



# St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

(03) 9764 4058 (03) 9764 5154

office@stsimonsparish.com.au www.stsimonsparish.com.au

## PARISH PERSONNEL

### PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Kevin Dillon

Mobile: 0421 777 360

Email: frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

Mrs Loretta Hughes (Tues, Thurs)

Mrs Abbie Ferdinands (Mon, Wed, Fri)

### SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Marialisa Mandarino (Wednesday)

### BUSINESS & FINANCE:

Mr Peter Evans (Mon - Thurs)

Mr Lee Chew (Monday)

### SECRETARIES:

Mrs Felicia Ahumada (Mon - Wed)

Mrs Christina Liew (Thurs, Fri)

### ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Mr Phil Hesse: 9755 4222

### NAZARETH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL:

Mr Sam Cosentino: 9795 8100

### PARISH OFFICE OPEN:

9.00am to 4.00pm

Monday to Friday

### WEEKEND MASS:

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am

### OTHER MASS TIMES:

Monday to Saturday: 9.15am

Tuesday: 7.00pm

### RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.45am

### BAPTISMS:

First Sat 11.30am, Third Sun 12.15pm

### WEDDINGS:

Contact Parish Office

### ANointing OF THE SICK:

When required, and 9.15am

Mass on the First Friday of the Month

### MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARIES:

To be arranged through Parish Office

### PARISH COUNCIL:

parishcouncil@stsimonsparish.com.au

### MASS ON RADIO:

Mass from St. Simon's is broadcast on Light FM - 89.9 at 7am Sundays

### HALL HIRE:

St. Simon's Hall is available for hire

Saturday evenings and Sunday Lunch.

For enquiries, contact the Parish Office during Office Hours. Phone: 9764 4058.

## December 9th, 2018 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

A Royal Commission will investigate the Lawyer X scandal after the High Court labelled Victoria Police's use of a defence barrister as a police informer as "reprehensible conduct" that "debased fundamental premises of the criminal justice system".

Former Chief Commissioner Simon Overland heads a long list of public officials, from police command to prosecuting and government agencies, whose knowledge of and involvement in the informer's use is expected to be scrutinised when the commission begins early next year.

Yesterday, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Kerri Judd, QC, said that 20 letters would be sent to convicted criminals alerting them that their cases might have been tainted. Many more could follow.

Lawyer X herself claims that her information led to the arrest and charging of at least 386 people.

Lawyer X's informing unofficially began in late 2003, or even earlier.

*"Herald Sun", Tues. Dec. 4*



Two issues spurred vigorous debate this past week. One was the displeasure, if not disgust voiced by many over the behaviour of teenagers who just a couple of weeks ago were participating at Year 12 graduations, yet "schoolies" were running rampant at tourist resorts across the country.

But before we become too critical of the young adults of today, we may have to take on board the "other" issue of the week - and possibly of many weeks to come: the Royal Commission called to investigate the "Lawyer X" allegations.

For today's school leavers and others of their generation, the world of "Royal Commissions" must be becoming at best confusing and at worst a source of depression, scandal and disillusionment.

A "trifecta" of Royal Commissions has been headline news while today's "schoolies" have been working their way from Year 7 through to Year 12. It must surely be having an impact on how these young people view and interact with the world they are inheriting. Their parents' generation generally accepted that there were three people to be trusted in time of difficulty or trouble: the Priest or Minister, the Bank Manager and the Police Officer.

Successive Royal Commissions into institutional child abuse (with churches front and centre), into banks and major financial institutions, and now it seems into the very core of the legal system don't help today's school leavers to approach even the normal challenges of young adulthood with the confidence enjoyed by their parents.

Nonetheless, they are perhaps able to enjoy one benefit which was probably elusive for their mums and dads. It's an insight available to us all if we can take it on board. And it's this. There are no short cuts. There are no cover ups. If you think you will get away with something, you won't. *"For there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that will not be brought out into the open" (Luke 8: 17).*

It's a lesson given two thousand years ago by the greatest Teacher of all, but each generation has to learn it for itself. In the meantime, maybe we should cut some slack for the oncoming generation who were hoping, if not expecting that they would inherit something better.

