



St. Simon the Apostle Parish

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Parish Personnel

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Kevin Dillon

Mobile: 0421 777 360

Email: frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

Mrs Loretta Hughes (Tue, Thu)

Mrs Abbie Ferdinands (Mon, Wed, Fri)

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Marialisa Mandarino (Wed)

BUSINESS & OFFICE MANAGER:

Mr Peter Evans (Mon - Thu)

CHILD SAFEGUARDING:

Ms Delisa Gonsalves (Mon)

SECRETARIES:

Mrs Felicia Ahumada (Mon - Wed)

Mrs Christina Liew (Thu, Fri)

ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL:

Mrs. Maree Fatouros (Acting Principal):
9755 4222

NAZARETH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL:

Mr Sam Cosentino: 9795 8100

PARISH OFFICE OPEN:

9.00am to 4.00pm

Tuesday 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 12.30pm

WEDDINGS & FOCCUS MARRIAGE

PREPARATION: 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.

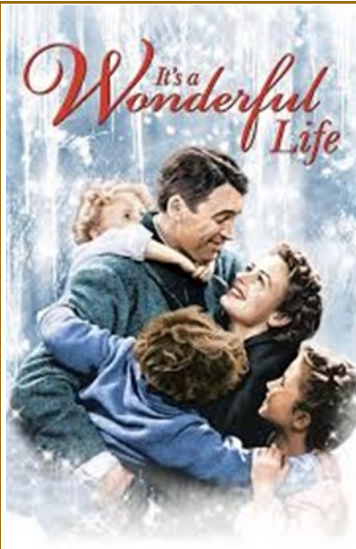
ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE:

1800 305 330

CHANGES TO PERSONAL DETAILS:

Contact Parish Office

December 8th 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Advent



The "message of Christmas" can be conveyed in many forms – bible readings, nativity plays, the giving of gifts and cards, hopefully extra courtesy on the roads.

The story of the Birth of Jesus has been told and retold over twenty centuries. But since the emergence of film-making less than a hundred years ago, both the story and its message have been conveyed with a power and a realism which was unthinkable in the previous nineteen centuries.

It is truly "The Greatest Story Ever Told". And as we launch our 48-seat St. Simon's Cinema, what better start could we have than to screen two magnificent films that bring us both the Christmas story and its message in a memorable manner.

So on **Friday, December 20 at 7.30pm**, our inaugural screening will be a film recognised in Wikipedia as *"one of the greatest movies of all time"*. **"It's a Wonderful Life"** stars James Stewart and Donna Reed. It's an old movie - made in 1946 - and it's in black and white. But it's also timeless. And when it comes to "Christmas movies", it has pride of place. One reviewer wrote; *"The film reminds us that the riches of the world are not necessarily things that can be quantified. Your life is not measured in material things, but in how you use the material things given you. And that universal lesson will be taught into eternity as long as 'It's A Wonderful Life' is shown every year. If only we can all learn it."*

"Wonderful Life" is a film about the *spirit* of Christmas, but the other "inaugural" screening for St. Simon's Cinema is a beautiful presentation of the "story" of Christmas - titled (appropriately enough) **"The Nativity Story"**. It will be screened at **7.30pm on Monday, December 23**, the "Eve of Christmas Eve".

Starring New Zealand actress Keisha Castle-Hughes as Mary, the 2007 production was described by one critic in this way: *"Of all the versions of this story that have been done I found it to be the most inspiring and visually the most tastefully done. At last we have a great family movie that puts Christ back into Christmas."*



There will be no admission charge for movies screened in our cinema. However, a \$5 donation per person will be respectfully requested to assist in meeting the costs of providing the parish with an entire Parish Centre of both great use and of quality.

Sure, movies can be watched on ipads and TV's-even big TV's. But sharing a movie with others in a cinema is an experience of its own. With these two movies, we will hopefully usher in something uplifting and truly valuable for our parish and our community.

