



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 to 4.30pm
Monday and Tuesday only*

Schools:

St Matthew's Primary Phone: 4560 2300
Principal: Mr Ben Ticehurst
Chisholm Catholic Primary Phone: 4573 3200
Principal: Mr Michael Mifsud
Bede Polding College Phone: 4560 2900
Principal: Mr Greg Malone

Masses:

Next Weekend:

Sat. Vigil 6.00pm
Sun. 7.30am, 9.00am and 5.00pm

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am
**For Christmas Eve and Christmas Mass
Times, see other side of bulletin.**

Reconciliation:

Saturday 9.30am

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 6pm (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 C

22nd December, 2024



The gospel passages of the second and third weeks of Advent this year featured John the Baptist in his role of preparing the way for the coming of Jesus; the one who announces the arrival of the Christ. In this week's passage, which goes back to an earlier point in the gospel of Luke, we might say that the as yet unborn John is already recognising the presence of the Christ. When Mary goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, the child within Elizabeth's womb – John – leaps for joy. At the time of the Annunciation, when Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she was to give birth to a child, Mary is also told that Elizabeth and Zechariah, although very old, were to also give birth to a child. Mary rushes to visit Elizabeth, not to make sure that the angel was telling her the truth but because the fact that Elizabeth was also pregnant was a sign of confirmation to Mary that she had indeed made the right decision. Elizabeth's unlikely pregnancy confirms for Mary the even greater truth of her own pregnancy. These two women, separated by age and distance, share a common experience of God acting in their lives to bring about unlikely events. The lives of their two children will be inextricably linked such that the one who leapt for joy in his mother's womb will eventually baptise the other and announce the arrival of his ministry to the people of Israel.

The joy expressed by Elizabeth and her child reflects the joy of all people of faith as we draw so close to the celebration of Christmas and the greatest expression of God's love – to enter into the world as one just like us and share our experience.

GOSPEL FOCUS – BLESSED ARE YOU

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Elizabeth's greeting to Mary forms the second portion of the traditional prayer, the Hail Mary. The first portion of the prayer also comes from Luke's gospel and is the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. The final portion was framed by the Church. Use of the Hail Mary dates to about the 11th Century.

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: Micah 5 : 1-4
Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

RESPONSE: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10 : 5-10
I am coming to do your will.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 1 : 39-44
Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

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 as well as Paul and Frances Bugeja, Antonio Martello, Bernard Axiak, Bill and Rosemary Cordina, George Seguna, John Ripa, Nicola Ripa, Antonia Ripa, Jesse Ripa, Bonnie Farrugia, John Mifsud, Philip and Mary Mifsud, Carmelo and Elizabeth Vella, Chris, John, Maryanne Sultana and family.

Sick: Please pray for Jimmy Marinas, Marilyn Marinas, Thelma Rays, Joan Dodd, Sam Galea, Roslyn Wright, Grant Leslie, Fely Watkins, Christopher Sales, Maggie Abraham, Kevin Hawkins, Julieta Hawkins, Susitina Makasini, Alya Oyon-Oyon, Riley Oyon-Oyon and Hank Eggers.

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2024

Tuesday, 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)

Wednesday, 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.

MASS FOR THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Join Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville on Saturday 28th December at 9.30am Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents. A procession of the Blessed Sacrament will follow Mass to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Please bring a plate to share. For more details call Br Louis 0422 028 647.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN IS SEEKING A PARISH SECRETARY TO JOIN THE PARISH TEAM ON A PART TIME BASIS, WORKING FROM THE PARISH OFFICES AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BLACKTOWN. THIS POSITION IS FOR 4 DAYS PER WEEK, TUESDAY TO FRIDAY, FROM 9AM TO 4PM. FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE EMAIL admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

ROSTERS: 28TH/29TH DECEMBER, 2024		HOLY FAMILY YEAR C		
Church Cleaning: J. Dimech.		Sacristy: B. and N. Duff.		
Masses:	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am	5.00pm
Commentator:	H. Sobiesiak	C. Attard	N. McMahon	C. Chalker
Reader/s:	M. Williams	J. Wein	T. Victorino	M. Claravall
Acolyte/Adult Server	T. Jordan	J. Coco	F. Watkins	G. Claravall