

**Second Sunday
of Advent
10 Dec 2023**



Parish Personnel



PARISH PRIEST
Rev Jerald Mariadas
jerald.mariadas@cam.org.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST
Rev Samuel Pearson
samuel.pearson@cam.org.au

BUSINESS & OFFICE MANAGER
Mr Peter Evans
peter@stsimonsparish.com.au

PARISH COORDINATOR
Mrs Felicia Ahumada (Tue - Fri)

CHILD SAFEGUARDING
Ms Delisa Gonsalves (by appointment)

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
Loretta Hughes

**AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS PROGRAM
& SACRAMENTS**
Hedy Carvalho: 9755 4222

ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Mr Tom Wursthorn - 9755 4222

NAZARETH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL
Mr Sam Cosentino - 9795 8100

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE
1800 305 330

PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE
Please Contact Parish Office

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

LIVESTREAMING IN RESIDENCE
Corey Payton
Available for Funerals & Weddings
Mobile: 0498 185 295

BAPTISMS—1st & 3rd SUN of the month
For application form refer to our website
or call parish office on 9764 4058.
Email: baptism@stsimonsparish.com.au
(monitored only on a Tuesdays)

ANointing of the Sick
By private arrangement
Contact St Jude's on 9763 7302

FUNERALS (Tue—Fri)
Contact parish office on 9764 4058

WEDDINGS, MARRIAGE PREPARATION
Contact parish office on 9764 4058

MASS TIMES
Sun: 9.00 am & 11.00 am
Tue (Livestream) Wed, Thu, Fri: 9.15 am
Sat: 6.00 pm (Livestream)

RECONCILIATION
Saturdays from 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm
(before the 6.00 pm Mass)

St. Simon the Apostle Parish

"A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ."

ADDRESS: 2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178
OFFICE HOURS: Tue - Fri (10.00 am - 5.00 pm)
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: tinyurl.com/s36hstf

TELEPHONE: (03) 9764 4058
EMAIL: rowville@cam.org.au
WEBSITE: stsimonsparish.com.au

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. (Mark 1:1)

Beginnings are important, and the beginning of Mark's Gospel is no exception. His very first sentence reads like a summary of the entire book: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). So where does Mark start the story? He takes us to the Judean desert, where John the Baptist is preparing the way for the Christ, the Messiah.

Contrary to expectations that the Messiah would bring Israel military liberation, John proclaims that Jesus will baptize his people in the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:8). He will open the way for God himself to dwell in them! That's why John offered baptism for the forgiveness of sins. He knew that Jesus had come to do something new, something astonishing. Repentance was the key that would help the Jews—and us—to receive this surprising good news.

In order to be ready, we need to empty ourselves of our old ways of thinking. That's where repentance comes in. It clears out the sin that clouds our vision of God. It removes our shame and guilt and delivers us from whatever blocks God's life from taking root in us. It makes us ready to receive God's forgiveness and helps us to become more aware of his abiding presence within us.

Are there ways that you need a change of attitude or a new hope this Advent? As you prepare the way for Jesus during this holy season, go back to "the beginning" and listen to John the Baptist's message. Repentance is good news because it opens your heart to Jesus. So take advantage of opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this season. Let God expand your capacity to receive him at Christmas. As Mark shows us in his Gospel, that's where it all begins.

"Jesus, help me to open my heart to you as I await your coming!"

The WORD Among Us

Advent Penitential Service

Waiting in the Light for the coming of Christ
WED, **13 Dec @ 7.30 pm** St Simon's Parish, Rowville.



St Simon & Jude's Parish Community Christmas Cards

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

THIS WEEKEND **please** take a BUNDLE of 50 or 100 printed Christmas Cards with our Mass Times to DISTRIBUTE.



Mark the area you will be covering on the Zone Maps provided.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO 11 AM MASS ON SUN, 24 DEC. ONLY A 9 AM MASS

St Simon's Community invite you to come and join us for Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Eve

6:00 pm Family Mass *with Carols from 5:30 pm*
9:00 pm Vigil Mass *with Carols from 8:30 pm*
12:00 am Midnight Mass *with Carols from 11:30 pm*

Christmas Day

10:00 am Mass *with Carols from 9:30 am*

New Year's Eve

11:30 pm Thanksgiving & Adoration @ 12:00 am Midnight Mass

New Year's Day

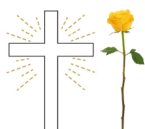
10:00 am Mass



**May the spirit of Christmas fill your heart with peace,
and may the coming year bring you boundless joy and happiness.**

PARISH NOTICES

Recent Death: Don Evans.
Joan Oorloff and Loretta Dillon.



