



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH
DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr B 24 December 2023

Parish Priest: Fr Hien Vu

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

Pastoral Worker: George Thommana
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

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
Children's Liturgy EVERY 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.
Weekend Mass: 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 Mass: Sunday 5pm

We pray for those who have **died recently**: Rita Bernadette

And for those whose **anniversaries** occur at this time: Henk Ferwerda,
Gerry Ferwerda

We pray for those who are **ill in our community**:

Vincent Orchard, K.P Abraham, Indika Fernando, Rose Vaas, Lalaka Peiris,
Carlo Carleo, Maria & Joseph Ah Kiau, Baselisa Malusu Gina Wherrett,
Oliver Gordon

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:

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Responsorial Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the
Lord.

Second Reading:

Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his
will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Luke 1:26-38

Next week: The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph

First: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Second: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

A reflection...

Two of the most spoken words in the English language are 'yes' and 'no'. In today's world we often hear them pronounced as 'Yeah' and 'Nah'. They are simple words but may express our consent or denial of complex realities. In today's Gospel, St Luke tells the story of the 'yes' that changed the course of history and allowed God to become one of us. It is the story of a young Jewish woman who responds to God's invitation to make a home for Jesus and bring Him to birth. According to Luke, Mary does not use the word 'yes' but this is her intent when she says, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me." As we prepare to celebrate again the birth of Jesus, the Church reminds us that we also are being invited each day to make a home for Jesus in our own hearts, our families, our parish, and our communities. How will I respond to this invitation?

Chris Blake

'Weekly Quote'

**The Prayer of the
Frog**

by Anthony de Mello
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The important
religious
distinction is not
between those
who worship and
those who do not
worship but
between those
who love and those
who don't.

Christmas / New Year Masses

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December

6.00pm Mernda (Nazareth Centre)

8.00pm at Whittlesea (St Mary's)

12.00 am Midnight Mernda (Nazareth Centre)

All Masses on Christmas Eve to be preceded by carols commencing
30 minutes prior to Mass.

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

8.30 am Kinglake

10.00 am Whittlesea (St Mary's)

10.30 am Mernda (Nazareth Centre)

Weekday Masses

9.15 am - Tue 26 and Thurs 28 St Mary's Whittlesea

9.15 am - Wed 27 and Fri 29 St Joseph's Mernda

New Years Eve, Sunday 31st December

11.00 pm Eucharistic Adoration Mernda (Nazareth Centre)

11.30 pm Rosary - Multicultural Languages Mernda (Nazareth Centre)

12.00 am Midnight Mernda (Nazareth Centre)

New Years Day, Monday 1st January

10.00 am Mernda (Nazareth Centre)

Report from meeting of the Parish Leadership Team, 12th December.

Parish Care group: The Team reviewed our parish mission priorities for 2024, one of which is 'Building up the parish community as we emerge from the Covid pandemic'. It was suggested that in order to address the pastoral needs of some parishioners it would be helpful to establish a ministry group whose focus would be on assisting those in our community who are unwell, elderly, or have other needs. Activities could include supporting carers, visiting with those in need, preparing meals, taking people shopping, etc. If anyone would be interested to be involved in such a ministry could you please contact one of the priests, the parish office, or a member of the Parish Leadership Team.

Fundraising for our new church building: Throughout 2023 we have held a variety of social and fundraising activities including parish socials, BBQs, cake stall, toy raffle and plant and card sales. We acknowledge the work of the Fundraising Committee and our cultural communities, and all those within and beyond our parish who have generously supported these initiatives. A truly amazing amount has been raised from their efforts. Well done to all!



Seasons greeting from the Fundraising committee.

We are very pleased to advise that the Christmas toy raffle (drawn this Saturday evening) and Bunnings stalls, this month, have brought in just under \$2,000.00

With the help of all areas of the parish, we raised approx. **\$56,500.00** towards the New Church Building, this year. This was achieved with 4 large cultural events, a Bunnings cake stall, Parish birthday celebration and various minor events. It really shows what can be achieved when we all work together for a united cause. THANK YOU ALL.

Have a very Joyous Christmas and New Year. Looking forward to working together again in 2024.

Whittlesea FOODSHARE will be closed from WEDNESDAY 20 December and re open TUESDAY 16 January 2024

'Tis the season to come together and celebrate the joy of Christmas!

Following the **6pm Christmas Family Mass at the Nazareth Centre**, we invite you to join us for a festive celebration. Please **bring a plate to share**. Let's create lasting memories as we enjoy delicious treats and the beautiful sounds of Christmas carols.



New CHURCH Building 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

*Any donation made to this account is NOT tax deductible as we are a Not For Profit organization

MINISTRY ROSTER: JANUARY 2024

[W] Welcomer [L] Leader [R] Reader [E] Eucharist [LT] Laptop

Rosters are not issued in January, instead we ask for volunteers to come forward each week prior to the commencement of Mass to assist with Ministry.....

WELCOMER, LEADER, READER, EUCHARIST MINISTER, COLLECTORS or LAPTOP

There will be NO Children's Liturgy in the month of January, children are welcome to take work sheets from the back of the Nazareth Centre to complete during this time.

NAZARETH CENTRE SET UP: 4:30pm Saturday

JANUARY Team A: Lorel Donnelly and Team

Christ The Light - News updates
WhatsApp group



Join the CTL parish WhatsApp group for regular parish news updates. QR Code also available on the parish website
www.christthelightparish.org.au



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.