



# St Matthew's Catholic Parish



(Established 1831)

12 Tebbutt Street, Windsor, NSW 2756

Telephone: (02) 4577 3073

## 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:**

Parish Priest: *Fr Ranillo Creta*  
Sacramental Coordinator: *Ms Cita Adams*  
Parish Secretary: *Ms Judy Rigg*  
Parish email: [windsor@parracatholic.org](mailto:windsor@parracatholic.org)  
[www.stmatthewswindsor.org.au](http://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*  
Acting Principal: Mr Ben Ticehurst  
*Chisholm Catholic Primary Phone: 4573 3200*  
Principal: Mr Michael Mifsud  
*Bede Polding College Phone: 4560 2900*  
Acting Principal: Mr David Sullivan

### **Masses:**

#### Next Weekend:

Sat. Vigil 6.00pm  
Sun. 7.30am, 9.00am and 5.00pm

#### Weekday:

Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am

#### Adoration:

Tuesday 8.30am

#### Reconciliation:

Saturday 9.30am

#### Hospital Chapel Mass:

First Tuesday of each month at 11am

#### Sodality of Our Lady (in hall):

Every Monday 3.30pm to 4.30pm (children)

#### Pilgrim Rosary (in hall):

Every Tuesday 7pm

#### Legion of Mary (in hall):

Every Wednesday 6.30pm (youth)

Every Thursday 7pm (adult)

#### Divine Mercy Prayer Group (in hall):

Every second Saturday 10am

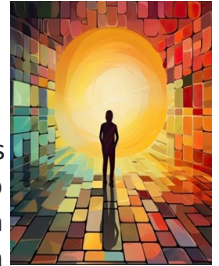
#### Baptisms:

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

#### Marriages:

By appointment

## *First Sunday of Advent Year B* *3rd December, 2023*



Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

### **LIVING THE GOSPEL – STAY AWAKE!**

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.

Greg Sunter [www.liturgyhelp.com](http://www.liturgyhelp.com)

Graphics: [young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com)

**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE CHURCH IF YOU ARE FEELING UNWELL.**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.



**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 63 : 16-17; 64 : 1. 3-8

*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

**RESPONSE:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1 : 3-9

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Mark 13:33-37

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**



**Deceased:** Please pray for the recently deceased Margaret Rochester and (Anniversary of George Seguna) as well as Paul Bugeja, Sam Bugeja, Carmen and Carmelo Grima, Jason Vella, Jessie Hursey, Maria and David Cafine, John Mifsud, Nicola and Antonia Ripa, Bonnie Farrugia, Jesse Ripa, Philip and Mary Mifsud, Carmelo and Elizabeth Vella, Marianita & Romulo Jumao-as, Chris, John and Maryanne Sultana.

**Sick:** Please pray for Jimmy Marinas, Thelma Rayes, Joan Dodd, Roza Galea and Annelise Stockey.

**MONDAY CLUB LUNCH**

The next lunch will be a Christmas lunch on Monday, 4th December. Cost is \$15 per person which covers morning tea and lunch. Those attending are asked to please bring a Kris Kringle gift to the value of \$10. If you would like to join in, please speak to Celine or Antoinette.



**BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE CHAPLAINCY SERVICES.**

Will you support our chaplains to listen with the ear of the heart? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas. If you were unable to donate last weekend, there are still envelopes available at the back of the Church that can be completed and placed in the box or in one of the collections.

**THE NEXT HOSPITAL MASS IS THIS TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER AT 11AM IN THE HOSPITAL CHAPEL.**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES 2023**

Sunday, 24th December: (Christmas Vigil)

6.30pm Open Air Family Mass  
(in St Matthew's School Grounds  
Please bring your own chair/rug)  
8.30pm Mass (Church)

Monday, 25th December: (Christmas)

Midnight Mass (Church)  
7.30am Mass (Church)  
9.00am Mass (Church)



**CHRISTMAS MASS VOLUNTEERS - WE NEED YOU**

For Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we are in need of volunteers for all of the different ministries. Please consider helping during one (or more) of the Masses. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. If you are willing to volunteer, please place your name in the appropriate spot on the sheet at the back of the Church.



**CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION**

2nd Rite St Monica's Richmond:  
Wednesday, 14th December 7pm  
1st Rite St Matthew's Windsor:  
Every Saturday in December at 9.30am  
including Saturday, 23rd December.



**PLEASE NOTE:** THERE WILL BE **NO** EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES ARE NOT THE USUAL SUNDAY MASSES.

<b>ROSTERS 9TH/10TH DECEMBER, 2023</b>		<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B</b>		
Church Cleaning: C. Teuma and T. May.		Sacristy: I. Willingham and M. Hutchison.		
<b>MASSES</b>	<b>6PM</b>	<b>7.30AM</b>	<b>9AM</b>	<b>5PM</b>
<b>Commentator</b>	H. Sobiesiak	C. Attard	C. Conolly	C. Chalker
<b>Reader</b>	T. Ripa	S. Mackenzie	T. Victorino	M. Claravall
<b>Acolyte/Adult Server</b>	J. Dimech	J. Coco	F. Watkins	G. Claravall