



# St Andrew's Parish News

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

## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR B - 30 & 31 DECEMBER 2023

### OUR PARISH

#### Parish Office

76 Springs Road  
Clayton South VIC 3169

**Phone:** 9551 5666

**Email:** [claytonsouth@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:shibu.joseph@cam.org.au)

#### Parish Team Leader

Linda De Souza (Tues/ Thurs/Fri)

**Email:** [claytonsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:claytonsouth@cam.org.au)

#### Parish Secretary

Smita Pinto (Tue/Wed)

Luisa May - Bookkeeper (Thu)

#### Youth Co-ordinator

[SAYGCS21@gmail.com](mailto:SAYGCS21@gmail.com)

#### St. Andrew's Primary School

Principal: Mr. Paul Wakeling

**Phone:** 9551 5094

[principal@saclaytonsth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@saclaytonsth.catholic.edu.au)

#### R.E. Co-ordinator

Nicole Black

### ONLINE SERVICES

#### Website:

[www.standrewsclaytonsouth.org.au](http://www.standrewsclaytonsouth.org.au)

#### Daily Reflections:

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/standrewsparishclaytonsouth](http://www.facebook.com/standrewsparishclaytonsouth)

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!



We would like to acknowledge the generosity and support of so many of you in helping us in ministering our wonderful parish community so well. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. We can't do what we do without you. May you have the biggest, happiest and craziest celebration on New Year's Eve. **I pray that you will experience God's peace and love every moment in the New Year.**

### THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

In his apostolic exhortation '**on love in the family**', *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis reminds us that 'no family drops down from heaven perfectly formed.' Rather, 'families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love.' 'In imitation of the Holy Family,' the Pope said a few years ago, 'we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit.' The Holy Family is clearly dear to Pope Francis' heart. He closes *Amoris Laetitia* with a prayer which partly runs:



'Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too, may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.' This image of families as 'schools of the Gospel' is a useful one, provided we look with clear eyes. On the one hand we should strive to love like the Holy Family loved, doing right by each other, sharing life's journey together, and so on. Meanwhile, we should also learn to love the families of our own times and listen to their needs. Many families experience trials of rejection, hostility, and displacement – just as the Holy Family did – and so our own family has a responsibility to love beyond itself. We must love and care for other families too.

### THE END OF YEAR MASS AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



You are invited to join an hour Eucharistic Adoration on Sunday 31st December from 4.30-5.30pm followed by Mass at 6pm. This will be an opportunity to reflect on what has been done and what to do, for our failures and our successes, to be grateful to be able to finish another year and begin another with our hearts raised. There will time for spontaneous prayers and silent reflection during the Eucharist Adoration. Most welcome!

**I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;**

**I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. (Psalm 9:1)**

**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**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD**



It is fitting that on New Year's Day we celebrate the calendar-shattering event in human history: the extraordinary role that a young woman in Galilee played in God's plan for the human race. In the Western Church, the young woman is titled 'Mother of God'. This signifies a relationship, a loving, nurturing relationship. We know that it encompassed a mother's horror of seeing her son tortured and done to death on the Cross. Yes, she was a mother, but Mother of God. How can this be portrayed for our minds to grasp? In the Book of Genesis, the creative act which began all reckoning of the passage of time and seasons was signalled by the Divine Wind hovering over the formless void. When that Holy Gust hovered over Mary, and she responded: 'Be it done unto me according to thy Word', the human existence of Our Lord Jesus Christ began, the fulcrum of history from which our calendar begins. We could pause for a moment to pray that at the end of all history, at the end of all calendars, we may share in Divine life with Mary of Galilee, Mother of God.

*Mary Mother of God, Pray for us*

*Happy Birthday*

Lota Fantonial, Linda Koo, Tany Vaz.

