



St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10.00am - 3.00pm

(03) 9764 4058

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 ASSOCIATE:

Mrs Abbie Ferdinands (Mon, Wed, Fri)

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Marialisa Mandarino (Wed)

BUSINESS & OFFICE MANAGER:

Mr Peter Evans (Mon - Thu)

COVID SAFETY OFFICER:

Ms Julie Ashman (Mon, Wed)

CHILD SAFEGUARDING:

Ms Delisa Gonsalves (Mon)

SECRETARIES:

Mrs Felicia Ahumada (Mon - Wed)
Miss Sophia Giuliano (Thu, Fri)

ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Mr. Tom Wursthorn: 9755 4222

NAZARETH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL:

Mr Sam Cosentino: 9795 8100

NORMAL MASS TIMES:

Currently not in place due to
COVID-19 related restrictions

WEEKEND ONLINE MASS TIMES:

Sunday: live from Saturday 6pm

OTHER ONLINE MASS TIMES:

Tuesday to Friday: Live from 6.00am

MASS ON RADIO:

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

Also currently unavailable during
COVID-19 restrictions:

RECONCILIATION

BAPTISMS

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WEDDINGS & MARRIAGE PREP:

Contact Parish Office

ANointing OF THE SICK:

Available as necessary by private
arrangement with Fr. Kevin
(0421 777 360)

PARISH COUNCIL:

parishcouncil@stsimonsparish.com.au

PARISH HALL HIRE:

St. Simon's Parish Hall is available for
hire after school hours and weekends
(not during current restrictions).
For enquiries, contact the Parish
Office during Office Hours.

PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE:

Contact the Parish Office.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE:

1800 305 330

October 25, 2020 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The phrase "pub test" is regularly used as denoting both common sense and fairness when assessing a course of action.

It's a little like the jury system. A group of ordinary people can look at a dispute, an issue, or an alleged crime, and generally they'll come up with the right answer.

So what would the pub test make of the decision which denies people who want to pray the right to do so - even outdoors - in anywhere near the numbers permitted for those who want to gather in a hotel for a few drinks.

There is no question that since the COVID-19 lockdown first hit nearly eight months ago, the hospitality industry - hotels, restaurants, cafes, coffee shops - have suffered enormously - more so than many other businesses. The memorable song from *Les Miserables*, 'Empty Chairs and Empty Tables' has had extraordinary poignancy in recent months. And in nearly all cases, proprietors have run their establishments responsibly and with great attention to cleanliness.

But despite welcoming a relaxation for places of hospitality, any allegation that churches are places of higher COVID-risk than beer gardens is unfair, illogical, short-sighted, insulting - and consequently just plain wrong!

Unfair? The relative success across Australia of the approach to COVID-19 has been the catch-phrase: "We're all in this together". Discrimination (and that's the word!) against worshippers causes division similar to that which provoked this week's huge and justified outcry (and subsequent decision reversal) when hundreds of people were - for a time - to be permitted to attend the races at Moonee Valley, while funeral attendance remained ten.

Illogical? Despite the allegation to the contrary, church congregations in Victoria and across Australia have been obedient to the rules regarding numbers, social-distancing, cleaning and ventilation. This has been very true of St. Simon's. If there is evidence to the contrary, where is it?

Short-sighted? The "all in this together" approach will be needed for a long time. This glaring lack of parity can provoke a risk-laden attitude of "Blow them!"

Insulting? The justification offered for this discrimination asserted church people were less likely to clean the premises, and "would sing", despite being told it was unsafe to do so. Yet for generations, church-goers have been central to community volunteer support in innumerable instances. They have been trusted whenever their selfless service was needed, saving huge amounts of public money. Why are they not trusted now?

Archbishop Peter Comensoli made many valid and pertinent points in his article in Tuesday's *Herald Sun* about what he rightly called the "lack of parity" between the proposed limits for places of hospitality and places of worship. Of special note was his request:

"If there really is health advice suggesting places of worship are inherently riskier, I respectfully request to see it. If there is data that backs up the suspicion being thrown on communities of faith in this pandemic, I am only too pleased to sit down and talk it through with experts. We can manage all the steps required to be COVID-safe."

