

ST JEROME'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Community of the Order of the Clerics Regular of Somasca - CRS



VISION: "To be an active faith community centred on Jesus Christ, which unites everyone to build a better world"

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B – 17th December 2023

Parish Priest: Fr Vijay D'Souza CRS
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FIRST READING: *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*
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.'

The Word of the Lord. **R: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 R. Isa 60:10*

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: *St Paul to Thessalonians 5:16-24*
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.

The Word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Is 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 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



WEEKDAY MASS: Monday to Friday - 7am and 9am
Saturday - 9am
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday - 6pm Vigil
Sunday - 8am, 10am and 6pm
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 10.00 – 11.00am and
5pm -5.30pm
Or on Request at any time
PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday to Friday 9am to 2.30pm

PARISH SECRETARY: Alicia Benn
E: spearwood@perthcatholic.org.au
PASTORAL CO-ORDINATOR: Sandra De Souza
SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS: Judy McShane & Anne Strafela
E: safeguarding@stjeromesparish.org
YOUTH MINISTRY (SOMTeens): Hannah Hicks
E: somteens.stjeromes@gmail.com

DONATIONS TO OUR PARISH CAN BE MADE BY EFT OR DIRECTLY DEPOSITED INTO:

The 1st collection (for the support of priest in our Parish & in the Archdiocese)

BSB – 086 006 Account No- 237719937

Account Name: R.C.A of Perth St Jerome's Parish Spearwood Presbytery

The 2nd collection (for the running of our Parish)

BSB – 086 006 Account No- 485592103 Account Name: R.C.A of Perth St Jerome's Parish Spearwood

Please quote your name and planned giving number as the reference.

PARISH LIFE

Christmas Eve 6pm Mass- will be a family mass where the children perform the Nativity Play before the Mass. If your children would like to participate in the play, rehearsals will be held after the 9am Mass on Saturday, in the Parish Hall.

Advent Reflection Program - Advent is the start of the new Liturgical year and a four-week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Advent season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts for Christ's birth. Join us on Thursday evening at 7.30pm to 9.00pm in The Fr Barry Whitely Parish Hall (21 December 2023) to reflect on the coming Sunday Liturgy. We will Watch, Prepare, Rejoice, and Behold with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. **Please call Judy on 0437958342 for more information.**

Confessions in Advent

A great way to get ready for Christmas is to have our own personal confession. Multiple opportunities are available, as you can see in the calendar on this newsletter. Should they not be suitable for you, make an appointment - our being reconciled with God is the very purpose for Jesus to lay down his life. Let us make it worth it.

The Legion of Mary meet every **Thursday at 6.30pm** in the Parish Resource Room. **Contact: President- Egidio Abreu 0437 720 358.**

Somascan Men's Ministry meet on the last **Tuesday of the month at 7pm.** **For more information contact Brett Cullen on 0429 588 998**

Som-Women's Ministry meet on second **Wednesday of the month at 7pm.** **For more information contact Joyce Figaro on 0404 086 271.**

St Vincent De Paul Society meet on the first and third **Wednesday of the month - 6.30pm to 7.30pm** in the Parish Resource Room. New members are always welcome. **Contact: President – Steve 0488 611 190.**

Somascan Young Adults - (Age group 18-30)

If you are interested in being part of a welcoming, faith-focused group of young people, St Jerome's Young adults would love for you to join us! Weekly Gatherings: **Wed 7pm & Youth Mass: Sun 6pm**

ROSTERS – 23 & 24 December 2023

COUNTING- GROUP 5: B Bosnich & A Stedul

CLEANING- GROUP 2: J Balmes & L Otero

Recently Deceased - RIP

The late Mr Paul Grubisin, whose funeral will be held on Dec 19th at 1.45pm at St Jerome's Church.

Advent and Christmas Program – 2023

Date and Time	Events
21 st December at 7.30pm	Advent Reflection
15 th – 23 rd December at 5.30am	Missa do Galo (Portuguese Traditional Mass)
21 st & 22 nd December 6pm-8pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
23 rd December - Sat 10am-12pm & 5pm -5.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
24 th December - Sunday at 8am and 10am	4 th Sunday of Advent (Sunday Obligation Mass)
24 th December - Sunday at 6pm	Family Mass (Christmas Mass)
24 th December - Sunday at 8pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
24 th December - Midnight (12am)	Christmas Midnight Mass
25 th December - Monday at 8am & 10am	Christmas Day Mass
NO 6pm MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY	
28 December at 10.00am (at the shrine)	Parish Pilgrimage to Schoenstatt Shrine, Armadale
28 December - Thursday at 7am and 9am	Feast of Holy Innocents (Blessing of children after the Masses)
31 December - Sunday at 11pm	Thanksgiving Holy Hour
31 Dec- Sunday 12.00 Midnight	New Year's Eve Mass
1 January 2024- Monday at 7.00 & 9.00am	New Year
All other weekdays the Masses are as usual 7am and 9am	