Anniversary of Death:

John Ferdinands, Maurice Kelaart, Warren Ithier (1 Yr),
Giovanna Cannizzaro, Concepcion Roberto,
Daphne Gonsalvez and Noel & France D'Argent.

Prayer for the Sick

Nick Moore, Mary Thisgaard, Carl Kelaart, Ruth Vail,
Loredana Pellegrini, Nigel Quadros, Glen Rawlins,
Yana Jong, Jenny Liston, Michelle Wright
and Mario Di Fiore.

2023 Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle (CCPR)

• Was drawn LAST SAT, 2 Dec 2023 @ 7.30 pm
at Resurrection Parish, Keysborough, VIC. 3178.

*Results of the Combined Catholic Parish Raffle 2023 will
be published once all winners have been notified. Results
should be published by the end of this week.*

Church Flower Ministry

Behind the scenes, we have a wonderful team that
arrange our beautiful church flowers each week led by
Melanie Jacobs. **As the new year approaches we are
hoping to build up this team.**

If flower arranging is something that interests you or would
like to assist with, please contact the Parish office on
9764 4058.

Commentating at Mass

We would love to get some more people to assist us with
commentating at Mass. Based on a Roster system.
Please contact the Parish office on 9764 4058.

Lockdown for Bulletin Notices

All bulletin notices for the weekend **MUST** be
submitted to the parish office before 5pm on THU of each
week.

Pastoral Worker Role

There is an opportunity for an experienced Pastoral
Worker to undertake and contribute to the Pastoral needs
of the Supporting communities of Scoresby and Rowville
(St Jude's and St Simon's). This is a full time role
reporting to the Parish Priest. This role will be to build solid
relationships and work collaboratively to provide support
to the Parish Priest, Parish Team and parish volunteers.

For a position description and to apply visit:

[https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/pastoral-
worker-supporting-communities-of-scoresby-and-rowville-
st-judes-and-st-simons](https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/pastoral-worker-supporting-communities-of-scoresby-and-rowville-st-judes-and-st-simons)

**Should you have any further questions please
do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at:**
hadmin@cam.org.au

If you wish to make a donation to the Parish
by credit card — either to Parish Stewardship
(Giving) or Priest Support (Presbytery)
Please scan this QR code and complete
the details requested to donate via CDFpay.



RCIA—Rite of Welcome

Today - SUN, **10th Dec**
@ 11.00 am Mass - we open
our arms in love and welcome
to Bill Leane, Adam Deeley,
Glenn and Rachel Hodgkin as
they journey with us toward
the Easter sacraments.



***We ask God to bless them as they seek to deepen
their faith in Him.***

Christmas Eve 6.00 pm FAMILY Mass & Pageant

We are inviting parents who would be willing to be part
of the organising team. Please contact the parish office
on 9764 4058 or email: rowville@cam.org.au

We will have sign-up
sheets in the church foyer
for parents to register any
child who is wanting to
participate in the Nativity
Play and Pageant on the

24 Dec @ 6.00 pm Mass.

2nd Practice:

SAT, 16 Dec @ 3.00 pm.



Altar Serv Training

THIS SUN, 10 Dec from **4.00—5.00 pm**
(In Church).

St Simon's and St Jude's Youth Group

Year 5 to Year 10 students



Come Celebrate with us our last session for the year!

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING,
MUSIC, DANCING AND FOOD!

THIS SUN, 10 Dec from **5.30—7.00 pm**

(St Simon's Parish Centre) Dinner will be provide.
A \$5 donation will be most welcomed.

Please contact Denise and Dinelle

@ youthteam@stsimonsparish.com.au or 0419 176 149

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers & Children's Gift Donations 2023

As Christmas is fast approaching, St Vincent de Paul is
putting together Christmas Hampers for families in need.
We kindly ask for your assistance in donating any
non-perishable food items which can be placed in the box
in the church foyer and Children's gifts which can be
placed under the Christmas Tree up till the 17 Dec.
People who would like to donate a child's gift can come
and get a tag with the child's age and gender, to ensure
that we cover all children we have visited this year.

FOOD DROP OFF: Box in the Church Foyer.

CHILDREN'S GIFT DROP OFF:

Place under the Christmas tree in Church foyer.

*SVDP Rowville Conference are extremely grateful for your
continued donations and support. **Thank you!***



Women's Social Group

THIS THU, 14 Dec @ 10.00 am

(Parish Centre)

**Last session for the year
and Christmas Party!**



Viv's RE Care

THIS WED, 13 Dec from 11.30 am—2.30 pm (Parish Centre)
FREE morning tea, lunch and entertainment.

