ 889.95
2nd Collection (church)
Thanksgiving - \$ 377.50
Loose - \$ 449.85

We express our thanks and appreciation for your continued support to St Justin's Parish.

Sacraments Preparation Classes 2024

St Justin's Parish provides preparation for the Sacraments for children who attend schools other than our parish school.

If you wish for your child to attend these lessons, please notify the Parish Office
Email: wheelershill@cam.org.au or
Parish Office 9401 6335

*The grade levels for each Sacraments are:
First Holy Communion/Reconciliation Grade 4 and Confirmation classes.*

St Justin's Christmas Eve Nativity Play

This year Christmas Nativity Play will start at 5.45 before the 6.00pm Mass (24th Dec)

Thank you to the children's liturgy group for organizing our little parishioners, in guiding and showing the meaning of Christmas,



Parish Office Notice

St Justin's Parish office will be closed from the 22nd December to 5th January 2024
Whilst the Parish Office remains closed during this period, if there is any emergency please call Parish office: 9401 6335 and leave a message and we will get in touch with you!
You can also send an email : wheelershill@cam.org.au

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Parish Calendar 2023



Sunday 24th December 2023
8.30am & 10.30am (Parish Sunday Masses)

CHRISTMAS EVE, 24th December
5.45pm St Justin's Nativity Play
6.00pm Family Mass
12.00am Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY - MONDAY 25th December 2023
8.30am & 10.30am
NO 5.00pm afternoon Mass

26th - 29th December 2023
9.15am Weekly Mass

SATURDAY 30th December 2023
9.15am & 6.00pm Mass

FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY - SUNDAY 31st December 2023
8.30am & 10.30am & 5.00pm (Masses)



FEAST of MARY MOTHER of GOD - MONDAY 1st January 2024
9.15am Mass

LIFT Youth Camp

DATE : SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024
TIME : 8:30 AM TO 8:00 PM
VENUE : GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH HALL ,30
ACADEMY AVE, WHEELERS HILL

Fee: \$10.00

Registration
Email sheena.devadass@gmail.com
by Sun 21 Jan24

HERE I AM LORD



5 Quotes on the Incarnation to Ponder this Christmas

As we journey through Advent and approach Christmas, it's always helpful to have wise guides along with us—thinkers, mystics and saints who can remind us of what the season is all about. Maybe they can even give us fresh insight, allowing us to contemplate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in a new way.

Here are five quotations from important Christian thinkers and mystics whose words we may want to ponder in the coming days.

CS Lewis: *recovering something precious*, In a series of essays exploring the nature of miracles, simply titled *On Miracles*, CS Lewis refers to the Incarnation as the 'central miracle' asserted by Christians: the miracle whereby God took human form. In the Incarnation, the transcendent and all-powerful God became a helpless baby.

Here is Lewis: In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity; down further still, if embryologists are right, to recapitulate in the womb ancient and pre-human phases of life; down to the very roots and seabed of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders.

St Faustina Kowalska: *Mary's heart, the first tabernacle*, Famous for her diary recounting extraordinary private revelations about the divine mercy of Jesus, St Faustina also wrote this beautiful Marian prayer in which she talks about Mary's heart as being the 'first tabernacle' on earth for Christ.

O Mary, Immaculate Virgin,
Pure crystal for my heart,
You are my strength, O sturdy anchor!
You are the weak heart's shield and protection.
O Mary you are pure, of purity incomparable;
At once both Virgin and Mother,
You are beautiful as the sun, without blemish,
And your soul is beyond all comparison.
Your beauty has delighted the eye of the Thrice-Holy One.
He descended from heaven, leaving His eternal throne,
And took Body and Blood of your heart
And for nine months lay hidden in a Virgin's Heart.
O Mother, Virgin, purest of all lilies,
Your heart was Jesus' first tabernacle on earth.

Fulton J Sheen: *the two births of Christ*, The Venerable Fulton J Sheen was one of the world's most popular Catholic bishops. A radio show host and writer, he is treasured by many as one of the finest communicators of the faith. Here, he reminds us, as St Bernard of Clairvaux once did, that Advent is not simply about recalling the birth of Christ; it is about letting him be born into our hearts.

Here is Sheen: There are two births of Christ, one unto the world in Bethlehem; the other in the soul, when it is spiritually reborn. Men think of the former much more than the later, and celebrate it every year; but the spiritual Bethlehem is equally momentous ... It was the second birth that Saint Paul insisted on when he wrote from prison to his beloved people, the Ephesians, asking that Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith and that they be rooted and grounded in love. This is the second Bethlehem, or the personal relationship of the individual heart to the Lord Christ.

