



# 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 5pm

#### Weekday:

Monday to Saturday 9.00am  
**Ash Wednesday, 9am and 7pm**

#### Adoration:

Tuesday 8.30am

#### Reconciliation:

Friday 6.00pm  
Saturday 9.30am

#### Stations of the Cross

Friday 7.00pm

#### 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.

## *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B*

*11th February, 2024*



It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.


For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

### **LIVING THE GOSPEL – WHO IS YOUR LEPER?**

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

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


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

<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b>	Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.	
<b>FIRST READING:</b>	Leviticus 13 : 1-2. 44-46 <i>As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.</i>	
<b>RESPONSE:</b>	I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.	
<b>SECOND READING:</b>	1 Corinthians 10 : 31 – 11:1 <i>Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.</i>	
<b>ACCLAMATION:</b>	Alleluia! Alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!	
<b>GOSPEL:</b>	Mark 1 : 40 - 45 <i>The leprosy left him and he was cured.</i>	
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b>	They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.	

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Deceased:** Please pray for the recently deceased Matthew Simpson, (Anniversaries of Matthew and Kathryn Mulhall) as well as William Attard, Charlie and Grace Vella, Felix Sammut and Maree Sammut, Chris, John and Maryanne Sultana.

**Sick:** Please pray for Jimmy Marinas, Thelma Rayes, Joan Dodd, Roza Galea & Roslyn Wright.




**LENT**

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and Mass will be held at 9am and 7pm. Please note that the primary school children from St Matthew's will be attending the 9am Mass.

**RECONCILIATION AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Every Friday during Lent there will be reconciliation available at 6pm which will then be followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7pm. All parishioners are welcome.




**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This year the Prayer Service will be held in St Monica's Richmond at 10.30am on Friday, 1st March. We still do not have a representative for St Matthew's. If you would like to help, there is a preparation meeting at 10am on Thursday, 15th February in the Emmaus Room at St Monica's. Please consider being our representative as it is only held once a year, and this year was prepared by the people of Palestine.

**PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY**

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes at the back of the Church, at [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413




**MORNING TEA**

Fr Arthur Cook will be visiting the Parish next weekend and while he is here, he will celebrate the 9am Mass. As it happens, that day is also his 80th birthday, so we will be holding a morning tea following the Mass. All parishioners are most welcome to stay and have a cuppa.

**NEVER AGAIN IS NOW – Australians united against antisemitism**

Join thousands of Australians at a gathering of solidarity, united against antisemitism and expressing their desire for a peaceful, cohesive society. 'Never Again Is Now' will be held at a Sydney location at 3pm, Sunday 18th February at 3pm. Save the date. For more information visit : [neveragainisnow.com.au](http://neveragainisnow.com.au)



<b>ROSTERS 17TH/18TH FEBRUARY, 2024</b>		<b>1ST SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR B</b>		
Church Cleaning: A. Tabone.		Sacristy: B. and N. Duff.		
<b>MASSES</b>	<b>6PM</b>	<b>7.30AM</b>	<b>9AM</b>	<b>5PM</b>
<b>Commentator</b>	H. Sobieisak	S. Mackenzie	N. McMahon	A. Pennings
<b>Reader</b>	M. Williams	M. Allen	J. Rapa	S. Naylor
				R. Xerri
<b>Acolyte/Adult Server</b>	J. Dimech	J. Coco	T. McMahon	G. Claravall