**Wedding Anniversary**

**Loretta & Glen Geer,**

**HAVE A HAPPY JOURNEY TOGETHER**

**CHRISTMAS 2023 - THANK YOU**

Our sincere thanks to each one of you who did so much to make our Christmas Celebration so special and meaningful. A special word of gratitude to our Liturgy Team for Advent Preparations, to those who did Christmas decorations in the church and outside, Cribs and Nativity scene, the star in front of the church and inside, sacristans, altar servers, parish staff, flower arrangement, choir groups, and carols, Sacristans, readers, special ministers, care of the sick etc.

Many thanks for your generous donation towards Christmas celebrations. You have made our Christmas celebration very special and grand. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and love. See some photos below.

Also I personally thank you for your love, generosity and kindness through many varied expressions Christmas gifts, Cards and Christmas wishes, and Christmas offerings. You are all in my prayers and Masses. Thank you.

*Fr. Shibu Joseph SAC*

**NEW YEAR'S ROSTER**

New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
Sun 31.12.23 4.30pm Adoration 6.00pm Mass	Mon 01.01.24 10.00am
	Sanuli Gunasekara Sophia Fernando
Meilanny Chandra	Adam D'Souza
Cheryl Rodrigues	Cheryl Rodrigues
Colette D'Costa Victor Thanasamy	Cheryl Lansakara Marguerita Singh
Pearl Braganza Rima Johnson Atanasio Johnson Victor Thanasamy	Edwin Braganza Cheryl Lansakara Cheryl Rodrigues Marguerita Singh
Laurence Bernard	Edwin Braganza
Rodney Paul	—

**PHOTOS—CHRISTMAS 2023**



**CHILDREN MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES**



## WEEKLY CALENDAR 2024

**Monday 1 January** - MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

10.00am New Year's Day Mass

**Tuesday 2 January** - Sts Basil & Gregory

Nazianzen

07.00pm Mass / St Jude's Novena

**Wednesday 3 January**

09.15am Mass

07.00pm Choir Practice (6pm Choir)

**Thursday 4 January**

09.15am Mass

08.00pm Choir Practice (8am Choir)

**Friday 5 January**

09.15am Mass - 1st Friday Devotions

**Saturday 6 January**

09.15am Mass

10.30am Choir Practice (9.30am Choir)

04.45pm Choir Practice (6pm Choir)

06.00pm Vigil Mass

**Sunday 7 January** - The EPIPHANY of the LORD

08.00am Mass

09.30am Mass

11.00am 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.

#### Recently Deceased:

Jill Gadson, Carlton Meyers,

#### Birthday Remembrance:

Sonia Singh, Rita Geer, James Patrick Roberts,

#### Monthly Remembrance:

**Death Anniversaries:** Maria and Gabriele Aceto, Walton Narcis, Marie Luise Valayoodum, Georgina and Nugent Geer, Kate and Eric Conyers, Vivian Fernandes, Ivor Steiner, Peter Steiner, Louis Ah-Kan, Wan-Kan Family, Cansing Family, Ho-Wo-chong family, all forgotten souls, and All Souls in Purgatory.

## ROSTERS

### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH YEAR B - 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
<b>Altar Servers</b>			Andrew G	Ryan G
<b>Comm</b>	Chantelle	Neddie A	Ashlyn F	Beatriz
<b>Readers</b>	Cora D Tina P	Victor T Jennie D	Liza S Allen S	Linda K Lourdes R
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Kim D Burle D Pearl B Corazon X	George V Riekie V Maureen Atanasio J	Carol N Felecia F Jan Van Rodolfo	Gloria A Beatriz C Rada P Ean B
<b>Welcomers</b>	Kim & Burle D	George & Riekie V	Carol N	Gloria A
<b>Altar L.</b>				
<b>Counters Team</b>	Marian J, Maureen H, Eugene G, Duong V N, George V, Jose E, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L			

