



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 and 9.00am

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

Third Sunday of Advent Year B

17th December, 2023



Rarely has someone in the spotlight worked so effectively to deflect attention from himself. The opening words of this Gospel describe John as a 'witness' and the series of responses that he

gives to the questions of the Jews show the depth to which he sees his identity in relation to the person to whom he is to give witness. What is extraordinary is that, at this time, John didn't know who the Christ would be, how he would act or even what type of Kingdom he would inaugurate. In all his responses he shows that he is capable of living a vocation which was largely undefined. But what he did know he was utterly faithful to. He knew a Messiah was coming who was greater, far greater, than himself and that the proper response to coming Messiah was to prepare – to make straight the way of the Lord.

Many of us have times when the calling of God within our lives can be unclear: times of transition, crisis or illness. The diminishment of age can bring this about. Until God makes things clearer there is nothing we can do...except be faithful to what we know we should do. Sometimes that can seem to amount to little. John the Baptist, in such a time, saw himself simply as a voice, a voice crying in the wilderness, a voice that was passed over once the Christ had come. But John needed nothing more: that was his fulfilment. He was the voice preparing for the Bridegroom, the one prepared to diminish, so that the Christ could increase, the one who could see that 'it was all about Christ'.

REST IN THE LOVE OF OUR GOD

God is far beyond our comprehension, the mysteries of faith beyond our words and definitions. When you are at rest in the love of your God, ponder on those aspects of your faith that seem dark and incomprehensible. Like John the Baptist, don't seek clear definitions simply remain open to the mystery of your God.

As you rest in God's love, ask that love to draw you even more deeply and peacefully into that mystery.

Sr Kym Harris osb www.prayasyoucan.com.au
Graphics young-catholics.com

**REMINDER; BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS, THERE WILL BE
NO 5PM MASS NEXT SUNDAY, 24TH DECEMBER.**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61 : 1-2, 10-11
I exult for joy in the Lord.

RESPONSE: My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5 : 16-24
May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 1 : 6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deceased: Please pray for the recently deceased Marvin Canlas, Shirley Said, (Anniversary of Mario Fenech) as well as Paul Bugeja, George Seguna, Chris, John and Maryanne Sultana.

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



PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed 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 speak to Father after Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASS VOLUNTEERS - STILL NEEDED

For Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we are still 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.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS

We still have some calendars available for purchase at the cost of \$10- each. Unfortunately, out of the thirteen that were at the back of the Church last weekend, we only received money for one. Because of that, if you would like to buy a calendar, they can only be purchased from the Parish Office during office hours.

FOR THE FEAST OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD, THERE WILL BE A 9AM MASS ON MONDAY, 1ST JANUARY 2024.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE AND FIESTA 2024

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2024 Epiphany Pilgrimage (2nd - 9th Jan 2024). Enjoy seven days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbar's Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org



FREE ENGLISH AND CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

ROSTERS 23RD/24TH DECEMBER, 2023		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B		
Church Cleaning: M. Quattromani and J. Mooney.		Sacristy: M. Roth and C. Vella.		
MASSSES	6PM	7.30AM	9AM	5PM
Commentator	M. Said	J. Wein	S. Kavanagh	
Reader	M. Williams	C. Attard	J. Rapa	NO 5PM MASS
Acolyte/Adult Server	J. Dimech	J. Coco	T. McMahan	