

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"



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH YEAR B – 31 December 2023

Parish Priest: Fr Vijay D'Souza CRS
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FIRST READING: *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*

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 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.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *PS 104:1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7, 8*

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

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.**

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.**

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.**

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*

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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Heb 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*

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.

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

MY PRAYER LIST POSTCARDS - Please take a prayer card home and list the names of five family members or friends whom you feel is most in need of experiencing the presence of God in their lives. Include them in your daily prayers.

The Emiliani Intercessors for Renewal will meet on *Friday, 5th of January 2024 at 6pm* to pray together with Our Blessed Mother for Parish, Families and Personal renewal of our Church back to the holiness of apostolic times, together with offering intercessory prayers for specific needs and requests within our parish community.

Divine Mercy Devotion next Sunday 7th of December at 2.15pm

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**

Emeritus Archbishop Hickey has completed his memoirs titled '**My Spirit Land**'. It is a fascinating and insightful read, documenting not only the last 80+ years of the Catholic Church in WA, priests, cardinals, popes and Catholic agencies and policies, but also the journey of one of our Archbishops who was called to the priesthood in Western Australia.

The book is available online at myspiritlandmemoir.com or to collect at Our Lady of the Mission Church. Email myspiritlandmemoirs@gmail.com for enquiries or bulk orders to your parish.

NEW NATIVITY SET

A faithful family in our community, generously donated our beautiful new Nativity Set. Please remember them in your prayers.

THANK YOU!

Fr. Navis and I would like to thank you all in our community for the journey of this year 2023. It is with gratitude that we look back and see the journey we walked.

There have been tears of sorrow in several of our families due to the loss of dear ones, and tears of joy as well, with the new additions to the family. Some pain and loss will never really be healed. Joy has also left an indelible mark.

Many in our community have grown in their journey of discipleship with Jesus and taken the opportunities to strengthen their relationship more intentionally with Him. Some of us had a powerful encounter with Jesus and experienced new hope.

The greatest joy for us is that our community has grown even more, in numbers and in commitment.

We have drawn a **Mission Statement** for our Parish that keeps us focused and organize events revolving around that statement to actualise our vision.

We have taken some steps this year, to build our community. To mention a few; the initiation of the **Som Women's Group** who enjoyed each other's company and the spiritual support they encountered. The **Somteens Youth** have seen a big increase in numbers and many including their parents have benefited from this ministry. **The Somascan Young Adults** encountered Christ while participating in the World Youth Day at Lisbon. **The Somascan Men's Ministry** group is flourishing. **The Sunday Morning Cuppa** has encouraged community members to connect with one another. **The Altar Server's Guild** has been formalized and has enjoyed a huge increase in their numbers. **The Alpha Team** has been formed to evangelise our community through the Alpha Series Program. The Holy Spirit has blessed us, as we see the fruits of our labour.

We are looking forward to 2024 with hope and vigour as we draft and finalize our parish **Strategic Plan**. Which will be shared with you over the next 12 months.

With our hearts filled with gratitude, we want to thank above all those who consistently pray for the renewal of our parish. In this group we count many senior members who have carried us over many years, and who now have had to step back due to their present circumstances. **Prayer is what gives us the graces we need to fulfil God's work - please keep it going!**

We also want to thank the many members who have chosen to spend their time in the service of our community. At times we may take it for granted that we just need to rock up for the weekend Mass and it all magically happens. It takes a whole community of volunteers who keep the parish going. We are so grateful to all those who chose to join the team.

May the year 2024 see a new spurt of growth among us, to be an ever more **welcoming Parish, which fosters a living relationship with Jesus, nurtured through the celebration of the sacraments, prayer and fellowship and strive to enable parishioners to witness the Gospel's call to evangelize.**

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Fr Vijay and Fr Navis



THE HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Saint Joseph, pray for the head of our family. Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care.

Mother Mary, pray for the mother of our family. Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing. For the more she resembles you, the better will be our family.

Lord Jesus, bless the children of our family. Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents. Make them more like You. Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and strength and grace before God and man.

Holy Family of Nazareth, by your intercession, love and holy example, make our family and home more and more like Yours, until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You. Amen

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 30/12/23	6pm	Soul of Ken Orr Soul of Laretta Yon Cerqueira family thanksgiving for blessings received in 2023.
Sun 31/12/23	8am	Soul of Mario De Abreu Soul of Maria Cam Soul of Elio Boni For the healing of Scarlett Oliver
	10am	Soul of Antonio Paul Da Silva Abreu Soul of Tindara Merenda Souls in Purgatory
	6pm	
	12am	Pro Populo
Mon 01/01/24	7am	Soul of Mario De Abreu For the healing of Scarlett Oliver
	9am	IHO St Anthony Souls of Marijan Fatovich & Winnie Fatovich
Tue 02/01/24	7am	
	9am	
Wed 03/01/24	7am	
	9am	Int. of Freitas & Yukos Families Int. of Richard & Yuko Family
Thurs 04/01/24	7am	
	9am	Soul of Giuseppe Merenda & deceased family members.
Fri 05/01/24	7am	
	9am	Special int. of Miryana Fistonich Holy souls in Purgatory
Sat 06/01/24	9am	Soul of Antonio Paulo Da Silva Abreu Special int. of Miryana Fistonich

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

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

CONFESSIONAL & CHAPEL RENOVATION

Our Confessional has now been renovated according to the Professional Standards and Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policy. It can now be used. We would like to acknowledge and thank Vince Monastra, Egidio Abreu and Roy Craddock for generously volunteering to undertake this project.

ROSTERS – 6 & 7 JANUARY 2024

COUNTING- GROUP 1: Benn Family

CLEANING- GROUP 4: R Palos, G Taag, A Abalos, L Dumapit, J Mercado & M Monzon

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ST JEROME'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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