



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH
DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Nazareth Centre, Mernda (St Joseph's Primary School)

44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754

Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday 4pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8am and Sunday 10:30am

St Mary's, Whittlesea

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am

Confession/Reconciliation after

Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am Mass at 10am.

Weekend: Sunday 10am

St Mary's, Kinglake

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763

Weekend Mass Sunday 8:30am

St Joseph's, Mernda

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754

Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15am

Weekend: Sunday 5pm

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

18 December 2022. YEAR A.

Parish Priest: Fr Hien Vu

Assistant Priest: Fr Simeon Anthony

The Parish Office open hours are Tuesday - Friday 9am-4pm

Parish Secretary: Margaret Stanford [Tues & Fri: 9am – 4pm]

Sacraments: Contact Parish Office [9412 8493]

Finance/Admin: Monique Heckmann Tue, Wed, Thur [9412 8493]

Parish Office: 2-20 Fir Street, Whittlesea 3757

Postal address: P.O. Box 221, Mernda 3754

Phone Number: 9412 8493

Mobile Number: 0448 101 401

Email: merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au

Website: www.christthelightparish.org.au

We pray for those who have died recently:

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bill Carter, Anthony Johnson, Agnes and Henry Wright

We pray for those who are ill in our community: Vincent Orchard, Paddy & Eileen Fitzgerald, Mary Harvey, Fr Brendan Dillon, Margaret Carter, Pat Rye, Elizabeth Miller, Vincent Ah-Kiau

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory

Second Reading:

St Paul to Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia. A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Next week: Christmas. Year A.

First: Isaiah 52:7-10

Second: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Just Man Dreaming

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!



We are a Child Safe Parish. We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Nazareth Centre, St Joseph's School Mernda

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24 December. 5.30pm Mass and
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December. 10.30am Mass

Anawim Centre, St Mary's School, Whittlesea

Christmas Eve Festive Celebration, Saturday 24 December 6.30pm Mass

Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December 10am Mass

St Mary's Church, Kinglake

Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December. 8.30am Mass

WE NEED YOUR HELP CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We still require volunteers at our Christmas Mass Celebrations. If you can assist with any of the following tasks: SET-UP, WELCOMER, LEADER, READER, EUCHARIST MINISTER or LAPTOP OPERATOR we would be grateful for your help. Please put your name down on the clipboards at the back of church.

Reconciliation times:

Tuesday 20 - Friday 23 Dec
after weekday morning mass.
Please refer to the front page
of the newsletter.
Saturdays 4pm at the
Nazareth Centre.



ENTER YOUR LUCKY TICKET

Prizes will be drawn at the 6:30pm

Christmas Eve outdoor Mass at

St Mary's, Whittlesea. **Free to enter.**

Each prize is a ticket for 2 people to

attend one of 2 dinners prepared by

our MasterChef, Fr Hien Vu and

hosted by our Priests at the Parish

House. Please write your details on

the ticket and put it in the entry box

at each Mass centre.

REPORT FROM MEETING OF THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM, 6 DECEMBER 2022.

Parish Priorities 2023: The Team has identified seven areas of parish life which will be the focus of our endeavours in 2023. They are: Building a new church; building up the parish community post-covid; the engagement and participation of young people in parish life; faith formation opportunities for parishioners; the engagement of parents in the preparation of their children for reception of the sacraments; embedding a culture of safeguarding children, families and the vulnerable; and participation in the Archdiocesan 'Take the Way of the Gospel' initiative.

School Communities: The Team wishes to express its congratulations to the Principals and staff of our parish schools for all that has been accomplished in 2022. It has certainly been another challenging year for everyone, and together they have provided outstanding learning experiences and care for the children and their families

Thank you: As we come to the end of the year, the Team wishes to express its thanks to all parishioners for your commitment and faithfulness in all areas of parish life. We are truly blessed to have such a vibrant parish community. We thank especially all those who generously volunteer in so many ways to building up our community, a community which seeks to make the love of Jesus present in our world.

Stewardship envelopes and statements please collect your stewardship envelopes from the back of church today and if possible it would be appreciated if you could deliver a neighbour to reduce postage costs. Card and Direct Debit receipts will be emailed soon.

The Parish Office is closed Thursday 22 December 2022 and will re-open Tuesday 10 January 2023.

CCCW/WMI Food Share located at the back of the Uniting Church Whittlesea will close Wednesday 21 December 2022 and re-open Tuesday 17 January 2023.

Melbourne Overseas Mission. There will be a leaving collection this weekend 17/18 December.

2023 Columban Calendars are \$10 each and can be purchased from all Mass Centres.

Nazareth Centre chairs will be set up from 17 December 2022 until the school holiday program starts. This means that after 10:30am Mass, the chairs need to be packed away every Sunday from the 15 January onwards.

Parish community celebrations program 2023: Details of the program will be published early next year. The first major celebration will be the Parish Feast Day celebration on Saturday 11 February 2023

SAVE THE DATE ... Parish Feast Day BBQ Saturday 11 February 2023

DONATIONS... while the Christmas and Boxing days sales are on, we are urging people to grab new items to donate for our upcoming events. **Parish Feast Day** - wine, whiskey, chocolates, vouchers etc. And for our **Lego Raffle**, to be held early next year, any Lego sets or packets. (Please note must be new unopened items not second hand.) All donations, that assist in the raising funds for our New Church Building, can be left at the Parish Office or contact Liz Williams on lizwill126@gmail.com

Multicultural Night Raised a total of **\$6,800.00** which goes towards the building of our New Church.
Thank you to everyone for your wonderful contributions.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MIDNIGHT MASS - SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER

ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH OUR CELEBRATION?

If you are available to assist with the celebration of Mass,
please contact the parish office
by calling 9412 8493 or 0448 101 401
or email: merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au



Account Details:

If you would like to make a Direct
Deposit DONATION to the New
Church Building account.

BSB: 083 - 347
Acct No: 135 263 131
Name: New Church Building