



St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

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📧 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 23rd 2018 - 4th Sunday of Advent

It is nearly fifty years since John Lennon's famous song asked a question that is arguably important for each of us:

"So this is Christmas - and what have you done? Another year over, and a new one just begun".

The proximity of Christmas to the New Year makes examining our life over the past twelve months a valuable exercise. Christmas has (or should have) the potential to bring out the best in us. The New Year offers enormous potential for good. But looking back over the past year can sometimes produce regret and a sense of too many wasted opportunities.

So what *have* we done? What good have we accomplished? Lots? Not much? Hardly anything? Nothing?

Certainly we can easily slip into an unwarranted self-satisfaction. But more commonly, asking of ourselves "What have I done this year?" can lead into disappointment that we didn't make nearly as much good use of the past fifty-two weeks as we should have. (Did someone say "should have", for goodness sake!)

We can readily chastise ourselves because of "another year over" and, as we see it, not much to say for it. But perhaps we might think again, and give ourselves a small but valuable Christmas gift - and probably one that has been well-earned: a pat on the back for getting through challenges which at times we felt could harm or even break us.

What challenges? Well, maybe some of these might ring a loud or quiet bell:

- ★ Supporting others who were doing it tough.
- ★ Not giving in to any number of temptations to take the easy road and quit when we knew we had to keep going.
- ★ Sacrificing time, effort, and maybe money for people who needed it, even when we didn't have an abundance of these ourselves.
- ★ And probably many other deeds well done, roads travelled in faith, hope and love.

We might not have travelled the past year with perfection, sure, but if we're fair to ourselves, we have most likely managed it far better than we initially believe.

So that "pat on the back" Christmas gift to ourselves may not be out of place at all, but genuinely well deserved.

So ... *"A very merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one, without any fears".*



Rosters for weekend of 29th & 30th December 2018

Mass Time	6.00 pm	8.00 am	9.30 am	11.00 am
Reader Commentator	Kaye Williams Alex Van Rheenan	Phil Mawdsley Cedrik Fick	Margaret/Adrian Ng Reg Emons	Colin Maslen Zita Ragg
Altar Society	Elly Bare & Luvy Esquejo		Flowers: Jackie	
CLOW 	NO CLOW	NO CLOW	NO CLOW	NO CLOW
Help Desk	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Church Cleaning	Clara Gallo, Donna Lanzone, Ida Lancuba			
Counters	Michael & Margaret Ng, Aloysius Ting, Monica Kueh & Benedict Lim			
Mass Recorder	Shanti Jayamanne		Bus Driver	Samuel Leveque
Homily Typist	Janet Forster			

PARISH DIARY

Monday Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED (Re-opens Mon. Jan. 7, 2019)

- 5.20pm: Christmas Carols
- 6:00pm: Christmas Mass (inc. Children's Nativity Play)
- 8.30pm: Christmas Carols
- 9:00pm: Christmas Mass
- 11.30pm: Christmas Carols
- 12.00am: Midnight Mass

Tuesday Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

- 10:00am: Christmas Mass

Wednesday Dec. 26 - Boxing Day

- 10am: Mass (Church)

Thursday Dec. 27

- 9.15am: Mass (Church)

Friday Dec. 28

- 9.15am: Mass (Church)

Saturday Dec. 29

- 9.15am: Mass (Chapel)
- 9:45am: Reconciliation
- 6.00pm: Mass (Church)

Sunday Dec. 30 - Feast of the Holy Family

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

Monday, Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

- 9.15am: Mass (Chapel)
- 11.00pm: *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

- 10am: Mass (Church)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - Mon. Dec 24 - Fri. Jan 4



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE:

Recent Death: Maureen Webb, Len Meara
Anniversary: Margaret Boyle, Evelyn Conroy, Giulia Febbraro

ADVENT MAIL - WEEK 4 - Please pick up a copy

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



If you have expressed an interest, or, would like to join our catechist team in 2019, please contact Rosetta on 0408 884 867, or, the Parish office thank you.

If you know any child from Grade 2 to Grade 6 that would like to be a part of the program please contact Rosetta.

Participation in the program is an essential component of the Parish Sacramental Program. Classes commence on the 5th Feb. 2019, meeting in the Church foyer at 4.pm.

ST VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Total Envelope contributions collected - **\$2,245.50**
Christmas Tree Appeal - gifts have been distributed to 29 needy children in the Rowville & Lysterfield precinct.
Thank you for all your tremendous support!
Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

MEDITATION

Will start again on Wednesday, 9th January.
We meet every Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the Month at 10am in the Chapel after morning Mass.
All welcome.

COLLECTIONS: December 16th, 2018

Presbytery (1st collection)	\$1672.00
Stewardship (2nd Collection)	\$1954.00
Loose donations	\$463.80

Thank you for sharing your treasure!

December 23rd 2018 - 4th Sunday of Advent

First reading - Micah 5: 1- 4

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

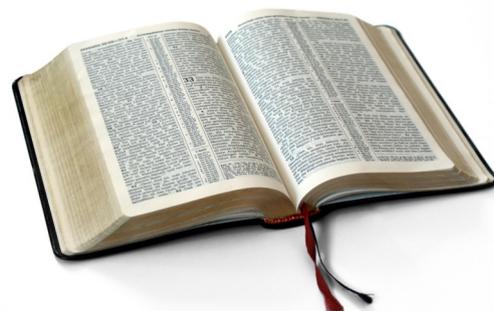
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.



Second reading - Hebrews 10: 5 - 10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second.

And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel - Luke 1: 39 - 44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

*Next Week's Readings - The Holy Family
1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Colossians 3: 12-21 or 12-17; Luke 2:41-52*