Rosters for weekend of 14th & 15th December 2019

Mass Times	6.00 pm	8.00 am	9.30 am	11.00 am
Reader 1	Fiona Gonsalvez	Peter Kean	Janina Woronczak	Forster Family
Reader 2	Tineke Edwards	Peter Kean	Michael Toomey	Forster Family
Commentator	Peter Pereira	Brian Philp	Seamus O'Connor	Jacqui Giuliano
Help Desk	Maria Walton	Cheryl Philp	Jacqui O'Connor	Julie Cosentino
CLOW	Judy Clarisse	N/A	Elly Bare	Melinda Costanzo
Bus Driver	Samuel Leveque		Flowers:	Jewel
Mass Recorder	Zoe Evans		Homily Typist:	Michelle Goh
Altar Society	Carolyn Culpepper & Margaret Lancefield			
Church Cleaning	John & Anne Duhau, Kongolo Kalumba			
Counters	David Wong, Graham Landers			

PARISH DIARY

Monday December 9 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9.15am: Mass followed by Rosary (Church)

2.30pm: School Liturgy (Church)

Tuesday December 10

9.15am: Mass (Church)

11.00am: Chris Maxwell's Funeral

7.00pm: Mass (Chapel)

7.30pm: Bible Study (Parish Centre)

7.45pm: RCIA (Chapel)

Wednesday December 11

9.15am: Mass (Church)

Thursday December 12

9.15am: Mass (Church)

10.00am: Bible Study (Parish Centre)

7.30pm: **2nd Rite of Reconciliation**

Friday December 13

9.15am: **Anointing Mass (Church)**

10.00am: Seniors Morning Tea (Parish Centre)

6.00pm: Grade 6 Graduation Mass (Church)

Saturday December 14

9.15am: Mass (Chapel)

9.45am: Reconciliation (Church)

4.30pm: Nativity Play Practice (Church)

6.00pm: Mass (Church)

Sunday December 15

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

12.30pm: Baptism (Church)

(Office closed - December 23 to January 3)

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE RISEN IN THE LORD

Recent Death: Benito Scarpaci, Chris Maxwell, Doreen Gregory, June Lau

Anniversary: Giovanna Cannizzaro, Daphne Gonsalvez, Paul Hehme; John Cotter

CHRIS MAXWELL RIP

This week we join in prayer for the Maxwell family as they mourn the loss of Chris at just 22 years of age, after his brief but devastating illness. A committed parishioner of St. Simon's, he made many substantial contributions to the parish, especially as the "Powerpoint" operator at 9.30am Mass and as a valued and skilled member of the Church Refurbishment Committee. He will be truly missed. Chris' Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Simon's this Tuesday at 11.00am.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Thursday December 12 at 7.30pm

Second Rite of Reconciliation - a 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. Six priests will be in attendance so as to ensure no-one has to wait too long.

Friday December 13

Anointing Mass at 9.15am, followed by Christmas Seniors' Morning Tea in the Parish Centre.

Special "live" entertainment provided.

Monday December 16 at 7.30pm

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

Tuesday December 17

Mass and Carol Service - Following the usual 7.00pm Mass, we will have a 45-minute Carol Service, with readings, prayers and the Carols we all know! A great opportunity for a prayerful preparation for Christmas.

Tuesday December 24 - Christmas Eve Masses

6.00pm (Children's Mass) - Carols at 5.20pm

9.00pm (Family Mass) - Carols at 8.30pm

Midnight - Carols at 11.30am

Wednesday December 25 - Christmas Day

Mass at 10.00am

Thursday December 26 - Boxing Day

Mass at 10.00am (Public Holiday)

NATIVITY PLAY

Any children who would like to participate in the Nativity Play are invited to come for **practices** on:

Saturday, 14th December, 4.30-5.30pm and

Saturday, 21st December, 4.30-5.30pm in the Church.

Roles include: Angels, Shepherds, Kings & Narrators.

RSVP: Marialisa Mandarino at marialisa@stsimonsparish.com.au

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Priscilla Bussac, Bradley Maxwell, Anna Tanti, Paolo Barcial, Glenn Roche, Natalie Giaccotto, Thomas Milo, Nancy Leanza, Ron Ventura, Renato Alcazar, Catherine, McCillister, Rolando Mandarino, Craig Don Paul, Nicole Dalzotto

COLLECTORS AT CHRISTMAS MASSES

We will need extra people to assist with collections at all Christmas Masses so the collection time is not excessive. If you can help at the Mass you will be attending, please **sign the Clipboard at Mass this weekend**.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year, for our annual Christmas appeal, instead of buying presents, you are all invited to donate gift cards or use the Vinnies Christmas Appeal envelopes provided on the pews. There will be collection boxes this and next weekend Dec, 7/8 & 14/15.

