



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, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.*

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

Reconciliation

Friday 6.30pm

Saturday 9.30am

Stations of the Cross

Friday 7.00pm

Holy Hour for Children

First Friday each month 6.00pm

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

Third Sunday of Lent Year C 23rd March, 2025



Well, this is the closest we get to someone asking Jesus the question so many in our time want the answer to: why do the innocent suffer? The disciples asked: were these people innocent? which amounts pretty much to our question. If I had been there my breath would have stopped, my hearing would have focussed acutely and....I would have howled at the answer. Jesus does not answer the question. At least not in the way I want, nor in the way most people, who agonise over this question, want. If ever there was a chance for a clear cut answer that would put paid to the questions about the goodness of God, this was it...except that Jesus didn't take it!

Look what he did in this conversation. They asked about 'them'. He said, 'Look to yourselves. Use their suffering as an incentive to actively turn away from evil and pursue goodness in your lives.' That certainly isn't the answer I want but maybe it is the answer I need. When we agonise over the pain of the innocent, it is a short step to presuming that we are amongst them and that our pain is undeserved. Maybe it is, but then maybe it isn't. If we are not truly examining our consciences and our actions, we could be doing wrong unthinkingly, and worrying over other people is one way to elude our own responsibilities.

That being said, we also need to look at what Jesus did at the end of his life. One thing the New Testament is clear about, Jesus was innocent. Tempted terribly, yes, but innocent. If anyone didn't deserve to suffer it was him. Yet he did. Jesus' answer to the suffering of the innocent was to share in that suffering. That is the answer he gives to our awful question but does it make any sense? Not until we follow in his footsteps and, in extending ourselves in loving care of our brothers and sisters, suffer in some innocent way that he did. The answer to our question lies not in our head but in our experience. It is not given to the mind but rather to the heart and when we have discovered it in some small way we will find we have entered into the mystery of God.

REST IN THE LOVE OF YOUR GOD.

As you go through this week, mull on the way being concerned for what happens in the wider world, over which we have no influence, can actually distract us from recognising the times and places where we can make a change for the better. In the small things of life, try to make a difference.

Sr Kym Harris osb www.prayasyoucan.com.au

Graphics: youngcatholics.com

THESE RESPONSES AND READINGS ARE FOR THE SUNDAY MASSES ONLY.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: My eyes are always on the Lord, for He rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING: Exodus 3 :1 -8. 13-15
This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

RESPONSE: The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10 : 1-6, 10-12
All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: Luke 13 : 1-9
Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deceased: Please pray for the recently deceased Freda Aquilina as well as Leanne Sultana, Nicola and Antonia Ripa, John Ripa, Bonnie Farrugia, John Mifsud, Jesse Ripa, Karen Bartolo, Chris, John, Maryanne Sultana and family.

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



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION TALK

The next Baptismal Preparation Talk will be held this Thursday, 27th March at 7.30pm in the hall. Baptisms are held on the first, second and third Sundays of each months and bookings for the Baptism are made at the talk. To book for the talk contact the Parish Office 45773073.



LEGION OF MARY

All Junior and Senior - Active and Auxiliary members are invited to attend the annual ACIES Ceremony in St Patrick Church, Blacktown on Saturday, 29th March. It will start at 1:30pm with opening prayers and rosary followed by the ACIES Ceremony and closing with Benediction. It will be followed by light refreshments, so please bring food and drink to share.

CATECHIST SUNDAY

This weekend we are celebrating Catechist Sunday. Catechists form the largest volunteer team within the Church who ensure that all the children of our Parish hear of God's great love for them. There are still more children that we could be reaching! Can you give around an hour of your time once week to teach or help out in a classroom? Please contact Dolores 4579 6160 or the Parish Office if you would like to get involved.



THE MONDAY CLUB'S NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 31ST MARCH IN THE HALL AND WILL START AT 10AM. COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN. .

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal which will be held at all Masses next weekend. There is an envelope attached for you to return next weekend.



ROSTERS: 29TH/30TH MARCH, 2025		4TH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C		
Church Cleaning: M. Quattromani and J. Mooney.		Sacristy: M. Roth and C. Vella.		
Masses:	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am	5.00pm
Commentator:	T. Ripa	J. Wein	C. Conolly	M Claravall
Reader/s:	M. Williams	S. Mackenzie	T, Victorino	C. Chalker
Acolyte/Adult Server	J. Dimech	J. Coco	F. Watkins	G. Claravall