



# St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm

(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

### MASS TIMES:

Sunday: 7.30am, 9.00am & 11.00am  
Monday: 10.00am  
Tuesday- Friday: 9.15am  
Saturday: 4.30pm & 6.00pm  
(See page 2 for full details)

### 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

### Currently unavailable during

### COVID-19 restrictions:

### 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:

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

## December 6, 2020 - Second Sunday of Advent

One in 13 Australian teenagers is taking antidepressants and other prescription drugs for mental illness, as high anxiety fuels childhood depression and suicide.

A mental health meltdown, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, is fuelling bullying and truancy in schools. Australian Primary Principals Association president Malcolm Elliott said distressed children were starting to self-harm in primary school.

"There are high levels of family breakdown, uncertainty over employment and you chuck in the blinder of COVID-19 and it's a climate of worry. There just isn't enough psychological support for students in schools. They're nervous, they lack personal confidence and they're not able to go with the flow – they perceive a threat at every turn. That can lead to conflict in the playground and the classroom."

Mr Elliott said many kids were feeling "angry and upset". "If someone says something that might be insulting, their reaction is eight out of 10 instead of two out of 10," he said.

One in seven school-aged children has been diagnosed with a mental illness, an alarming Productivity Commission report has revealed. Suicide is the leading cause of death for young Australians aged 15 to 24.

Nearly four per cent of primary school students, and 8 per cent of teenagers, have a prescription for anxiety or antidepressant medication. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data reveals that 2312 toddlers and preschoolers were prescribed drugs for mental health issues in 2018/19.

"Herald Sun", Wed. Dec. 2



When the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami struck, it took the whole world by total surprise. Across multiple countries, it caused a death toll of nearly a quarter of a million people.

The devastation we are experiencing now as a result of the Corona Virus began in a similar manner - with no warning, no opportunity for preparation of any kind, and we are now all too aware of its catastrophic consequences.

But not all disasters come without warning. Sometimes the signs are crystal clear - but it is our choices as to whether or not we take notice of them.

Please read the report alongside this column. Read it carefully. Note the Australian statistics pertinent to depressed children and teenagers likely to self-harm - read it down to the astonishing and fearful revelation that over 2,000 toddlers and pre-schoolers were prescribed mental health-related drugs in the past year.

Now let's suppose the figures are inaccurate, or have even been exaggerated to double what they should be. Even that 50% "discount" scenario doesn't reduce the alarm that should be resounding across our nation.

Those figures, again even they are only half-right, should surely prompt some deep and realistic soul-searching across our nation. Family instability, chronic corporate greed and personal selfishness, destructive technology - these have been prominent for some years.

But disenchantment in what were once the sure foundations for society is now daily news - major issues with banks, police, the law, education, the church. The calls for Royal Commissions to weed out corruption in these institutions and many others are not lost on a younger generation who wonder, more and more, "Who can I trust?"

And when such loss of trust in people is accompanied by lack of knowledge, let alone faith in a loving, generous and forgiving God, then the stability needed for sound mental, emotional and spiritual health is difficult to find indeed.

The warning signs are clear. As a nation, we ignore them at our peril.

## ST SIMONS PARISH

### Parish Masses

For **WEEKDAY** Mass there is no need to book ahead. However, each attendee must register their name and their contact phone number immediately upon entering the Church Foyer.

For **WEEKEND** Masses, booking will still be **essential** so that our parish continues, for the good of all, to observe the COVID regulations respectfully.

For **WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE**, we have an online booking system **which is very easy to use**, and encourage all parishioners to use it.

### Resources:

Video on the Parish YouTube Channel:  
Mass Procedure St Simon's Parish from 23 Nov 2020

Parish Website: Mass Attendance Sign Up

For all information and sign up links to the Mass dates.

If you are (really) unable to use this system for online booking then please call the Parish Office on 9764 4058 **during business hours** and we'll assist you.

On the weekend we need to check you off the pre-registration list and on weekdays we need to take down your contact details. **Please arrive at least 10 minutes before** the scheduled mass time to avoid queues and delays to the start of Mass. Thank you for your support.

**The 4.30pm Saturday** Vigil Masses during Advent will be reserved for First Communion candidates and a limited number of family.

### MASS IN THE CHURCH

Saturday: 4.30pm (First Communion) & 6.00pm (Vigil Masses)

Sunday: 7.30am, 9.00am & 11.00am

Monday: 10.00am

Tuesday to Friday: 9.15am

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are the days on which the Mass will be videoed.

### Online Masses

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri and Sun Masses will continue to be available online at:

**Website:** [www.stsimonsparish.com.au](http://www.stsimonsparish.com.au)

**YouTube:** St Simon the Apostle Parish, Rowville

For earlier Masses, click "Previous Mass Videos".

*May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy*

**RECONCILIATION** will be available in the Chapel at **5.25pm on Saturdays**, immediately after the 4.30pm Mass, or by private request to Fr. Kevin. Please ensure social distancing directions are observed.

## ANointing MASS

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered at the **9.15am NEXT FRIDAY, Dec 11.**

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

The schedule for Christmas Masses is, even now, somewhat unpredictable. Currently we are unsure if the permitted numbers will remain as they are now (135 indoors, 300 outdoors) or if they will be raised.

Also the unpredictability of Melbourne weather, especially from more than two weeks away, makes providing a reliable Christmas schedule almost impossible.