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO SCHOENSTATT SHRINE, ARMADALE 9 TALUS DR, MOUNT RICHON

All parishioners are invited to join the Parish Pilgrimage to the Schoenstatt Shrine on **28 December at 10am**. The program for the day will be Adoration, Reconciliation, Benediction and Mass followed by lunch. (Please bring a packed lunch.) Please indicate your intention to go, by adding your name to the list provided in the foyer. We encourage you to carpool, to reduce the number of vehicles at the shrine.

2023 ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up a special collection(s) for the people of Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of dollars was raised to support people in the war-torn nation through the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons.

At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops were asked to again consider if an appeal could be taken for the people of Ukraine during Advent. The proposal was made by Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, and Hobart Archbishop Julian Porteous, who visited Ukraine with an Australian delegation in August.

**Our community will hold a collection at all Masses next weekend, 23-24 December.
Please place your donation in the collection box at the back of the church.**

"Pilgrims of Hope" Advent Prayer Companion: Embark on a reflective Advent journey with a free prayer companion. In 2025 the Church celebrates a special Jubilee Year, themed "Pilgrims of Hope." In preparation for this, Pope Francis is calling for a Year of Prayer focusing on the Our Father. You can download a free Advent prayer companion focusing on The Lord's Prayer to start your year of preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Get your copy at <https://clmf.org.au/advent2023/>

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 16/12/23	6pm	Soul of Ken Orr Soul of Laretta Yon Soul of Vince Favazzo Soul of Colleen Beukes Starkey Intentions of Blanche Dalaise
Sun 17/12/23	5.30am 8am	Intentions of Marica Rodrigues Soul of Mario De Abreu For healing of Scarlett Oliver Intentions of the Bishop Family
	10am	Soul of Antonio Paul Da Silva Abreu Souls of Giovanna, Mario & Gemma Santella Souls of Armanda Sabistiani & Cosmo Paparella Souls of Lina Coia & Ernico Viturbo Soul of Assunta Moscio Soul of Jose Garces Souls in Purgatory
	6pm	Souls of Giulio & Vittoria Giorgi Souls of Arminda & Armando Tucci Souls of Giorgio & Angelina Giogi Soul of Robert Little Intentions of the Ellis Family In Thanksgiving to Jesus & Our Lady of Lourdes
Mon 18/12/23	5.30am 7am 9am	Intentions of Maria da Luz Aguiar Soul of Mario De Abreu Intentions of the Bishop Family Souls of Antonia & Carmelo Acquardo Soul of Sr Canisius Mladinich Souls in Purgatory For healing of Scarlett Oliver
Tue 19/12/23	5.30am 7am 9am	Intentions of Ermina Faria Soul of Mario De Abreu Intentions of Bill & Rosemary Shinnick For healing of Scarlett Oliver Soul of Josefina Beatriz De Jesus For healing of Scarlett Oliver Soul of Jaka Bacich
Wed 20/12/23	5.30am 7am 9am	Intentions of Noelia & Antonio Aguiar Soul of Mario De Abreu Soul of Cecilia Loureto Coelho For healing of Scarlett Oliver Int. of Freitas & Yukos Families Int. of Richard & Yuko Family Soul of Cecilia Loureto Coelho Soul of Josie Toole (UK)
Thurs 21/12/23	5.30am 7am 9am	Intentions of Conceicao Ascenso Soul of Mario De Abreu Soul of Nathan De Abreu For healing of Scarlett Oliver
Fri 22/12/23	5.30am 7am 9am	Intentions of Maria Cardoso Soul of Mario De Abreu For healing of Scarlett Oliver Soul of Ante Stojan
Sat 23/12/23	5.30 9am	Intentions of all who attended the Novena Intentions of Maria da Silva Soul of Mario De Abreu For healing of Scarlett Oliver Birthday Intentions of Victoria Correia

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe's Christmas message can be viewed on the Catholic Archdiocese's website <https://www.perthcatholic.org.au>.

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1300 799 093

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*Chapels located at Cannington,
Cottesloe, Dianella, Fremantle,
Mandurah, Medina, Midland, Perth and
Westminster.*

BOWRA & O'DEA
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Maria Fernandez, Monica Mendes,
Peter Scanlan, Vickie Vissagio,
Scarlett Oliver, Alessio De Souza &
Peter Shinnick