## Rosters for weekend of 15th & 16th December 2018

Mass Time	6.00 pm	8.00 am	9.30 am	11.00 am
<b>Reader Commentator</b>	Marita Murphy Alex Van Rheenan	Peter Kean Phil Mawdsley	Reg Emons Mike Toomey	Nihal Mudalige Christina Liew
<b>Altar Society</b>	Carolyn Culpepper & Margaret Lancefield		<b>Flowers</b> Anne	
<b>CLOW</b> 	Judy Clarisse		Elly Bare	Abbie Ferdinands
<b>Help Desk</b>	Maria Walton	Cheryl Philp	Volunteer Needed	Julie Cosentino
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Rebecca Crellin, Mirella Louey, Marius Francis			
<b>Counters</b>	Helen Pongracic, Margaret & Gregory Carey, Noel Mulavey, Irene Law			
<b>Mass Recorder</b>	Marius Nazareth		<b>Bus Driver</b>	Francis Dragwidge
<b>Homily Typist</b>	Michelle Goh			

### PARISH DIARY

#### **Monday Dec. 10**

9.15am: Mass (Chapel)  
7.30pm: Advent Reflection (Chapel)

#### **Tuesday Dec. 11**

9.15am: Mass (Chapel)  
7.00pm: Mass (Church) - (Fr. Kevin Devine OMI)

#### **Wednesday Dec. 12**

9.15am: Mass (Chapel)  
10.00am: Meditation (Chapel) - Last for the year

#### **Thursday Dec. 13**

9.15am: Mass (Church)  
10.00am: Advent Reflection (Chapel)  
7.30pm: Reconciliation (2nd Rite)

#### **Friday Dec. 14**

10.00am: Anointing Mass (Church—note time change)  
11.00am: Seniors' Christmas Morning Tea (Chapel)  
6.00pm: Grade 6 Graduation Mass (Church)

#### **Saturday Dec. 15**

9.15am: Mass (Chapel)  
4.30pm: Practice for Nativity Play (Church)  
6.00pm: Mass—3rd Sunday of Advent (Church)

#### **Sunday Dec. 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

8.00am, 9.30am & 11.00am: Mass (Church)



### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE:

**Recent Deaths:** May Moffett (mother of Julie Faull); Katie Woods; Geoff Barrett **Anniversary:** Dorothy Rodrigues

### BAPTISMS:

**We welcome into our faith community:**

Arielle & Clarisse KWOK, daughters of Wesley & Ai,  
Sophie & Chloe BELLION, daughter & son of Lisa & David,  
Havana RYAN, daughter of Andrew & Monika, Abbey & Archer  
SWANSTON, daughter & son of Murray & Simone.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to** Anna Tanti, Paolo Barcial, Patrick Fong, Glenn Roche, Natalie Giaccotto, Thomas Mile, Nancy Leanza, Ron Ventura, Renato Alcazar, Catherine McCillister, Rolando Mandarino, Craig Don Paul, Nicole Dalzatto, Hannah White, Lachlan & Tayla Gregory, Stefan Frederic.

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

#### **Thursday, Dec. 13 - 7.30pm**

**Second Rite of Reconciliation.** Parishioners are asked to utilise this valuable opportunity for the Sacrament, given that the many demands of the Advent/ Christmas ceremonies make the provision of additional "First Rite" ceremonies difficult in this last week prior to Christmas. Five priests will be in attendance so as to ensure no-one has to wait too long.

#### **Friday, Dec. 14 - 10.00am**

**Anointing Mass**, followed by Christmas Seniors' Morning Tea. Special "live" entertainment provided.

#### **Monday, Dec. 17 - 7.30pm**

**Memorial Mass** to pray for those family members and friends who have died and will be missed at Christmas. The Mass focuses especially on those people who are facing their first or second Christmas without a loved family member or friend, but everyone is welcome.

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 18 - 7.30pm (after 7pm Mass)**

**Fr. Bernard Teo CSsR**, will speak on "**Hope in an ever changing world.**" An Inspirational Talk to help us prepare for the 2020 Plenary Council, and to respond to the primary question: "**What is God asking of us in Australia?**"

#### **Monday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve**

**6.00pm** (Children's Mass), **9.00pm** **Midnight**

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day**

Mass at **10.00am** (Public Holiday)

#### **Wednesday, Dec. 26 - Boxing Day**

Mass at **10.00am** (Public Holiday)

#### **Monday, Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve**

On New Year's Eve, Mass will be celebrated at **11.00pm**, in addition to the usual Monday morning Mass at 9.15am. This Mass can be a great way of prayerfully thanking God for the blessings of the past year, and asking for the graces we need in the coming year of 2019. The Mass will conclude by 11.45 pm (at latest) and tea and coffee will be available in the Foyer afterwards to see in the New Year.

