



St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

Office Hours: Tue - Fri | 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

(03) 9764 4058 office@stsimonsparish.com.au

www.stsimonsparish.com.au

*"Thank you for
your contribution,
large or small,
as it will help us
to continue
provide for you."*

Parish Personnel

PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Mark Reynolds EV
(Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools)
Mark.Reynolds@cam.org.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Rev Samuel Pearson
Samuel.Pearson@cam.org.au

BUSINESS & OFFICE MANAGER

Mr Peter Evans (Tue, Thu & Fri)

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Loretta Hughes (Volunteer)

BAPTISM COORDINATOR

Theresa Abraham (Volunteer)

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Ms Delisa Gonsalves (by appointment)

PARISH COORDINATOR

Mrs Felicia Ahumada (Tue - Fri)

ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mr Tom Wursthorn: 9755 4222

NAZARETH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Mr Sam Cosentino: 9795 8100

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

Contact Hedy Carvalho: 9755 4222

STANDARD CHURCH MASS TIMES

Sun: 9.00am & 11.00am
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri: 9.15am
Sat: 6.00pm (page 2 for full details)

STANDARD ONLINE MASS TIMES

Sun, live from Sat: 6.00pm
Tue: 9.15am (page 2 for full details)

STANDARD RECONCILIATION

By appointment. Contact St Jude's,
Scoresby on 9763 7302

**BAPTISMS: 1st Sat/ 3rd Sun of month
In 2023 - 1st & 3rd Sun of the month**
Email: baptism@stsimonsparish.com.au

WEDDINGS & MARRIAGE PREP.

Contact Parish Office

ANointing OF THE SICK

By private arrangement with
Fr Mark Reynolds & Fr. Samuel Pearson
Contact St Jude's on 9763 7302

PARISH COUNCIL

parishcouncil@stsimonsparish.com.au

PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE

Please Contact Parish Office

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE

1800 305 330

MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE

Andrea O'Loughlin
Available for Funerals & Weddings
Mobile: 0404 051 401

27th November - FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

Within the Word - Happy New Year!

No, it's not January 1 yet, but that's not the only "New Year's Day" in our multicultural world. A new year begins on various days on the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Chinese, Mayan, and so many other calendars. So it should not seem strange that the Christian New Year begins four Sundays before Christmas, which this year is already on November 27 (*technically, at sunset that Saturday*).

Ours is not the kind of "new year" celebrated by secular culture on January 1— full of festivity and good cheer, not to mention resolutions, alcohol, and fireworks! The tone of the Christian New Year and the Advent season is more akin to Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which begins a time for evaluating one's life before God that concludes on Yom Kippur, the day of atonement and repentance.

While our Advent season is not primarily penitential, it does include some wake-up calls! The Advent Scriptures challenge us to keep in mind that life on earth is not endless or perfect. The Lectionary readings call us to take an honest look at our lives and at our world and yet to continue living in joyful hope. Our beautiful rituals, like lighting the candles of our Advent wreath, gently remind us that we have reason to see, foster, and increase the hope-filled light that shines in the darkness. They also help us to long for the coming of Jesus, who is the true light of the world.

The word "Advent" comes from Latine *adveniens*, which means "coming" or "arrival." In ancient times it usually referred to the anticipated arrival of an emperor, king, or other important person, for which one had to prepare carefully. Our Christian New Year also begins with anticipation: someone important is coming for whom we must prepare! Although many think Advent is primarily the season for preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, it is also a time for us to prepare for the "Parousia," our Lord's promised return in glory at the end of time.

The Advent Scriptures speak about the various "comings" of our Lord in the past and future, but also in the present. At the beginning of Advent, Isaiah and other prophets call us to prepare for the (future) coming of the Day of the Lord. Near the end of Advent, the readings focus on the biblical events that happened just before the birth of Jesus. But in the middle of Advent, we hear the preaching of John the Baptist, the "forerunner" or "precursor" who prepared people of his time for the coming of the Lord. Meditating on the Baptist's words - calling the people to repent and to recognize the "one who is mightier" - is also a good way of preparing ourselves for his coming to us here and now. There's no need to wait until the end of our lives, or the end of time, to be alert to God's desire to come to us in the present. Advent can help us invite Jesus to come into our midst each and every day of our lives. Or, as the early Christians said, "Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!"

