



St Matthew's Catholic Parish



(Established 1831)

12 Tebbutt Street, Windsor, NSW 2756

Tel: (02) 4577 3073 or 1300 504 991 Fax: (02) 4577 2124

Our Parish Mission Statement:

We believe and live out the mission of Jesus Christ as a community of worship and faith shared in service.

Parish Team:

Administrator: Fr Clifford D'Souza MSFS

Assistant Priest: Fr Galbert Albino

Sacramental Coordinator: Ms Cita Adams

Parish Secretary: Ms Judy Rigg

Parish email: stmcc@tpg.com.au

www.stmatthewswindsor.org.au

Office hours next week - 9.30am - 4.30pm

Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Schools:

St Matthew's Primary Phone: 4560 2300

Principal: Ms Annelise Stokely

Chisholm Catholic Primary Phone: 4573 3200

Principal: Mr Michael Mifsud

Bede Polding College Phone: 4560 2900

Principal: Mr Mark Compton

Masses:

Next Weekend:

Sat. Vigil 6.00pm

Sun. 7.30am, 9.00am and 5.00pm

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am

Friday 9.00am and 7.00pm

Adoration:

Tuesday 8.30am

Reconciliation this week:

Saturday 5.00pm to 5.45pm

Stations of the Cross:

Friday 9.30am and 7.30pm

Pilgrim Rosary (in hall):

Every Tuesday 7pm

Divine Mercy Prayer Group (in hall):

Every second Saturday 10am

Baptisms:

1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays each month.

Marriages:

By appointment

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

19th March, 2023

INVITE JESUS TO HEAL US

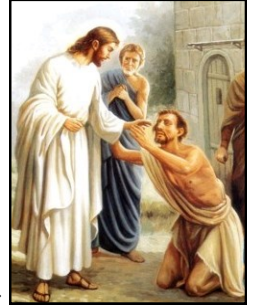
Only a very stony-hearted person would remain unmoved at the sight of a blind man, cane in hand and tapping his way across a busy street. Blindness is one of life's biggest burdens. Life for a blind person is an endless dark night in solitary confinement. Having stated clearly in John 9:1-41 that the man's disability has nothing to do with sin, Jesus restores his sight. His healing is instantaneous, and the man experiences the world in a new way, seeing what human faces and hands look like for the first time. Some of his neighbours and the Pharisees did not wish him well of his cure and tried to force him into denial that his sight had been restored. He quickly learns that there is more to sight than seeing the light of day. There is a deeper spiritual blindness which comes from closing the windows of our soul and pulling down the shutters in order to keep out Jesus who is the light of the world.

At a deeper level, the gospel story reminds us that we are all born blind and groping in spiritual darkness and at baptism we begin our journey of faith in the likeness of Christ. The life we receive at baptism gives us the power to bring Christ to everything we do and to every person we meet. We are meant to be a beacon of light for others by our good example. Lent is an opportune time to reflect on how we are living out our baptismal commitment and to see how Christ influences our behaviour.

We are invited to be courteous and friendly in our dealings with one another. Families who are not on speaking terms because of past differences should remind themselves that they have shut the light of God's love from one another and have substituted the darkness of hatred and the blindness of jealousy thus are unable to see anything good in the other.

Christ is asking us to look at our blind spots because coming from darkness into light is not an easy journey. It takes time and requires patience because of the many pitfalls on the road. In spite of our best resolutions the light of Christ is inclined to grow dim within us. Jesus knows our weaknesses and is willing to help us provided we come to him for healing. Having been called to walk as the children of the light we must keep praying: 'Lord, that I may see'.

With Peace in God's Mission. Fr. Clifford msfs



**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE CHURCH IF YOU
ARE FEELING UNWELL.
FACE MASKS ARE STILL RECOMMENDED.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD
EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT AFTER THE
9AM AND 7PM MASSES.**



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16 : 1, 6-7, 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5 : 8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; Whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 9 : 1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord anointed my eyes; I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deceased:

Please pray for the recently deceased Jovita Escobar, Elvira Constantino, Euphemian Vaz, Joy Jochico, (Anniversaries of William Buia, Antonia Ripa and John Mifsud) as well as Charlie Calleja, Charlie Chetcuti, Nicola Ripa, Bonnie Farrugia, Jesse Ripa, Philip and Mary Mifsud, Carmelo and Elizabeth Vella, Lina Mooney, Michaelangelo Galea, Sam Spiteri, Fedrico and Alicia Malimban, Chris, John and Maryanne Sultana.

Sick: Please pray for Shirley Said and Stella Azzopardi.

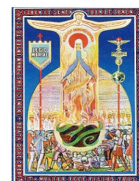


SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: FIRST EUCHARIST

The 6pm and 9am Masses this weekend and next weekend are commitment Masses for the children preparing for this First Eucharist. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers at this special time.

LEGION OF MARY ACIES CEREMONY 2023

All Spiritual Directors, active members and Auxiliary Members are invited to attend the annual ACIES ceremony at Good Shepherd Parish, 136 Hyatts Road Plumpton on Saturday, 25th March. It will commence at 2pm with Opening Prayers & Rosary followed by ACIES Ceremony then closing with Benediction. (Light refreshments afterwards if possible so please bring a plate to share). For enquiries, please contact: Fely - 0481373579 or Tony - 0488110111



SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER

Will take place at St Monica's Richmond on Wednesday, 29th March at 7pm. At the time of confession, simply name your sins, receive absolution and return to your seat for private prayer. The communal penance forms part of the Sacrament and will be given after all people have returned to their seats. This Rite DOES NOT allow for lengthy discussion or spiritual direction, that is available through the First Rite.

BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL FOR OUR HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARIANS

Our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is preparing men who have been called by God to be good shepherds and beacons of Christ's light. Will you be their extended formation community and support these faithful men to be formed as priests after the heart of Christ? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal which will be held in the Parish next weekend. Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their spiritual journey to the priesthood.



ROSTERS 25TH/26TH MARCH, 2023			FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A	
Church Cleaning: K. Moffitt and C. Conolly.			Sacristy: M. Roth and C. Vella.	
MASSES	6PM	7.30AM	9AM	5PM
Commentator	T. Ripa	C. Attard	I Willingham	S. Naylor
Reader	J. Rapa	S. Mackenzie	L. Buchanan	A. Pennings
			S. Kavanagh	S. Tylere
Acolyte/Adult Server	T. Jordan	J. Coco	T. McMahon	G. Claravall
Altar Servers	Please volunteer when you attend Mass.			