We are a Dynamic Faith Community in the Spirit of the Gospel

St Andrew's Parish News

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B - 16 & 17 DECEMBER 2023

Same

OUR PARISH

Parish Office

76 Springs Road Clayton South VIC 3169 Phone: 9551 5666 Email: claytonsouth@cam.org.au Tuesday - Friday 10am - 3pm

Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil 6.00pm Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am Mon—Sat (except Tues): 9.15am Tues: 7.00pm & Novena to St. Jude

Reconciliation Saturday: 9.45 to 10.15am

Baptism & Wedding Please contact the Parish Office

Funeral Please contact the Parish Office

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Fr. Shibu Joseph sac shibu.joseph@cam.org.au

Parish Team Leader

Linda De Souza (Tues/ Thurs/Fri) Email: claytonsouth@cam.org.au

Parish Secretary

Smita Pinto (Tue/Wed) Luisa May - Bookkeeper (Thu) **Youth Co-ordinator** SAYGCS21@qmail.com

St. Andrew's Primary School

Principal: Mr. Paul Wakeling Phone: 9551 5094 principal@saclaytonsth.catholic.edu.au **R.E. Co-ordinator**

Chantelle Fernandes

ONLINE SERVICES

Website: www.standrewsclaytonsouth.org.au **Daily Reflections:** https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/

standrewsparishclaytonsouth

BE A FRIEND AT THIS CHRISTMAS

During this Advent and Christmas time, you are invited to pray for a parish family.

- 1. PICK UP A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM THE CHURCH FOYER
- 2. WRITE A SHORT CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OR PRAYER
- **3. CLOSE THE ENVELOPE WITH A CARD AND PRAYER**
- **4. DELIVER THE CARD TO THE ADDRESS**

5. KEEP THE FAMILY IN YOUR PRAYERS DURING THIS ADVENT & **CHRISTMAS SEASON**

YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A CARD KINDLY LET US KNOW

AV SYSTEM UPGRADED

We have replaced the existing televisions in the church with 75" TVs and installed another TV at the back side of the church. The total cost of the project is \$4,778. A huge thanks to Eugene Simon and the finance committee for all their efforts and running around that they did on this. This has been a great outcome for the Parish and I am sure a lot of folk with diminishing eye sight will be most benefitted with this upgrade.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - THANK YOU

What an amazing and successful Carols by Candlelight we had on last Saturday! The atmosphere and vibe was just awesome! It was a very fruitful evening bringing in the Christmas spirit and enjoyed by everyone who attended. A big thank you to Lyn Fernandes, Kim Davey, Maria Brewty and Cheryl Lansakara for their leadership and dedication. Thanks to all others who have helped to make the event ever memorable.

ANOINTING WITHIN MASS ON DECEMBER 20 AT 9.15AM



RECONCILIATION SERVICE & CONFESSION ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20 AT 7PM

Kindly note that Priests from other parishes will be available for Confessions.

St. Andrew's Parish, Clayton South is committed to the safety, wellbeing & dignity of all children, young people & vulnerable adults.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT "A COMMUNITY THAT EMBRACES, CELEBRATES AND EMPOWERS ALL TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS"

PARISH NEWS

<u>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2023</u> The Christmas Program with the Christmas and New Year's Mass Times are available on St Andrew's Parish website <u>CHRISTMAS</u> <u>PROGRAM 2023</u> and also included on the 7th page of the digital copy of the Parish Newsletter. Printed copies are available in the church foyer.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS ROSTERS ARE ON PAGE 6 OF THE NEWSLETTER

DONATION FOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

We kindly welcome any donations to meet the expenses to have a wonderful Christmas and New Year Liturgical celebrations for our community. You can contribute either via cash to the parish office or bank transfer to the church account. Please send us an email to notify us of the donation to help us provide you with a receipt accordingly. Thank you! ACCOUNT NAME: ST. ANDREW'S PARISH BSB: 083 347 A/C NO: 662557799 Reference: CHRISTMAS & Your Name



<u>CATHOLIC MISSION</u> Thanks the parish of St Andrew's for your support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Your

generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope & love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$2,004.50 has been most gratefully received. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need. Thank You

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE—The Parish Office will remain closed for Christmas & New Year break from Tuesday 26th December 2023 to Monday 15th January 2024. The office will re open on Tuesday 16th January 2024. Thank You!