Our end of the year Christmas Party!

*For more information regarding about this event, please
contact Brian Crowley on 0429 090 770.*

Piety and Craft Stall

NEXT WEEKEND on SAT, 16th Dec @ 6pm Mass
there will be various piety and craft stall items for sale.

2024 Columban Art Calendars
are available for purchase from
our piety stall @ \$9 each.



We look forward to assisting you with a Holy or Christmas gift.

Musical Advent & Christmas Concert 2023

My name is Kate, I'm a singer, songwriter, and pianist.
My family and I created the YouTube channel 'For the
Love of Song' to share uplifting original music. If you
want an example, here's our most recent song:

<https://youtu.be/1xVXGQJfJDw?si=fFeSNo0DJ-wGnFx>

To celebrate Christmas, we're doing a Musical Advent
Calendar this year. We'll have a new song, orchestral
piece, or poem every day from December 1st right up until
Christmas. This will also include our Christmas Concert on
December 22nd. Everything is available on our
[Youtube channel](#) You can find out more in the video below:

<https://youtu.be/NBSKOUXToI4?si=aXOXWIWT5KKtiYET>

Best Wishes, Kate Lawson Gould

Advent Appeal for Ukraine

**Since the start of the war,
millions of Ukrainians have
fled their home country, with
thousands of refugees coming to Australia.**



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

In response to the continued conflict in Ukraine,
Archbishop Peter A Comensoli is launching a special
Advent appeal, the proceeds of which will go towards
providing aid and practical assistance to those who have
been displaced and are without basic supplies, especially
as winter approaches.

'There are no winners in war, only families torn apart.
Sadly, this is the painful reality facing so many at this time,'
Archbishop Comensoli reflected.

'I'm inviting the faithful of Melbourne to offer whatever they
can at this time. And I pray that, together, we can be a sign
of God's nearness to those who need it most.'

**Special Christmas Cards (and envelopes) are available
in the church foyer. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli
extends his gratitude for your generosity.**

Donations can also be done online:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/adventappeal>

**Please contact
the parish office
if you would like
to advertise
your business
in this space.**

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 the Apostle, Rowville.

**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.

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7-8pm

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Levels
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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.

**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.'

Responsorial Psalm**84(85):9-14(Advent)**

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

PARISH DIARY — Mass Schedule and PARISH RUN Ministries and Events

| Mon — 11 Dec | Tue — 12 Dec | Wed— 13 Dec | Thu—14 Dec | Fri— 15 Dec | Sat—16 Dec | Sun—17 Dec |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Gospel Reflection 7.30 pm (Via Zoom) | 9.15 am Mass (Fr. Jerald Mariadas) Rosary Prayers 10.00 pm (Church) RCIA 7.30 pm (Parish Centre) | 9.15 am School Thanksgiving Mass (Fr. Samuel Pearson) SVDP Meeting 7.00 pm Advent Reconciliation 7.30 pm | 9.15 am Mass (Fr. Samuel Pearson) Women's Group Christmas Party! 10.00 am (Parish Centre) 6.00 pm Year 6 School Graduation Mass (Fr. Jerald Mariadas) | 9.15 am Mass (Fr. Jerald Mariadas) Eucharistic Adoration 6.00 – 7.00 pm (Church) | Nativity Play Rehearsal 3.00 pm (Church) Vigil 6.00 pm Mass (Fr. Samuel Pearson) LIVESTREAM | 9.00 am Mass (Fr. Samuel Pearson) 11.00 am Mass (Fr. Samuel Pearson) Baptisms (Fr. Samuel Pearson) 12.30 pm |

DUTY Rosters for NEXT Weekend: 16 & 17 Dec**READINGS:** 3rd SUNDAY of Advent — *Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28*

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| FLOWERS: | Nilmini Fernando | ALTAR SOCIETY: | Melanie Jacobs & Yvonne Muspratt | CHURCH CLEANING: | Judy & Caroline Schmidt |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|

| MASS TIMES: | SAT, 16 Dec @ 6.00 pm | SUN, 17 Dec @ 9.00 am | SUN, 17 Dec @ 11.00 am |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Commentators | Alden/Samantha D'Couto | Tony Fry | Ildi Citler |
| Reader 1 | D'Souza Family | Dorothy Stack | Terry Redden |
| Reader 2 | D'Souza Family | Sheridan Reberio | Pia Pagotto |
| Welcome Desk | Felicia Ahumada or Volunteer needed | Zita Ragg | Buena Di Nuzzo |
| Children's Liturgy | No Children's Liturgy | No Children's Liturgy | No Children's Liturgy |