



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C
30th March, 2025



Today's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables (the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin – Lk 15:4-10). The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behaviour in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behaviour. Who you ate with was a reflection of who you were. To eat with sinners and the unclean effectively made you a sinner and unclean.

The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke – more so than any of the others – has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalised; in other words, the 'lost' of his society. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about – being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God's love that will be poured out for any 'sinner' who returns to God.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? THE PRODIGAL

Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word prodigal is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

Sr Kym Harris osb www.prayasyoucan.com.au
Graphics: youngcatholics.com

THESE RESPONSES AND READINGS ARE NOT FOR THE SUNDAY 9AM MASS.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.



FIRST READING: Joshua 5 : 9-12
The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

RESPONSE: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5 : 17-21
God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

ACCLAMATION: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: Luke 15 : 1-3. 11-32
Your brother here was dead and has come to life

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:



Deceased: Please pray for the recently deceased Freda Aquilina, (Anniversary of John Mifsud) as well as John Ripa, Stella and Charlie Bonanno. Frances Bonanno, Frank Debono, Leanne Sultana, 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.

MONDAY CLUB

The next meeting is this Monday 31st March at 10am in the hall. Come along to enjoy good food and conversation. \$15 for morning tea and lunch. Everyone is welcome.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: First Eucharist

We would like to remind parents of children in the program, that there is a workshop at 7pm on Tuesday, 8th April and Wednesday, 9th April in the Church. Children are required to be accompanied by a parent and only need to attend one of the workshops. If you have any questions, please contact Cita in the Parish Office.



HOLY WEEK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Holy week will soon be here and we are looking for volunteers to help with the various ministries at all services and Masses. We are also looking for volunteers to get their feet washed on Holy Thursday. If you are able to help in any way, please put your name in the appropriate spot on the sheets at the back of the Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION

This Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes, online, or by calling 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.



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 this weekend or donate at parracatholic.org/appeal

ROSTERS: 5TH/6TH APRIL, 2025		5TH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C		
Church Cleaning: T. Ripa and S. Mitchell.		Sacristy: D. Marshall and M. Hutchison.		
Masses:	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am	5.00pm
Commentator:	M. Said	S. Mackenzie	I. Willingham	A. Pennings
Reader:	H. Sobiesiak	E. El Hindy	F. Watkins	E. Sultana
Acolyte/Adult Server	T. Jordan	J. Coco	T. Victorino	D. Edgar