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ARCHBISOP PETER COMENSOLI

A card with Christmas Blessings from the Archbishop is kept in the church foyer. Please take one home. Also, a form / postage paid return

envelope is attached to support the Advent Appeal for Ukraine. A tax deductible receipt will be sent to the email address you provide on the form.



Happy Birthday Martin Nellivila, Aidan Fraser, David Gayen, Greg Attard, Charles Cooke, Kathy Dolby, Joanna De Souza,

Kappy 60th Wedding Anniversary Duong Van and Lanh Thi Nguyen



David and Tina Podesta. Kave a Wonderful Day!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE!

St. Vincent de Paul Society members are delivering



special vouchers to the deserved families for a decent meal at this Christmas. Coming school year, some disadvantaged students will get extra help with their uniforms and books; without this support some of them might not continue the schooling. Increased cost of utilities add pressure on low-income families and our support is crucial for their well-being. The Christmas giving tree is up at the church foyer this year again. Please contribute in the blue box kept next to the tree. All donations at the giving tree will go directly to support the deserved people in our community. Vincentians of St. Andrews Conference and our companions from the society, wishing all of you a Merry Christmas!





CHILDREN MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES



WEEKLY CALENDAR 2023

Monday 18 December

Tuesday 1	<u>l9 December</u>
07.00pm	Choir Practice (11am Choir)
11.00am	Funeral Mass
09.15am	Mass

07.00pm Mass/St Jude's Novena

Wednesday 20 December

09.15am Mass—Anointing within Mass 07.00pm Choir Practice (6pm Choir) 07.00pm Advent Reconciliation Service 07.00pm RCIA Meeting Thursday 21 December 09.15am Mass

07.00pm Advent Reflection Program

07.30pm Choir Practice (8am Choir) Friday 22 December 09.15am Mass 06.00pm Nativity Play Practice Saturday 23 December 05.00am Filipino Christmas Mass 09.15am Mass 10.30am Choir Practice (9.30am Choir) 04.45pm Choir Practice (6pm Choir) 06.00pm Vigil Mass Sunday 24 December – 4th Sun of Advent Yr B

08.00am Mass 09.30am Mass 11.00am Mass 07.30pm Christmas Eve Children's & Family Mass 11.30pm Carols / Christmas Midnight Mass <u>Monday 25 December</u> - Christmas Day 08.30am Christmas Mass

10.30am Christmas Mass

REMEMBERING OUR COMMUNITY

Pray For Healing: Candice Walker, Simon Gelera, Pellegrina Nheu, Tommy Lee, Jim Alexiou, Geetha, Arun, Bhaskharan P V Nair, Sarath Kumar, Peter, Alex D'Cruz, Naville Goddar.

<u>Recently Deceased</u>: Mrs Nenita Sy, Wayne James, Bevin George.

Birthday Remembrance: Winnie Pinto, Aloysius & Ruth Braganza, Philip Geer, Jessy Fabien, Emanuel & Sabina D'souza, Mauela Lopez, Aloysius Branganza.

Monthly Remembrance: Peter Vena, Rosy Ouseph.

Death Anniversaries: Joseph Grandparents, Teresa Footman, Georgina Geer, Connie Abraham, Anne Ward, Mabel & Cecil Vales, Audrey Osbourne, Loretta & Johnny Gomes, Mary Antony, Joseph Antony, Rose Barwell, Tristan Valayoodum, Pamela D'Silva, Adrian Fraser, Harold D'Silva, Forgotten & All Souls in Purgatory.

ROSTERS

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B 16TH & 17TH DECEMBER 2023

	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday			
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
Altar Servers	Alexia Nathaneal Janelle Andrew G Justin		Evan	Ryan J
Comm	Jenny C	Victor T	Terry M	Lourdes R
Readers	Ethan S Cheryl R	Gazielle P Neddie A	David G Volunteer N	Beatriz C Volunteer N
Special Ministers	Michael M Erlinda D Cora D Cheryl R	Rima J Atanasio J Gazielle P Volunteer N	Ashlyn F Felicia F Jan Van Charles C	Gloria A Rodney N Rada P Volunteer N
Welcom- ers	Eugene & Ann S	Leroy & Sharon K	Sylvia L	Beatriz C
Altar L.	Sylvia Lawrence			
Counters Team	Marian J, Maureen H, Eugene G, Duong V N, George V, Jose E, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L			

