



# 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 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:

Monday 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

## *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year B 31st December, 2023*



Look at any newspaper, magazine, television current affairs program or social commentary and you will be bombarded with the notion that the institution of family is under attack. Rather, what appears to be under attack is a particular view of what it means to be 'family'. Society in general and governments in particular are recognising the reality that 'family' is a much more fluid term than it used to be. Rather than an attack on family, it might be argued that there is in fact an embracing of the concept of family by making its definition much broader.

In this feast we celebrate the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The model of family that we have in this Holy Family is a model that would not be entirely out of place in the 21st Century. Mary was a very young woman; possibly no more than 13 or 14 years old. Joseph was an older man; possibly on his second marriage. There was a degree of scandal about the conception of their child and Joseph seriously contemplated whether or not he would go ahead with the marriage. They were forced to flee their homeland and seek protection as refugees in Egypt. We see from today's passage that the parents are doing their best to be faithful to their religious and cultural traditions whilst worrying about what the future holds for their son. It is a picture that is not too different from the situation in which many families today find themselves. So while we celebrate today the feast of the Holy Family, it is very much a celebration of every family.

### **Living the Gospel – Faithful**

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hallmark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people.

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:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 15 : 1-6. 21 : 1-3  
*Your own son shall be your heir.*

**RESPONSE:** The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19  
*The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.*

**ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia! Alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Luke 2 : 22-40  
*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Deceased:** Please pray for the recently deceased Marvin Canlas as well as Mario Fenech, Karen Bartolo, Charles and Mary Stella Bonanno, Francis Bonanno, John Mifsud, Frank Debono, Sam, Jane and Simon Vassallo, Lorry and Carmen Xerri, 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.**

### SYDNEY SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville NSW, from 7th to 14th January 2024. It features praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations opened 31st October. To register or for more information: [contact@summerschool.org.au](mailto:contact@summerschool.org.au). Bookings: [summerschool.org.au](http://summerschool.org.au)



### 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, please see the flyer at the back of the Church.

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to enrol: [www.parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/liturgical-ministry](http://www.parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/liturgical-ministry)



### PLEASE NOTE

If you have a sick family member or friend in hospital and you would like a priest, please contact the hospital Pastoral Care team and they will organise a visit for you. If the person is not in hospital, you will need to come and see Father personally, after any of the weekday or weekend Masses

### 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 6TH/7TH JANUARY, 2024		EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR B		
Church Cleaning: A. Tabone.		Sacristy: N. and B. Duff.		
MASSES	6PM	7.30AM	9AM	5PM
Commentator	T. Ripa	S. Mackenzie	I. Willingham	A. Pennings
Reader	H. Sobiesiak	J. Wein	L. Buchanan	S. Naylor
Acolyte/Adult Server	J. Dimech	J. Coco	J. Rapa	G. Claravall