



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
www.stmatthewswindsor.org.au
Office hours next week - 9.30am - 4.30pm
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

Second Sunday of Advent Year B *10th December, 2023*



Why John the Baptist? All the Gospels give great importance to the person and preaching of John the Baptist. In the religious paintings of the early Church he held a prominent position. But did Jesus really need him?

John the Baptist represents the culmination of the Old Testament. In him all the hopes and dreams of the Jewish people across the centuries find expression. But did God really need the Old Testament and Jewish history in order to offer salvation?

No, God didn't need any of this. God could offer salvation personally and individually to any one of us. But God's plan of salvation involves not merely the supreme human mediation given through Jesus but all the many other people through whom God chooses to bring to us grace and love.

A prayer of thanksgiving is often said for those who have brought our faith to where we are today. As a way of preparation for the coming of the Lord we would do well to recall the people who have formed our faith to what it is today. Perhaps it was grandparents, parents, teachers, the atheist who challenges or the friend who dies tragically – there are many different ways, both positive and negative, that God has used these people as channels of grace into our lives. As we recognise who they are and give thanks we make ourselves even more open to the coming of God in our lives.

REST IN THE LOVE OF OUR GOD

When you are at peace, consider before God what you consider to be some of your failings – certain ways of acting that you believe fail to show the life and love that you believe God wants of you. Choose one of these failings and gently hold it before God. At this point make no judgments or decisions on this but ask God's Spirit to guide how you look at this behaviour. What could be some of the causes for you acting like this? What are the deeper roots of your behaviour?

As you hold this behaviour before you, ask the Spirit to transform your mind and heart in relation to it.

Sr Kym Harris osb www.prayasyoucan.com.au

FUNERAL:

For those who wish to attend, Shirley Said's funeral will be held at 10am on Thursday, 14th December, here in St Matthew's.



PLEASE NOTE, THAT BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS, THERE WILL BE NO 5PM MASS ON SUNDAY, 24TH DECEMBER.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.



FIRST READING: Isaiah 40 : 1-5, 9-11
Prepare the way for the Lord.

RESPONSE: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3 : 8-14
We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 1 : 1-8
Make straight the paths of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:



Deceased: Please pray for the recently deceased Shirley Said, (Anniversary of Paul Bugeja) as well as George Seguna, Carmen and Carmelo Grima, Jason Vella, Maria and David Caffe, Sam Bugeja, Chris, John and Maryanne Sultana.

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

PAPAL KNIGHTHOOD FOR ST MATTHEW'S PARISHIONER

Recently we learned that Pope Francis has bestowed on St Matthew's parishioner Kevin Conolly the honour of a Knighthood of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great for distinguished services to the Church in Australia. Last Thursday Kevin was awarded the medal and citation in recognition of his Knighthood by Archbishop Anthony Fisher in St Mary's Cathedral Sydney.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE CHAPLAINCY SERVICES.

Thank you for giving comfort, faith, and hope to distraught people this Christmas. Because of your compassion, our Parish raised over \$2,500- at the recent Bishop's Christmas Appeal.



PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday and Wednesday of next week. Also, it will close at 4.30pm on Friday, 22nd December and reopen at 9.30am on Monday, 15th January. If you have an urgent matter during that time, you will need to catch Father after Mass.

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)



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

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.



ROSTERS 16TH/17TH DECEMBER, 2023

Church Cleaning: J. Dimech.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Sacristy: B. and N. Duff

MASSSES	6PM	7.30AM	9AM	5PM
Commentator	J. Newland	S. Mackenzie	M. Grosvenor	S. Naylor
Reader	A. Dimech	J. Wein	J. Micallef	A. Pennings
				R. Xerri
Acolyte/Adult Server	J. Dimech	J. Coco	J. Rapa	G. Claravall