Chances are the response to that request is yet to be provided.



PARISH DIARY

All Church Masses SUSPENDED until further notice.

We are doing everything we can to try and keep our Parish community together, at least virtually (i.e. via the internet on phones, iPads, laptops and computers), and to continue to offer comfort and support to one another in our community during this crisis. But we need everyone's assistance and co-operation (very much including yours!) to make that happen as safely as possible once restrictions eventually start to relax.

At this stage, Mass can be celebrated (outside the church) for a maximum of 5 people, Thursday to Sunday inclusive. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are the days on which the videoed Mass is celebrated, and additional attendance is not possible under the current Government regulations. **If / When the highly limited number of permitted attendees is raised**, the details re registration etc will be on the Parish website immediately. For now, attendance from Thurs to Sun can be only "by invitation", and for now, invitations are being issued to those who applied to attend Mass earlier this year when numbers were limited to 10 or 20.

The videoed Masses (Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sun) will continue to be available via our Website and YouTube Channel (www.stsimonsparish.com.au)

And remember that we now have a library of over 150 recorded Masses available via our website or YouTube Channel as well. Please go to our website: www.stsimonsparish.com.au and scan down to the section which links to the Masses.

Further updates on Parish life and activities will be placed on the website as quickly as we can.

We thank you for your understanding and co-operation during these challenging times and hope we are still able to continue to serve you in every way possible. Please contact us if you need any support.

May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy

**RECONCILIATION & PRIVATE PRAYER
SUSPENDED until further notice.**

**PRAYER GROUPS
AND OTHER PARISH MEETINGS**
Only meetings via ZOOM will be able to continue.

**ST SIMONS YOUTH
Connect Group**

Monday Nov 2nd, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

1st & 3rd Monday of the month on zoom.

We are excited to connect with the youth aged **18 - 30 years** in our parish and the wider community.

To join email: stsimonsyouthteam@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aloysius Ting, Jason Castellucci, Alexa Sakkal,
Lynton Pieterse, Cameron Betts, Arden Perkins,
Aedan Kertesi, Chantalle Payet,
Amanda Heidenrijk, Angela Chew/Wong,
Ming Nicdao, Ann Joseph, John Catanzariti

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
RISEN IN THE LORD**

Recent Deaths:

Elsie Almaden, Ederlindo Demetillo

CHURCH & PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

In response to the latest Victorian Government's directives (effective 6 Aug 2020), please note that St Simon's Church and Parish Office are now closed until further notice.

The parish office email office@stsimonsparish.com.au will be monitored.

**For urgent queries, please try calling either:
Fr Kevin Dillon on 0421 777 360 or
our parish mobile on 0491 176 149
and we will try to get back to you as soon as we can, and certainly within 3 business days.**

May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy.

ST . SIMON'S VIRTUAL MOVIE CLUB

Thursday Nov 12 at 7pm

Movie: "WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND"

Old (1961) but fantastic! Absolutely beautiful British movie, starring Bernard Lee, Hayley Mills, Alan Bates. Not to be missed if you haven't seen it, just as good if you have. Great entertainment.

We meet via Zoom at 7pm, watch the movie on YouTube at 7.30pm, then regroup for another meeting (with a cuppa etc.) at 9.20pm and have a chat about the movie (or anything else, for that matter!).



This arrangement can continue even when (hopefully!) the current restrictions are eased and we can use our own cinema. But our "Virtual Cinema" can continue as well.

We would love to have new people involved to build our sense of parish community, so if you would like to explore this, with no obligation, contact Fr Kevin: frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au or Nick Brennan: nbre5793@bigpond.net.au

ZOOM AND SOUL

Thursday Nov 5 at 7.30pm

Theme: Patience and Perseverance

How many of us would agree that we need more patience, especially in these times?

Join us as we explore patience and perseverance; share your views, be inspired and connect with fellow parishioners and the wider faith community.

