



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 will be closed until
Monday, 15th January 2024.*

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 5pm

Weekday:

Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am

Adoration:

Tuesday 8.30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday 9.30am

Hospital Chapel Mass: (except January)

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

24th December, 2023



How people make decisions is a popular theme for current psychological research. For anyone who thinks they make wise decisions based on reason, the results are not looking good. We are more likely to be influenced by prejudice, emotion and impulse than we would like to admit. One way to counter our biases is by developing good habits of mind and heart.

So what has that got to do with the Annunciation? Many paintings, show Mary not only at prayer but more especially reading the scripture at the time of the Angel's greeting. What is implied is that the woman who said, 'Be it done unto me according to your Word,' had been trying to live according to the Word of God before she was faced with the momentous decision to become Mother of God. A lifetime, true a young person's lifetime, of trying to see God at work in her ordinary life made her heart capable of making a decision that was beyond credulity. In the history of Israel that she had pondered, she saw God's almighty love working in the most unlikely of places. Well she regarded herself as an unlikely person for God to work through but she trusted God's power and love to do the impossible within her.

And what about us? If we are having trouble trying to find God's Word for our lives, maybe we need to regularly try to find God's Word in the small events of life. That is, we need to discipline our hearts in small things so that when big decisions come we are attuned to the heart of God. Morning offering, grace before and after meals, prayer for those we journey with to and from work – there are a multitude of ways we can be open to the Word of God spoken in the ordinary events of life. As we build the habit of shaping our lives according to the Word, we make ourselves ready for the times when God will call us beyond what we believe humanly possible but which we discover is more than possible for God.

REST IN THE LOVE OF OUR GOD

All of us have moments when God has called us out of the familiar into the unknown. We may have felt a variety of emotions, experienced a flood of thoughts, or have been overwhelmed with fear or grief. As you rest in the love of your God, recall some of these moments, when faith has led you into places you never dreamed you would go. Mull over, with your God, what happened and what your feel and think about it now.

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7 : 1-5. 8-12. 14, 16
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

RESPONSE: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 16 : 25-27
The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 1 : 26-38
You will conceive and bear a son.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deceased: Please pray for the recently deceased Marvin Canlas, Shirley Said as well as Mario Fenech, Karen Bartolo, Charles and Mary Stella Bonanno, Francis Bonanno, John Mifsud, Frank Debono, Chris, John and Maryanne Sultana.

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



THERE WILL BE A 9AM MASS ON MONDAY, 1ST JANUARY 2024. FOR THE FEAST OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD. ALSO, THERE WILL BE NO HOSPITAL MASS IN JANUARY - IT WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THANK YOU



We would like to thank everyone who has helped in the Parish in one way or another over the past year. A special thank you to those who will be contributing to our Christmas liturgies, to help make them wonderful celebrations.

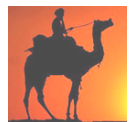
We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas with family and friends and we pray that next year you will

experience peace, joy and many blessings.

God bless you. The Parish team

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



SCHOENSTATT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Will be holding a Girls Summer Camp for girls aged between 12-16 from 15th January to 17th January and a weekend retreat for women over 17 from 12th January to 14th January. Both will be held at the retreat centre Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. For more information regarding cost and the activities that will be available, please see the flyer at the back of the Church.

JUST A REMINDER THAT THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY 2024. DURING THAT TIME, IF YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT MATTER, YOU WILL NEED TO SPEAK TO FATHER AFTER MASS.

ROSTERS 30TH/31ST DECEMBER, 2023		FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY YEAR B		
Church Cleaning: T. Ripa and S. Mitchell.		Sacristy: I. Willingham and M. Hutchison.		
MASSSES	6PM	7.30AM	9AM	5PM
Commentator	K. Apap	C. Attard	Volunteer	M. Claravall
Reader	M. Grosvenor	M. Allen	F. Watkins	C. Chalker
Acolyte/Adult Server	J. Dimech	J. Coco	T. Victorino	G. Claravall