Evelyn Underhill: *humble, human prayer*, The prolific English writer and spiritual director Evelyn Underhill had an abiding interest in the lives of the saints, and in the way Christ comes to us not just in lofty, mystical experience, but hidden in the ordinary, earthly details of our lives, quietly transforming us as we open ourselves to him through our prayer and adoration.

Observing that 'In our souls too the Divine Charity must be incarnate', she encourages us in *The School of Charity* to humbly submit to the Spirit's timing and purposes, rather than our own, and to model our lives on the 'simple poverty and self-abandonment' of the Christ Child:

This quality of quietness, ordinariness, simplicity—how deeply hidden, how gradual and unseen by us. To contemplate the proportions of Christ's life is a terrible rebuke to spiritual impatience and uppish hurry ...

In the life of prayer, the Spirit fills us as we grow and make room, keeps pace with us ... The life of the Spirit is to unfold gently and steadily within us. It's an organic process, a continuous Divine action; not a sudden miracle or series of jerks. Therefore there should be no struggle or impatience, but rather a great flexibility, a gentle acceptance of what comes to us ...

We are not to grow in wisdom and stature for our own sakes, in order to achieve what is really a self-interested spirituality. The growth points beyond ourselves, so the teaching, healing, life-changing power of the Divine Love may possess us and work through us. We must lose our own lives, in order to be possessed by that life: that unmeasured Divine generosity that enters the human world in such great humility.

Pope Francis: *Christ is our true food*, In his homily for Christmas 2022, Pope Francis encouraged people to 'rediscover the meaning of Christmas' by reflecting on the significance of Christ being born in a manger—the trough where animals feed.

Advent and Christmas is a season where, these days at least, we not only seem to consume more but are *consumed* by more: more stresses, more events, more worries, more distractions. In the midst of this, it is important to slow down, pause and consider that God wants to feed us with his own life, his own love.

Pope Francis says: He comes there, to a feeding trough, in order to become our food. God is no father who devours his children, but the Father who, in Jesus, makes us his children and feeds us with his tender love. He comes to touch our hearts and to tell us that love alone is the power that changes the course of history. He does not remain distant and mighty, but draws near to us in humility; leaving his throne in heaven, he lets himself be laid in a manger.

Dear brother, dear sister, tonight God is drawing near to you, because you are important to him. From the manger, as food for your life, he tells you: 'If you feel consumed by events, if you are devoured by a sense of guilt and inadequacy, if you hunger for justice, I, your God, am with you. I know what you are experiencing, for I experienced it myself in that manger. I know your weaknesses, your failings and your history. I was born in order to tell you that I am, and always will be, close to you.'

The Christmas manger, the first message of the divine Child, tells us that God is with us, he loves us, and he seeks us. So take heart!

ROSTERS	DATE	ALTAR SERVERS	DATA PROJECTIONIST	READERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
Sat 6.00pm	23 Dec	Jalon & Joel P.	Joe Persico	Yvette Esteves	Volunteer
Sun 8.30am	24 Dec	Ariana De C	Khai Vu	Noeline Willenberg	Diana Tan
Sun 10.30am	24 Dec	Xavier & Georgia R	Lolita Briones	Demetrio DeJ	John Italiano
CHRISTMAS MASS			24th and 25th DEC		
Sun 6.00pm	24 Dec	Liam F, Leanne M	Bernadine Fernando	Melissa Fernandes	John Italiano, Mai-Ling Sholl
Sun 12.00 pm	24 Dec	Volunteer	Volunteer	Rudy Fernandes	Rudy Fernandes, Tamara Fonseka
Mon 8.30 am	25 Dec	Volunteer	Ida Tontodonati	John Italiano	Diana Tan
Mon 10.30 am	25 Dec	Volunteer	Lolita Briones	Noel Ridler	Anthony Phey
ROSTERS		COUNTERS	CLEANING	ALTAR	COLLECTORS
THIS WEEK	24 Dec	Theresa Bell, Yvette Esteves		Natalie Uranie	
NEXT WEEK		To be advised			

ST VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We thank all those people who have taken gift cards for our Christmas presents for the children from 12 months to 12 years.

Thank you for the Christmas food and other items already donated – all Christmas contributions such as food, lollies, toys etc will always be appreciated.

We thank you for your great support. .



These donations will be given directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in and distributed to families in and around the area.

Please see your kind generosity given to the children this year as St Justin's community to bring a smile on each of their faces this year,



Thank you to Liam, Elizabeth and Josie for helping in wrapping the gifts.

“St Justin's Wheelers Hill Parish, we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we implement procedures and standards as directed by the Archdiocese of Melbourne. “