However, there are three points to note:

(a) **there will be a St Simon's online Mass on our website from 5.30pm on Christmas Eve onwards** ([www.stsimonsparish.com.au](http://www.stsimonsparish.com.au))

(b) **we will make every effort, within the COVID regulations, to enable as many parishioners as possible to attend Mass in person on Christmas Eve (3 Masses) or Christmas morning (2 Masses)**

(c) **the website will post the latest arrangements.**

### CHURCH & PARISH OFFICE

In response to the latest Victorian Government's directives (effective 23 November 2020), please note that St Simon's Church and Parish Office have restricted attendance.

**Office hours: 10am - 4pm on Mon - Fri**

The Parish Office email **[office@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:office@stsimonsparish.com.au)** will be monitored.

**For urgent queries**, please try calling:

**Fr Kevin Dillon on 0421 777 360**

**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.*

**PRIVATE PRAYER must be SUSPENDED until further notice.**

### PRAYER GROUPS AND OTHER PARISH MEETINGS

**Only meetings via ZOOM will be able to continue.**

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

**Recent Death:** Marilyn Meerick

**Anniversary of Death:** Chris Maxwell,  
Annette Mataska Jackson, Douglas David

## Zoom GOSPEL REFLECTION/PRAYER GROUP



### Weekly on Mondays at 7.30pm

We use a guided reflection to meditate on the Sunday Gospels of Advent 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](mailto:office@stsimonsparish.com.au)

## ROSARY GROUP

### Fridays at 11.00am via Zoom

We welcome you to join us as we pray the Rosary and intercede to Our Lady for all our intentions.

To join email: [abbie@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:abbie@stsimonsparish.com.au)



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Zoom and Soul will resume in Feb 2021.

Our Faith Development Team members Nimmi and Loretta are leading us on the theme of 'The Wonder of God Among Us'.

### Zoom: Thursday 10 Dec at 7.30pm

Please contact: [loretta@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:loretta@stsimonsparish.com.au)



## ST SIMONS YOUTH

### Connect Group

### Monday Nov 7th, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Welcome to our Youth Connect Group! We are excited for you to join us on zoom as we casually discuss faith and our faith journeys.

If you are interested in joining, please email us at: [stsimonsyouthteam@gmail.com](mailto:stsimonsyouthteam@gmail.com)

## YOUTH CHOIR 2021

### Welcome to all singers and musicians!

If you are interested in sharing your talents to serve the community together with other youth, we would love for you to get in touch. Eliza: [0428 065 448](tel:0428065448)

## LEBANON UPDATE

Immediately following the Beirut explosion, ACN provided an initial emergency grant of \$400,000 AUD for food. ACN has just announced a further commitment of \$8 million for the repair and reconstruction of churches and convents. ACN thanks everyone who has already donated to their national appeal and welcomes any further support.

Visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/Lebanon](http://www.aidtochurch.org/Lebanon) or call [1800 101 201](tel:1800101201).



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## SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN 2021

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia

**Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola 2021** program February onwards spanning 30-35 weeks.

Anyone is welcome to apply - no prior experience necessary. Expressions of interest close 28 Feb 2021.

Sandra: 1300 392 636 or [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au)

## PARISH DIARY

Sun 6 Dec: Fr. Cameron Smith MGL, Parish Mass at 5pm

Mon 7 Dec: Prayer Group

Mon 7 Dec: Youth Connect Group

Tue 8 Dec: RCIA

Thur 10 Dec: Virtual Movie Club

Thur 10 Dec: Faith Development Team

Fri 11 Dec: Rosary Group

## ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD REV. CAMERON SMITH MGL

On **Friday, December 4** at St. Benedict's Church in Burwood, Rev. Cameron Smith was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Les Tomlinson (now retired), who was the founding Parish Priest of St. Simon's Parish.

Father Cameron, son of Graeme and Christine Smith, was "born and raised" in this parish, and is truly a "son of St. Simon's". We thank God for his vocation and pray that he will receive all the blessings he needs to serve faithfully the people entrusted to him.

Members of his personal family and his parish family have all played an important part in bringing him to Ordination, and we are thankful for the way in which God's grace has worked through them, and also through the Missionaries of God's Love, the Order to which he belongs.

Father Cameron will celebrate mass at St. Simons **THIS SUNDAY Dec 6 at 5pm.**

**Live stream links** of Father Cameron's Ordination and Thanksgiving Mass are available on the parish website.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jean Brohier, Priscilla Bussac, Bradley Maxwell, Anna Tanti, Paolo Barcial, Patrick Fong, Glenn Roche, Natalie Giaccotto, Thomas Milo, Nancy Leanza, Ron Ventura, Renato Alcazar, Catherine McCillister, Rolando Mandarin, Craig Don Paul

## ST . SIMON'S VIRTUAL MOVIE CLUB

### Thursday Dec 10 at 7pm "Paper Moon"

Ryan O'Neal, Jodie Foster



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. 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](mailto:frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au) or

Nick Brennan: [nbre5793@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nbre5793@bigpond.net.au)



# December 6, 2020 - Second Sunday of Advent

## First reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.  
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low.  
Let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

*Next Week's Readings: Third Sunday of Advent Year B*  
*Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24;*  
*Jn 1:6-8, 19-28*

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84 (85): 9-14

## Second reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget:  
that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and  
a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to  
carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called  
slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to  
be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways.  
The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a  
roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall  
apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should  
be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for  
the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in  
flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are  
waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new  
earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So  
then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live  
lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

## Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the  
Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the  
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the  
forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of  
Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were  
baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their  
sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on  
locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he  
said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more  
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and  
undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with  
water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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