



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

5th SUNDAY OF LENT 26 March 2023. YEAR A.

Parish Priest: Fr Hien Vu

Assistant Priest: Fr Simeon Anthony

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

Pastoral Worker: George Thommana

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

Finance/Admin: Monique Heckmann [Tue, Wed, Thur: 9am – 4pm]

Sacraments: Contact Parish Office [Phone 03 9412 8493]

Parish Office: 2-20 Fir Street, Whittlesea 3757

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

Phone Number: 03 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:

We pray for those who are ill in our community: Vincent Orchard,
Colin McKenzie, Caroline Perrett

Entrance Antiphon:

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

Second Reading: St Paul to Rom 8:8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Next week: Palm Sunday. Year A.

First: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second: St Paul to Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John. Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief.

The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.



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.

Wonderful parish celebration hosted by our Sri Lankan community.

Congratulations to Ajith De Silva and the members of the organizing committee, together with our Sri Lankan parishioners and their many friends, for the outstanding success of the dinner dance and fundraising gathering last Saturday evening at Whittlesea. What a truly memorable occasion it proved to be. Beginning with a traditional Sri Lankan welcoming ceremony, the night was enjoyed by well over three hundred guests and included Sri Lankan music, singing and dancing, as well short presentations on the people and land of Sri Lanka. We were treated to a superb banquet of Sri Lankan food and a great night of music, dancing, games, raffle draw and silent auctions. The Anawim Centre had been transformed into a reception venue which would be the envy of any parish. Many of our Sri Lankan friends, women, men and children, dressed in colourful traditional costumes including our very own honorary Sri Lankan, Fr Hien Vu. We were also privileged to have a first glimpse at a sketch plan for our new church.

Approximately \$10,000 was raised for our New Church Building Fund! As we would all appreciate, the success of an evening such as this was the result of much planning and hard work. On behalf of the whole parish we thank the Sri Lankan community and all who assisted and attended, for your support of our parish community and for our new church project.



RCIA. On this 5th Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the third scrutiny in preparation for the Baptism of the catechumens who are to be admitted to the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Let us continue to pray for Kathryn, Mason and Jessica.

REPORT FROM MEETING OF PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

14 March 2023.

Parish Celebration Program: The program is now well underway. At the date of our meeting we are looking forward to the social gathering hosted by the Sri Lankan community, the Feasts of St Patrick and St Joseph, the celebrations of the sacrament of Confirmation, and the Easter Triduum and the reception into the Church of our RCIA candidates. We are grateful for everyone's support of our celebrations and fundraising for the new church.

Parish Speaker Program: As part of our commitment to formation in faith several speakers have been invited to make presentations in coming months. Fr Elio Capra SDB will visit the parish on Sunday 28 May, Pentecost Sunday, to celebrate Masses at Mernda and to speak about the RCIA program. In May and June, Sr Karen Caldwell SGS will present a series of six talks on "Ageing and Awakening: God's Surprising Gifts". The talks will be held at Whittlesea on Thursday mornings at 10.00am.



CHRIST THE LIGHT CAMPING UPDATE:

Our parish camp is scheduled for Friday 21st July to Sunday 23rd July.

The venue is Don Bosco Camp & Centre in safety beach. <https://dbcc.org.au/facilities>
Please use the link or scan the QR code to fill in a short survey for our camp. shorturl.at/vCDJZ



More updates to follow soon..

Altar Server Ministry.

Where - Nazareth Centre, St Joseph's Primary School Mernda

When - Straight after 10:30am Mass, Sunday 26 March.

All Altar Servers are invited to attend this special training session. Parents are welcome to stay and have a cuppa.

Morning Tea on the 1st Sunday of the month at every Mass Centre.

This is a celebration of birthdays and anniversaries. We welcome new parishioners, Rite of Reception for Baptism, and Teen meeting. Everyone is welcome!

THANK YOU LETTER FROM JOHN SGUERZI. A special thank you to the Parishioners of Christ the Light, the Community of St Mary's and in particular Fathers Hien and Simeon for the prayers and love you have all shown towards Vivien. She passed away on the 6th March after a three year battle with cancer. She often said that she could feel the prayers being offered for her. Our family could not put into words the appreciation we feel towards all of you during our time of loss. She will forever be in our hearts.
The Sguerzi Family. John Sr, John Jr, Brodie, Erin and Hudson.



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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

INTERESTED PEOPLE APPLY BELOW
PLACE THE COMPLETED TICKET IN THE COLLECTION PLATES



HOLY WEEK MASSES

NAZARETH CENTRE
PALM SUNDAY 5.30pm 8am 10.30am
HOLY THURSDAY 7pm
EASTER SATURDAY 7pm
EASTER SUNDAY 8am 10.30am

PLENTY ROAD CHURCH
PALM SUNDAY 5pm
GOOD FRIDAY 10am > Multi-language

SITE OF THE NEW CHURCH
GOOD FRIDAY 3pm
 Children come dressed up as disciples

STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

6:30pm at ST MARY'S CHURCH, WHITTLESEA.

7pm at ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, PLENTY ROAD, MERENDA



Stations of the Cross

Thank you

*Christ the Light would like to thank the Parish Community for your ongoing support of the **First Collection - Presbytery** and **Second Collection - Stewardship.***

We would also like to acknowledge our appreciation for your presence and participation in our parish communities



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Teresa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations.*

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



PROJECT COMPASSION ALL FOR ONE GENERATION

MARY'S FETE

- Rides
- Face Painting
- Hair Feathers
- Classic Cars
- Dunking Machine
- RC Circuit
- Food Stalls
- Live Music
- Cake Stalls
- Show Bags
- Lucky Dips
- Market Stalls

FRIDAY 31ST MARCH 2023
 4PM - 8PM
 2-20 FIR STREET, WHITTLESEA



HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

Palm Sunday 5:30pm Sat 1 April Nazareth Centre 44 Mernda Village Drive.
8am and 10:30am Sun 2 April Nazareth Centre 44 Mernda Village Drive.
10am Sun 2 April St Mary's Church Whittlesea.
**Everyone is warmly invited to 8:30am Mass Sun 2 April
St Mary's Church Kinglake followed by Morning Tea.**

Holy Thursday 7pm Thurs 6 April St Mary's Church Whittlesea.
7pm Thurs 6 April Nazareth Centre 44 Mernda Village Drive.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Catholic Tradition
10am 7 April St Joseph's Church 1490 Plenty Road Mernda.

Good Friday 3pm 7 April Doreen Church Site
Cnr Bassetts Rd Eminence Blvd Doreen.

Good Friday 3pm 7 April St Mary's Church Whittlesea.

Easter Vigil 7.30pm Saturday 8 April Nazareth Centre
44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda

Easter Sunday 8am and 10.30am Sunday 9 April
Nazareth Centre 44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda
8.30am Sunday 9 April St Mary's Church Kinglake
10am Sunday 9 April St Mary's Church Whittlesea