Fr Felix Just, SJ

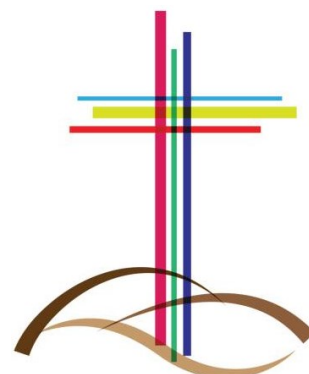
Fr. Felix Just, SJ, is the Coordinator of Ongoing Formation for Clergy and of Theological /Liturgical/Formation of Deacons in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Give Us this Day - November 2022

Sacrament of Confirmation

This Saturday 26th November 2022, we pray for the children and their families receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the love of Parents, Sponsors, family and friends, we pray that they will always stay strong in their faith and trust in his plan.



ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND 3RD & 4TH DECEMBER 2022

Altar Society	Melanie Jacobs & Annie McNeill	Children's Liturgy:	Returning in February 2023
Church Cleaning	Clara Gallo, Donna & Ida Lancuba	Flowers:	Beatrice Polydor
	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
Reader 1	Pam Comerford	Lanny Pincott	Buena Dinuzzo
Reader 2	Jodie Marziano	Stephen White	Ildi Citler
Commentator	Marcello Martino	Tony Biviano	Pia Pagotto
Help Desk	Seymon Martino	Marie-Anne Duthil	Noelle Parson

CHURCH & ONLINE MASSES

Mon	28 Nov	N/A	NO MASS
Tue	29 Nov	9.15am	St Simons, Rowville - Livestream + In-church
Wed	30 Nov	9.15am	St Jude's, Scoresby - In-church
Thu	1 Dec	9.15am	St Jude's, Scoresby - In-church
Fri	2 Dec	9.15am	St Simons, Rowville - In-church ANOINTING
Sat	3 Dec	6.00pm	Livestream - St Simons, Rowville - In-church
Sun	4 Dec	9.00am	St Simons + In-church
Sun	4 Dec	11.00am	St Simons, Rowville - In-church

FACE COVERING REMAINS OPTIONAL AT ST SIMON'S

However, parishioners are encouraged to be sensitive to the well-being of others when in close proximity. To support this, face coverings (Masks) are strongly recommended to be worn indoors, especially at 9:00 am Mass.

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

"Could you not stay with me one Hour"

Mat 26:40

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm at St Simon's Parish



WEDNESDAY ROSARY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*** Rosary in church this coming week**

*** 7.30 pm Rosary - 7th December** (Fortnightly via Zoom)

Contact Ricardo at: ricardo_drozario@hotmail.com

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86788729000?pwd=UGgreUNSVm0zQ3hXYTVYc2FCZittdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 8872 9000

Passcode: 2iwgAV



CRAFT GROUP

Thank you to Melanie Jacobs for leading our Craft Group on Tuesdays afternoons and for inspiring us all with creative ideas! Craft Group has now finished for the year, resuming in February 2023.

PARISH DIARY

Mon	28 Nov	7.30pm	Gospel Reflection	Via Zoom
Tue	29 Nov	7.30pm	RCIA	Parish Centre
Wed	30 Nov	12.30pm	We Care For You Planning	Parish Centre
Thu	1 Dec	10.00am	St Simon's Supports	Meeting Room
Fri	2 Dec	10.00am	Seniors Morning Tea	Parish Centre
Fri	2 Dec	6.00pm	Holy Hour	In-church
Sat	3 Dec	11.30am	Baptisms	In-church

INTERESTED IN JOINING A MINISTRY?

We have a number of ministries that require assistance in the new year to lighten the load, especially for our CHURCH CLEANING, ALTAR SOCIETY and HELP DESK teams.

Please contact the Parish Office on 9764 4058.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DAILY REFLECTIONS

*During Advent by several inspiring writers like Mother Hilda Scott OSB, Monsignor Graham Schmitzer, Kate Atkins MGL and others. **Limited number. Available at help desk just \$5.00***



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

To join any of these groups

please email: loretta@stsimonsparish.com.au

FAITH INSPIRATIONS – Mt 24:38-44 - FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

Every time we pray together the Apostles' Creed at Mass, and in light of today's Gospel reading, we are called to examine our own priorities! Am I too much like the people of Noah's time, and like much of the world around us today? Genesis 6:5 "that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually."