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 24TH DECEMBER 2023

MASS TIMES

	IVIASS TIIVIES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
Altar Servers		Ryan G		Chanelle
Comm	Volunteer N	Jennie D	Felecia F	Maria B
Readers	Volunteers Needed	Lynette F Rebecca G	Jan Van R Gabrielle	Lourdes R Chantelle D
Special Ministers	Cheryl R Anne L F Corazon X Jenny C	Marlene E Marcelle J Victor T Volunteer N	Hanna T Joyce S Linda M Rodolfo G	Gloria A Pat I Linda K Erlinda D
Welcom- ers	Kim & Burle D	Peter F	Laurence B	Marie R
Altar L.	Claudette Chung			
Counters Team	Marian J, Maureen H, Eugene G, Duong V N, George V, Jose E, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L			





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Well-wisher & Parishioner MICHELLE ENGINEERING

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 17 DECEMBER 2023



FIRST READING Is 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God,

for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

RESP PSALM Ps lk 1:46-50.53-54.R.Is61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

- My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
- The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)
- He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)

SECOND READING 1Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God

expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ISAIAH 61:1

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:6-8.19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

REFLECTION – by Fr Michael Tate



Witness to the Light St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light.

At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death. As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

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NEW THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

There are just a few Thanksgiving Envelopes left in the church foyer. If you can assist with delivering some Envelopes, kindly do so. Please take a picture of the envelopes & send to the

office for records. Thank you

Your help will be greatly appreciated.



New Items at St. Andrew's Piety Stall New items, such as Christmas Cards, Christmas Gifts, Advent Reflection Books have arrived at the Piety Stall. There are several items available so please do take a look on your way out of Church. God's Word & Columban

calendars 2024 are now available in the piety stall.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S ROSTER						
	Christmas E	ve	Christn	nas Day	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
	Sun 24.12.23 7.30pm	Sun 24.12.23 11.30pm	Mon 25.12.23 8.30am	Mon 25.12.23 10.30am	Sun 31.12.23 4.30pm Adoration 6.00pm Mass	Mon 01.01.24 10.00am
Altar Servers	Alexia, Amelia Nathaneal Janelle Andrew G Ahaana	Evan Chanelle Sanuli Sophia	Alexia Adam	Mateo Gavin		Sanuli Gunasekara Sophia Fernando
Choir	Maria B	Meilanny	Donna	Eugene	Meilanny Chandra	Adam D'Souza
Comm	Maria B	Edwin B	Neddie A	Betty C	Cheryl Rodrigues	Cheryl Rodrigues
Readers	Colette D Janet D	Cheryl R Lynette F	Volunteer N Volunteer N	Sabrina D Lota F	Colette D'Costa Victor Thanasamy	Cheryl Lansakara Marguerita Singh
Special Ministers	Cheryl L Oreen T	Oreen T Marguerita Atanasio J Pearl B	George V Riekie V	Volunteer N	Pearl Braganza Rima Johnson Atanasio Johnson Victor Thanasamy	Edwin Braganza Cheryl Lansakara Cheryl Rodrigues Marguerita Singh
Welcom- ers	Volunteer N	Volunteer N	Volunteer N	Volunteer N	Laurence Bernard	Volunteer N
Collection	Rodney P	Volunteer N	Peter F	Volunteer N	Rodney Paul	Volunteer N

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09.15AM	ANOINTING WITHIN MASS
07.00PM	RECONCILIATION SERVICE & CONFESSION
06.00PM	4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
08.00AM 09.30AM 11.00AM	
07.30PM	CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MASS WITH NATIVITY PLAY
11.30PM	CAROLS FOLLOWED BY MIDNIGHT MASS
08.30AM 10.30AM	CHRISTMAS MASS CHRISTMAS MASS
06.00PM	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
08.00AM 09.30AM 11.00AM	
4.30PM (1HR)	EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
6.00 PM	THANKSGIVING / MARY MOTHER OF GOD
10.00AM	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
	07.00PM 07.00PM 06.00PM 08.00AM 09.30AM 11.00AM 07.30PM 11.30PM 08.30AM 10.30AM 08.00AM 09.30AM 11.30PM 4.30PM 4.30PM 4.30PM 4.30PM

PHOTOS FROM CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