Thank you all for your generosity.

PIETY STALL

Christmas items, cards, Columban Calendars are now available for sale. Please ask at the help desk.

MASS RECORDING

Thank you to all our volunteers who have done such an amazing job of recording our 6.00pm Masses, reaching out to the wider community through radio Light FM.

We currently need **two more volunteers** to assist us. If this is something you are interested in, training will be provided and you will be on a bi-monthly roster.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

CLOW CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

Wednesday Dec. 11th at 7:30pm in the Chapel.

ADVENT MAIL

Please pick up your weekly Advent Mail from the foyer.

SOUP/SUPPER AND SOUL

Soup (Supper) and Soul will resume Thu, Feb 6, 2020

LOCATION OF PEW PLAQUES

The new pews are in place in the church and we are now planning to get the plaques made and installed. We will be allowing parishioners who donated money towards the pews to select the position in the church for their plaque/plaques. They will be given the choice of nominating a position from those still available or allowing us to do so for them. Notifications will be sent in 5 batches of about 20 each based on the date the donation was received, with the fourth batch starting on Mon 9 Dec.

Parishioners in each batch will have one exclusive week from notification to make their choice, or can make it any time after that in the booking period. They will make their choice either via TryBooking or by contacting Peter Evans at the Parish Office.

ST. SIMON'S CINEMA - COMING FEATURES

Fri. Dec. 20 at 7.30pm: "It's a Wonderful Life"

(1946 - G) - James Stewart, Donna Reed

Mon. Dec. 23 at 7.30pm: "The Nativity Story"

(2007 - PG) - Keisha Castle-Hughes

Fri. Dec. 27 at 7.30pm: "Lion" (2016 - PG)

- Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman

Sun. Dec. 29 at 5.30pm: "Bridge of Spies"

(2015 - M) - Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance

Mon. Dec. 30 at 10am & 2pm: "Mary Poppins Returns"

(2018—G) - Emily Blunt

Sun. Jan. 5 at 1.30pm: "West Side Story"

(1961 - Natalie Wood, Russ Tamblyn,

Richard Beymer (10 Oscars)

Mon. Jan. 6 at 10am & 2pm: "Christopher Robin"

(2018 - G) - Ewan McGregor

LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS

In 2018, Pope Francis issued an insightful and humble letter of sorrow about the abuse of children by Catholic personnel. For whatever reason (!), it has not been widely published in Australia (but was in New Zealand). Copies are available at the Help Desk.

FETE SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Our Fete Sponsors give much appreciated support to the St Simon's Family Fun Fete 2019. This week we thank:

rokk ebony

Located at: Shop 11 Wellington Village Shopping Centre

Phone: 9755 7822

Website: <https://www.rokkebony.com.au/salon/rowville>

FETE SIGNS: It would be helpful if all signs could be returned to the Church Foyer or Parish Office as soon as possible. Thank you.

POST-FETE MEETING: In support of the Maxwell family, the meeting scheduled for Mon, Dec 9 **will be postponed to Thu, Dec 19** at 7.00pm.

Stall Captains, Service Captains are invited by the Fete Committee to share a simple barbecue to be followed by a Post-Fete meeting to review this year's Fete and plan for next year. Look forward to seeing all involved there.

CRAFT GROUP

A special Thank You for all your support and to the Craft Group ladies. Without your time & talent, we could not have achieved the excellent result. We will recommence at Parish Centre in Feb. 2020. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & safe New Year.

Melanie Jacobs

COLLECTIONS: December 1st, 2019

Presbytery \$1,795.20
Loose donations \$ 442.70

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

Weekly Pledge	Received	Cumulative
\$2,550.31	\$2379.50	85.6%
\$3,570.34		
\$6,120.65		

Thank you for sharing your treasure



December 8th 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

First reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion feed together,
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

Second reading

Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And

may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: *For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.*

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

*A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.*

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

*Next Week's Readings: 3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

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