To join email: office@stsimonsparish.com.au



Zoom GOSPEL REFLECTION/PRAYER GROUP

Weekly on Mondays at 7.30pm

We use a guided reflection to meditate on the Sunday Gospel as well as share our own insights to enrich our understanding and allow God's Word to touch our lives.



To join email: office@stsimonsparish.com.au

ENJOY MELBOURNE CUP DAY TOGETHER!



Parishioners can enjoy Melbourne Cup Day, Tuesday 3rd November, 'together' despite the social restrictions.

The Pastoral Committee is inviting (at least!)

24 starters (individuals or groups), to put in \$5 each, with all proceeds to first three placegetters.

We'll meet on Zoom anytime after 1.30pm, Sweep will be drawn at 2.30pm, Cup is run at 3pm, and post-Cup chat and catch-up after the race on Zoom.

Interested? Email Abbie: abbie@stsimonsparish.com.au to register and we'll get back to you with further details. Don't have Zoom? Let us know and we'll help.

If more than 24 people show interest, we'll have a second (who knows, even a third?) event / division.

Email Abbie or visit the Parish Website for more details.

FRATELLI TUTTI

New encyclical from Pope Francis

Fratelli Tutti teaches us that 'everyone' is connected. "It is an invitation to see one another as a "neighbour, as a friend, to build relationships."

For useful links to learn about the new encyclical, please visit the parish website: www.stsimonsparish.com.au

2020 Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle was drawn on Saturday, 26 September 2020

Results are available at www.stsimonsparish.com.au

MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS

Reflection event via Zoom

Saturday 7 November, 10am - 1pm

Facilitated by Carol Dyer (B.A. (Psych), Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy Level 5 (Trainer), Cert. Spiritual Direction, this event provides the opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time.

There will be some input to enable participants to learn some theory of meditation and mindfulness practices as well as time away from the Zoom screen for meditation and mindfulness practise.

Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/663916>
Contact: holsc@bigpond.com or call 9890 1101

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANNONISATION OF SAINT MARY MACKILLOP

Order your free copy of *Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer*

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to:
www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book
or call us on (02) 8912 2777

ONLINE SAFETY FOR GRANDPARENTS & CARERS

The eSafety Commissioner has recently published a free e-book resource 'Online safety for grandparents and carers' which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience.

This resource provides "key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people" including practical tips to help grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them.

Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps.

Resource found at: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>

RITCHIES CARD

Community Benefits: St Simons Catholic Church

Ritchies IGA is a fundraising partner of St Simons, listing both St Simons Church and St Simons Primary School in their Community Benefit Program.

Ritchies IGA is launching a new Ritchies Card. You can collect the card and set-up information sheet in store. Both the physical card and app will be available for customers to access special savings.

Another feature of the app, is to nominate an organisation on the Community Benefits Program. You will need to download the app, click on the community tab and select your preferred organisation to complete your nomination.

St Simons Church is listed as 'St Simons Catholic Church'

Thank you to everyone supporting the community through this initiative.

CARMELITE SISTERS

St Simon Feast Day Discount

Carmelite Sisters, Perth, WA

We have recently begun an online shop selling a range of inspirational and general gift ware to assist us in providing for our future needs, especially the maintenance work needed by our aging monastery buildings. We are offering parishes a 25% discount for their titular feast day.

St Simon's parishioners discount: Oct 25 - Nov 1
Discount code: STSIMON at check out.

www.holytrinitycarmel.com.au

ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE

Annual Memorial Mass for deceased past pupils and staff

A Prayer Service will be held via Zoom
On Thursday 5 November at 7pm
Contact: Ann Maree Pagon
on 9758 2000, or email apagon@stjosephs.com.au

YOUTH CHOIR 2021

Singers and musicians interested please contact
Eliza: 0428 065 448

October 25, 2020 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First reading

Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this:

"You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 17(18): 2-4, 47, 51



*Next Week's Readings: All Saints—Solemnity
Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3;
Matthew 5:1-12a*

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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