In the battleground of my life, do the temptations and obsessions with pride, selfishness, materialism, recklessness and the many stains of original sin that can taint us all, make me forget that there is a day on which our Lord will return, a day when I will be judged for the life I have lived? Do I neglect to pray, to love, to forgive? Where is my humility, gratitude, charity? Is God the centre of my life?

We don't know when the day will come; like a thief in the night we are told, without a warning! As followers of Christ we are called to live in the Spirit, anticipating His triumphant return, and to be ready! Salvation is a free gift of love, purchased by the blood of our Saviour. But we have to accept the gift and live each moment of each day accordingly, in anticipation of eternal life!

Provided by St Simon's Faith Development Team

GOSPEL REFLECTION - (via Zoom) @ 7.30 pm

* 2nd & 4th Monday of the month

A NIGHT OF CAROLS! - Tuesday, **6th December @ 7.30pm**



THE WELL - Wednesday, **7th December @ 10.00 am** (Parish Centre)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - Returning on the 5th February 2023

Thank you to all our wonderful dedicated children liturgy team leaders; without your help we would not have been able to offer this ministry.

May our young community continue to journey with us in prayer and we look forward to offering more sessions in 2023! If anyone will be interested in joining this ministry please contact the parish office on 9764 4058.

Thank you to all parents for supporting their children to learn more about our faith.



COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH EVENTS

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE (CCPR) 2022

"SALES HAVE NOW CLOSED".

Please note that if you've taken a book for sale earlier, **those tickets, sold or unsold, need to be returned ASAP.**
Thank you to all your generous support and for your co-operation.

MONASH CHORALE PRESENTS

Christmas Around the World

Music by Bach, Lauridsen, Sweelinck and Handel
and carols from around the world

Here at Simon's Parish, on Sunday 11th December, 2.30 pm

Tickets Adults \$30, Concession \$25

<https://www.trybooking.com/CDMUH>

YOUTH GROUP WITH ST SIMON'S & ST JUDE'S!!

Who: Year 5 -Year 10 Students Time: 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm

7th Event: **SUNDAY, 4th December 2022**

"Christmas Party!"



Dinner will be provided: \$5 Donation

Contact: youthteam@stsimonsparish.com.au

WE CARE FOR YOU

Next Gathering: **Wednesday, 14th Dec at 11.00 am to 2.00 pm**

Planning Meeting : Wednesday 30 Nov at 12.30 pm

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

Next meeting: **Thursday, 8th Dec 10.00 am to 12.00 pm**

Theme: Christmas Party!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY VICTORIA

Dear Parishioners, We were overwhelmed with the Christmas donations last year and every other year. This year we are again looking for donations of non perishable food that could be included at the family Christmas meal.

We are also looking for gifts for kids between the ages of 1-16. Anything you could assist with will be graciously accepted and delivered to the people we assist. Please do not wrap gifts as we need to see contents of the gift to give to the right person. Thank you. *Your local Vinnies Conference - Rowville*

VIRTUAL ADVENT SERIES

Once again we are delighted to present a series of virtual Advent talks by four Australian biblical scholars from *Yarra Theological Union, a College of the University of Divinity*. Each week this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the readings for the week.

Speaking to us from their own area of expertise will be:

- Prof Mary Coloe PBVM
- Dr Mary Reaburn NDS
- Dr Chris Monaghan CP
- Dr Janina Hiebel

This is a perfect opportunity to enrich your Advent journey

WHEN: Tuesdays – November 22, 29, December 6, 13

TIME: 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT*

WHERE: Via Zoom meeting **COST:** Free

TO REGISTER: [2022 Virtual Advent Series \(wufoo.com\)](https://www.wufoo.com)

Online registration is essential. Zoom meeting details will be forwarded upon registration. THIS IS NOT AN ACCREDITED EVENT.

