



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, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Schools:

St Matthew's Primary Phone: 4560 2300
Principal: Ms Annelise Stokey
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:

Tuesday to Friday 9.00am

Adoration:

Tuesday 8.30am

Reconciliation this week:

Saturday 5pm - 5.45pm

Pilgrim Rosary (in hall):

Every Tuesday 7pm

Divine Mercy Prayer Group (in hall):

Every second Saturday 10am

Baptisms:

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays each month.

Marriages:

By appointment

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A
30th April, 2023

THE GOOD SHEPHERD



There is no better loved picture of Jesus in the gospels than the figure of Christ as the good shepherd. It demonstrates the loving care of Jesus for the human family while emphasizing how precious we are in the eyes of God. Each one of us has a special place in his heart as he calls us by name and cares for us individually. He is our guardian and guide, constantly calling us home when we are inclined to wander and stray. His everlasting love never gives up on us and keeps knocking at the door of our hearts seeking an entrance until we open it. In Jesus the good shepherd we have the consoling truth that we are loved by God in such a manner.

Jesus' personal love and his willingness to lay down his life for us, should prompt us to make some response in return for such loving generosity. If we claim to be part of his family, we should be eagerly following him with enthusiasm and generosity. We need to be alert and ready to answer his invitation to follow him. The compassion of Jesus comes to people through hearts that are full of tenderness and love. We need constant reminding that our calling is to be shepherds after the heart of God, making Christ's presence effective in our neighbourhood. This work is carried out effectively in our families and communities when we respond to the needs of people in our care.

We can be the touch of human love for those who have no friends, the tower of strength for those who are helpless and the healer in times of hurt. The caring acts of God are performed in hands that serve. Christ is dependent on you and me to be shepherds of his flock in a caring and loving service to others. There is no other way for the church to be a beacon of hope in the darkness and a sign of salvation for those in need of help.

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

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION TALK

The next talk will be this Thursday, 4th May at 7.30pm in the hall. Bookings for the Baptism are made at the talk, Bookings for the talk can be made by contacting the Parish Office.



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

**IN APPRECIATION AND THANKSGIVING TO THE
SISTERS OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN OF THE ORDER OF ST BENEDICT
FOR THEIR PRESENCE, DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE
HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY AND THE
PARISH OF ST MATTHEW'S WINDSOR NSW**



Good Samaritan Sisters 2021 celebrating 145 years in Windsor on the anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of their 142 year old Chapel by Archbishop Vaughan.

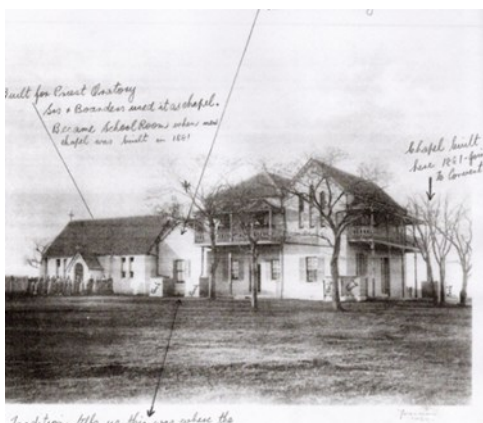
Windsor was one of the first three towns in Australia. John Bede Polding, the first Bishop of Australia travelled there in April 1836 just months after his arrival in the colony. He wrote to his cousin at Downside:

I went this Sunday before last to Windsor, and celebrated Mass in the temporary Chapel there. It was a barn, and will be one again, made of slabs. Windsor is situated on a long-backed eminence on a flat country, well cleared and cultivated; the vicinity is beautiful. As I looked towards the Blue Mountains about 200 miles distance, I saw a resemblance to the tract of Somersetshire you see on the left as you proceed from Bridgewater to Taunton; only the mountains are not so tame in the outline, stand more in and out than the insipid Mendip range. J.B. Polding

EARLY DAYS

Over 147 years, 256 Sisters of the Good Samaritan have lived and ministered in Windsor but their involvement in the parish goes back to 1859 when early Good Samaritan Sisters accompanied Archbishop Polding in his missionary journeys throughout the Hawkesbury, staying in private homes and preparing children and adults for the sacraments, a journey which in those days took fifteen hours.

Towards the end of 1874 Fr Austin Sheehy invited Good Samaritan Sisters to prepare children and adults for Confirmation. This was so successful that he applied for a community of Sisters to live in Windsor. On the feast of St Joseph 1875 he spoke of this idea to the people and placed the project under St Joseph, asking him to bless and favour it.



An old hotel vacant for a couple of years - believed to be haunted - was secured for twelve months. On 16th August 1875 the Sisters took up residence in Windsor. After 12 months another larger house was rented for 40 pounds per year. Here the Sisters had some boarders.

In June 1878 a new presbytery was completed and renovations and enlargement of the old presbytery commenced. The old Windsor presbytery became St Joseph's Convent where the Good Samaritan Sisters ministered for 146 years.

Supporting themselves was often difficult for the Sisters. One wet week, the school fees were very low, and Mother Cecilia who had been told to pay for everything as she got it, was very sad as there was scarcely anything in the pantry on Saturday night. Sunday morning when she went to the kitchen after first Mass, she found the window had been opened and a basket slipped in onto the table. It contained a large loaf of homemade bread, 3 lbs of lovely butter, a piece of bacon, a tin of tea, some coffee, some new potatoes, and other things.