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 1 - New Year's Day** - Mass at **10.00am**

### YOUTH CHOIR: 6pm MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

A "Massed Youth Choir" (for those aged from 13 to 25) is being assembled to lead the singing at the 6.00 pm Christmas Eve Family/Childrens' Mass. There will be two practices in the Church for preparation:  
Monday Dec 10 - 10.00am to 12 noon, and  
Thursday Dec 20 - 7.00pm to 9.00 pm  
Everyone is most welcome. Carols are those that are best known. Enquiries: Eliza (0428 065 448)

### NATIVITY PLAY - 6PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

Would you like to play an angel, a shepherd or a King?  
Enquiries: Marialisa Mandarino  
marialisa@stsimonsparish.com.au (0421 672 102)  
Practices: Saturday Dec 15 : 4.30pm to 5.30pm  
Saturday Dec 22: 4.30pm to 5.30 pm

### ADVENT MAIL—PICK UP A COPY

Week 2 - for yourself or join a group at the parish

### ADVENT REFLECTION GROUPS

Monday Nights 7.30pm  
Thursday Mornings 10.00am after Mass.  
*This is part of our Plenary Council venture.*



### COLLECTORS AT CHRISTMAS MASSES

We need a **LARGE NUMBER OF EXTRA PEOPLE** to assist with collections at all Christmas Masses (but especially at 6.00pm and 9.00pm), so they don't take too long. If you can help, please sign the Clipboard at Mass this weekend.

### VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

There will be a leaving collection after each mass on the weekends of Dec 8/9 & Dec 15/16. Donation envelopes will be available at the pews and in the foyer. We are calling all of you again for your generous support.

### CHRISTMAS TREE APPEAL

You are invited to donate a gift (**preferably a Gift Card**) to make Christmas a little brighter for a child. The "Giving Christmas Tree" will be at the Sanctuary both this weekend (Dec 8/9) and next weekend (Dec 15/16).

### SUGGESTION BOX

Ideas, suggestions, comments or complaints to put forward? Forms are available at the Help Desk. All suggestions should contain the writer's name and contact details.

**FETE COMMITTEE** will meet on **Monday Dec 10 at 6 pm** for a simple barbecue to be followed by a review (at 7.00pm) of the most successful Family Fun Fete.

**SCHOOL STAFF THANKSGIVING MASS** will be celebrated on Tuesday Dec 18 at 9.30am. Parishioners are encouraged to attend this Mass as a mark of prayerful solidarity with our staff. There will not be a Mass at 9.15am.

**MR PHIL HESSE**, Principal of St. Simon's School, will be taking Long Service Leave, as of Term 1 next year, after 12 years of dedicated leadership at St. Simon's. He will be retiring in 2020. Deputy Principal Maree Fatouros will be Acting Principal throughout 2019, and Mrs Hedy Carvalho (currently Religious Education Leader) will be Acting Deputy Principal. The position of Principal of St. Simon's will be advertised in Term 3 next year, with the successful applicant commencing in Term 1, 2020. Phil will receive a fitting "Farewell" at the end of Term 4 next year.

### CHURCH REFURBISHMENT COMMITTEE

The Help Desk has forms to help you put forward suggestions as to membership of this Committee or as to items to be addressed to help our place of worship be the best it can be across the next 25 years.

**PALMS AUSTRALIA** has been sending volunteers on mission for over 50 years. Palms global volunteers mentor and exchange skills in countries across Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

Join a Palms Encounter in 2019:  
Timor Leste Apr 7-19; Samoa Jun 7-19;  
Timor Leste Sept 1-13; Myanmar Nov 16-28.  
For details, please call 02 9518 9551.

### GLOBAL GIFTS

When you choose a Global Gift card to give to family or friends this Christmas, you are supporting women give birth safely with access to expert care before and after babies are born.



Order Global Gift cards online at [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au) or call us on 1800 024 413.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Wednesday Dec 12 at 7.30pm: SVDP (Parish Office)

### COLLECTIONS: December 2nd, 2018

Presbytery \$1554.30  
Loose donations \$421.25



Stewardship - Envelope. (2nd Collection)  
Stewardship - Credit Cards / Direct Debit (cumulative Average)  
2016 campaign pledge (weekly)

Weekly Pledge	Received	Cumulative
\$2,550.31	\$1821.10	84.7%
\$3,570.34	\$3299.96	92.4%
\$6,120.65	\$5462.24	89.2%

*Thank you for sharing your treasure.*

# December 9th 2018 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

## First reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

## Second reading

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

## Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.



*Next Week's Readings*  
*3rd Sunday of Advent*  
*Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18*

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