POTLUCK DINNER

Bring your favourite dish and enjoy a relaxed evening with great food and company! **7.00 pm @ St Simons Parish Centre.**

Every Second Friday of the month

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE

Is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not required. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement in 2023. Tel: 9326 1895
Email: sommil@bigpond.com (preferred for contact)

VIGIL MASS FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

Will be celebrated at St Francis' Church (corner Lonsdale and Elizabeth St, Melbourne) on Wednesday 30th November 2022 at 5.30pm. **All Welcome.**

FLOOD APPEAL – Society of St Vincent De Paul

For those who have been effected by these devastating floods particularly in the north of the State.

Contributions can be made by:

- 1) Calling **13 18 12**
- 2) visit <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>
- 3) making a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase; or
- 4) via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

We ask also for your thoughts and prayers for all who are impacted by the floods as well as the volunteers and emergency workers assisting them in their needs at this challenging time.

ST SIMON'S CINEMA

Parishioners and their family/ friends who can guarantee an attendance of 10 or more patrons can view the movie of their choice (if suitable and available) at the time and day of their choice (conditional to the facility being available). Tea and coffee will be provided and they can bring along their own refreshments if required. The use of the facility will be restricted to **three hours**, which will allow for 30 minutes get together before the movie. An extension to this can be negotiated in certain circumstances. If time permits, we will advertise the movie in case others might like to come. A projectionist will be provided; however, we would ask that patrons assist in ensuring the facility is left clean and tidy.

Alternatively, if parishioners and their family and friends can guarantee **15** or more patrons, they can have a showing as per above conditions but as a private function (the event will not be advertised to others).

With the provision of tea and coffee, again we are proposing a \$10 donation towards the parish. There will be a card reader provided to debit this amount, however, it is a donation and as such you are free to donate any amount as you see fit. If you are interested in any of the options outlined, please contact: **Nick Brennan on 0417 545 035**

We again thank all those who have supported our cinema to date and of course our volunteers who have given up their valuable time to ensure this wonderful resource continues to be used for the benefit of the St Simon's community.

SAFEGUARDING

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne requires that ALL Volunteers at St Simon's MUST HAVE a CURRENT **Working with Children Check Card** registered with St Simon's. **Unfortunately, any person that does not have this card, will no longer be able to volunteer in any capacity.**

If you need assistance or for more information, please contact the parish office on 9764 4058.

St Simon's Parish community, is committed to the Victorian Child Safe Standards & acknowledges that child safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

First reading

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

121(122):1-2,4-5,6-9

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Please join in reading the Psalm from the screens.

Second reading

Rom 13:11-14

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Mt 24:37-44

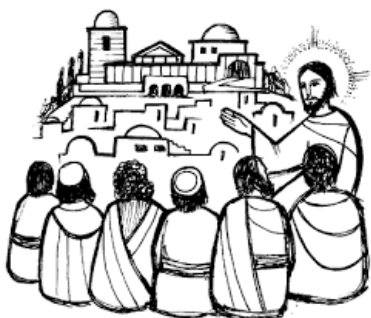
Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

Next week’s Readings:

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9;
Mt 3:1-12



Is 2:1-5

SPIRITUAL QUOTE

“Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country, and this world.” - Sharon Salzberg

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Recent Death: Roslyn Coelho

Anniversary of Death: Annette (Mataska) Jackson,
David Douglas & Mary Nguyet.

We lift our prayers to you Lord, for all the sick people in need and throughout the world especially for:

Tom Quinn.

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sales@chipking.com.au

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Contact Ash: **0413 913 619**

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Piano, Keyboard, Guitar,
Singing, Theory.

5 years old to adults, for all levels

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and V.C.E Exams,

vocal performances and just
for your pleasure!

Book a free trial class:

Phone: 0407 816 197

Email:

nataliaspeirs12@gmail.com

We Care For You Group

Every Fortnight
on a Wednesday.

Morning Tea & Lunch
Provided (Free)

Please contact
Brian Crowley on
042 909 0770

Super Steve's Cleaning Team

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- * Carpet Cleaning
- * Tenant Vacate Clean
- * Corporate/Office Cleaning
- * Water Blasting & Pressure Washing

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Home Loans, Investment Loans, Commercial Loans.

Interest rates have never been lower. If you haven't reviewed your lending recently, give our team who are based right here in Rowville a call to find out how much you could save!

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on Facebook@together.finance or call

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