It was nearly three months before the generous benefactor was discovered, who proved to be no other than dear old Mrs. Cassidy. The first Australian born Good Samaritan was Mrs Cassidy's daughter Sr M. Agatha and her GG Granddaughter was Good Samaritan Sister Carmel Bambridge.

The passing of the Public Instruction Act 1880 which withdrew all state aid from Denominational Schools by 1882, made new schools necessary. The Sisters had also taken charge of the Primary School St Matthew's where they taught for the next one hundred and twelve years.

Besides being involved in Primary and Secondary Education at St. Matthew's School and St. Joseph's School, two Sisters would accompany the Priest whenever he travelled to an "out station". The Sisters instructed the children while he heard confessions. Adults would crowd around to listen to the instruction, interjecting words of approval.

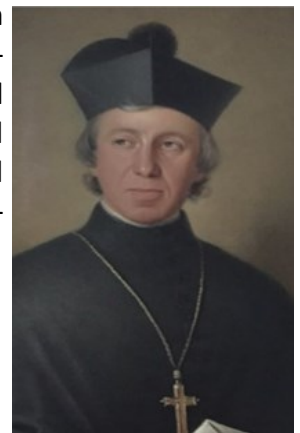
When such comments as that's right, tell them their duty!" " That's the way to speak to them etc" were heard it took the Sister all her time to keep a straight face.

They also often travelled long distances by horse or buggy, borrowed from a kindly neighbour, or by Cobb and Co coach, to give religious instruction in places that a Priest could seldom visit. These were happy days for the Sisters, although they were not without trials, but at all times they were supported by the love and helpfulness of the people of the Windsor district.

From Windsor the Sisters branched out and in 1881 they formed a community at Richmond where they conducted Primary and Secondary classes for seventy years. Numbering among their ex-students were Cardinal Clancy and Mons John Walsh. The Cardinal often sang the praises of their teacher Sr Ligouri.

St Joseph's High School closed in 1972. Over the years changes and renovations had been carried out on the convent buildings and grounds to meet new needs. However, all the efforts could not defeat the ravages of time and in 1979 the old convent, except for the chapel, was demolished and a smaller convent built. The chapel and the old gates, remained as links with the past.

In 2021 with sadness, the decision was taken by the Sisters to withdraw from Windsor due to not being able to fill vacancies. There were two sisters ministering in Windsor in 1875 and in 2021 there were again two Sisters who would sing the psalms in the old Chapel and be involved in spiritual direction and pastoral care in the Parish. It was on the 27th October 2022 that the last Good Samaritan - Sister Anita left Windsor parish completing their 162 years of involvement in the Hawkesbury.



Compiled by:-

Sr Therese Marie Fleming from Archival Material Good Samaritan Archives and articles on Windsor Local History

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the Word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 2 : 14, 36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2 : 20-25

You have gone astray, but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 10 : 1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly dies for his flock, alleluia!



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:



Deceased:

Please pray for the recently deceased Margaret Doyle, Maureen Bourke, Joan Forrester as well as Jason Vella, Charles Bonanno, Mary Stella Bonanno, Francis Bonanno, John Mifsud Frank Debono, Chris, John and Maryanne Sultana.

Sick: Please pray for Stella Azzopardi and Pam Everingham.

MONDAY CLUB SOCIAL

The next lunch will be a Mother's Day lunch held this Monday, 1st May in the hall. Cost will be \$15- per person which will cover morning tea and lunch. For catering purposes, please let Celine know if you would like to attend.

LEGION OF MARY

Next week is the beginning of May which is the month that is dedicated to Our Blessed Virgin Mary. To honour Our Lady, we will pray the rosary for half an hour before each weekend Mass. It will commence at 5.30pm on Saturday and then on Sunday's at 7am, 8.30am and 4.30pm. The rosary will be led by the Legion of Mary. All parishioners are most welcome to join them and pray prior to Mass. What a wonderful way to prepare yourself to receive the Eucharist at Mass.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

REACH RECOVERY WELLBEING PROGRAM RICHMOND

Reach Recovery Program, designed by the Black Dog Institute will be held over 9 weeks starting Tuesday 2nd May from 10am to 12pm. It will be held in Bank Bazaar and Bank Bar & Cafe, 290/294 Windsor Street, Richmond. Morning Tea will be provided and the presenter will be Virginia Field. To RSVP, please contact (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@ccss.org.au

WESTERN DEANERY YOUNG ADULTS MOVIE NIGHT

All young adults from 18 to 35 years are invited for this event on Friday 5th May, 7:00pm at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood (12 Richmond Road, Kingswood NSW 2747). Dinner and snacks will be provided.



| ROSTERS 6TH/7TH MAY, 2023 | | 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Church Cleaning: K. Moffitt and C. Conolly. | | Sacristy: M. Roth and C. Vella. | | |
| MASSES | 6PM | 7.30AM | 9AM | 5PM |
| Commentator | J. Newland | C. Attard | M. Grosvenor | M. Claravall |
| Reader | A. Dimech | S. Mackenzie | I. Willingham | C. Chalker |
| | | | S. Kavanagh | |
| Acolyte/Adult Server | J. Dimech | J. Coco | T. Victorino | G. Claravall |
| Altar Servers | Please volunteer when you are at Mass. | | | |