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR B - 7TH JANUARY 2024

	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
<b>Altar Servers</b>				
<b>Comm</b>	Cheryl R	Lynette F	David G	Linda K
<b>Readers</b>	Marilyn W Corazon J	Tanasha S Tricia S	Adam D Allen S	Rohini T Arputha V
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Oreen T Cheryl L Marilyn W Pierre W	George V Riekie V Rebecca G Atanasio J	Charles C Felecia F Linda M Rodolfo	Ean B Beatriz C Rada P Lourdes R
<b>Welcomers</b>	Peter F	George & Riekie V	Carol N	Gloria A
<b>Altar L.</b>	Laurence Bernard			
<b>Counters Team</b>	Marian J, Maureen H, Eugene G, Duong V N, George V, Jose E, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L			

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE**—The Parish Office will remain closed for Christmas & New Year break after Friday 22nd December 2023. The office will re open on Tuesday 16th January 2024. During this period, kindly Contact Fr. Shibu for any pastoral assistance Thank You!



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25 Newcombe Court  
Clarinda VIC 3169  
Tel: (03) 9558 1600 | (03) 9558 1700  
Mobile: 0401 280 144  
Email: [joey@jss-associates.net.au](mailto:joey@jss-associates.net.au)

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[Uttamsharma@yahoo.co.in](mailto:Uttamsharma@yahoo.co.in)

### A WELL WISHER FOR THE PARISH OF ST. ANDREW'S

From the depths of my nothingness I prostrate myself before you O most Sacred Divine Adorable Heart of Jesus to pay to you all the homage of love praise and adoration in my power. Amen

### Top Gun Pest Control

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**THE FEAST OF  
THE HOLY FAMILY-  
YEAR B  
31 DECEMBER 2023**



**FIRST READING** Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'. 'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

**RESP PSALM** Ps L 104:1-6. 8-9.

**(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works! (R.)
2. Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face. (R.)
3. Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)
4. He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
The oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 11:8.11-12.17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith

that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

**Gospel Acclamation Hebrews 1:1-2**

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

## REFLECTION – by Fr Michael Tate

**“The Liberation of Woman** In today’s Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was ‘purified’. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.



No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God’s plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary’s soul.

©Fr Michael Tate;mtate@bigpond.com

**PIETY STALL AT ST ANDREW’S** We have lots of religious items, books, cards etc, Statues & gifts at our piety stall now open at all weekday & weekend Masses. Contact parish office during office hours if required. **Thank you!**

### FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

On 1st Friday - 5th January, we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Prayers after the 9.15am Mass.



### LEGION OF MARY Statue Visitation

The Statue of Mother Mary is available to visit homes in the Parish. Please contact: Lawrence Bernard - 0413 695 662 or Joe Lansakara - 0419 748 349. Legion of Mary will resume the monthly recitation of the Rosary at the Adoration Chapel Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

**Next Rosary at 7:00 pm on Wed 17th January 2024**

**Please join us to say the Rosary.**

### KINGSTON COUNCIL INTERFAITH NETWORK BREAKFAST



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Kingston Interfaith Network Committee would like to highlight the upcoming Interfaith Breakfast in February 2024, and invite your faith organisation to participate in the Interfaith Network. The Interfaith Network aims to encourage understanding and respect between peoples of all faiths and cultures. The Interfaith Network Committee helps to build connections amongst the diverse and vibrant faith communities within our municipality and with the City of Kingston. To book follow the link below:



**Book online via Eventbrite**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/kingston-interfaith-network-breakfast-tickets-763233220107>

**Bookings essential as tickets are limited.  
Bookings close on 25 January at 5pm.**

ST. ANDREWS PARISH CLAYTON SOUTH  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
2024  
Dinner Dance**  
31 DECEMBER 2023  
TIME: 7:30 PM TO 12:30 AM  
VENUE: ST ANDREWS SCHOOL HALL  
96 BUNNEY RD. CLAYTON SOUTH  
LIVE MUSIC BY:  
THE HITCHHIKERS  
&  
DJ STONE  
BUFFET DINNER BY:  
BURROWS CATERERS  
BYO DRINKS  
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