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PARISH TEAMS

Clergy

Fr. Albert Yogarajah PP
Fr. James Baptist
Fr. An Le
Rev. Deacon William Daw

Pastoral Worker

Kemp Vinson

Home Based RE Coordinator

Benita Ediriwickrema

Finance:

Natascha Eve Klein

Administration:

Cora Ilagan

Tamil Chaplain

Fr. Anton Aseervathampillai

South Sudanese Chaplain

Fr. Stephen Kumyangi

Assistant Chaplain

Rev. Deacon William Daw
9741 4144

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Andrew's Primary

School – Ph. 9741 3686
Acting Principal:
Lisa Black

Corpus Christi Primary

School – Ph. 9741 8440
Principal: Linda Roynic

Bethany Primary School

– Ph. 9742 9800
Principal: Joanne Webster

Our Lady of the

Southern Cross Primary

School – Ph. 9974 8500
Principal: Justin Hilton

St. John the Apostle PS

Tarneit West -
Ph. 8754 4300
Principal: Simon Dundon

St. Joseph Primary

School – 8742 3381
Principal: Troy Rickard

MacKillop Catholic

Regional College –
Ph. 8734 5200
Principal: Chris Caldwell

Thomas Carr Catholic

Regional College -
Ph. 8734 2444
Principal: Rose Connolly



ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

Incorporating the Communities of
Werribee Central, Wyndham Vale, Werribee South,
Werribee North,
Tarneit West, Upper Point Cook
and Little River

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A **6TH AND 7TH DECEMBER 2025**

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand, the Wathaurong People. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

FIRST READING: *A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 11:1-10)*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Psalm 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17*

Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name.

Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING: *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Romans 15:4-9)*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

*** Gospel continues next page ***

GOSPEL continues: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 3:1-12)

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea, and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camelhair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.**



GOSPEL REFLECTION:

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring. The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today's First Reading and Psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father (see Ruth 4:17). He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations.

And they will seek Him and pay Him homage. In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promises to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God's oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever. In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise" (see Ephesians 2:12). John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1-2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5) children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit. This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings—making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church. **Scott Hanh**

PRAYER AT HOME: Use today's gospel acclamation as your prayer this week: ***Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!***

VOCATION VIEW: In our materialistic society, someone must stand up to speak for our spiritual heritage. Could that be you?

RECENT DEATH: Arcangelo La Magna, Anna Mary Kerep, Nuryati Halim

ANNIVERSARY: Loreto Ilagan, Lorenza Marasigan, Romeo Moso, Angelo, Martini and Tony Favaro, Helena Matesin, Marija Jerkovic, Henry Restall, Tony Camilleri

PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Nimal Pandithakoralege, Hilda Koster Koerntjes, Panakal Auso Raphael, Julie Horkings, Crispin De Zilva, Lynne Worsley, Dorothy Rayner, Maria Trang Nguyen, Peter Tho Huynh, Saraswathy Govindasamy, John Hassett, Rustico Socorin, Cecilia Maria, Teresa Goegan, Dinah Elly, Eutiquio Valenzuela, Tony Grech, William Harris, Annette Landicho Manicad Lapworth, Italio Tautunu, Alfredo Landicho Manicad

WEEKDAY LITURGY (8th to 13th December 2025)

Mon: ***Feast of the Immaculate Conception***

9.00am Mass

7.00pm Rosary followed by Mass

Tues: 9.00am Mass

Wed: 9.00am Mass

Thurs: 9.00am Mass

Fri: 9.00am Mass

Sat: 9.00am Mass

WEEKEND MASSES (13th / 14th December 2025)

Sat: 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am and 5pm Mass

2.30pm Burmese Community Mass



CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE BROCHURE RACKS AND ON THE PEWS IN THE CHURCH.



I convey to you the sad news that Father Michael Leonard Shadbolt PE died early this morning, Thursday 4 December 2025 at Epworth Hospital, Richmond, aged 86 years. Fr Michael was a priest of deep kindness, great spiritual strength, and pastoral wisdom. He ministered with generosity and compassion, in particular assisting people with their personal and spiritual struggles. He was held in great esteem by both his brother priests and the people he served. The Archdiocese gratefully acknowledges his devoted service and spiritual guidance for over 61 years. Funeral details will be notified once finalized. *Very Reverend Anthony Kerin JCL VG— Vicar General*

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS APPEAL - *There will be a third collection this weekend, 6th & 7th December at all Masses. Non-perishable food or gift cards can be left in the Vinnies basket in the church. Please note we are unable to accept donations of clothing. These should be dropped off at the Vinnies Shop, Costa Drive, Hoppers Crossing.*

ST ANDREWS CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary & Martha

CHRISTMAS PARTY
TUESDAY DECEMBER 9
7PM
PENOLA HUB
33 MORTIMER STREET, WERRIBEE

PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF SOMETHING TO SHARE AND AN UNMARKED GIFT FOR OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE.
DRESSING UP IS ENCOURAGED BUT NOT ESSENTIAL.

St. Andrew's Parish, Werribee

WELCOME & THANKSGIVING MASS

We invite all new families in our parish and all volunteers to come for a Mass of welcome and thanksgiving.

13 DEC 2025 9:00 am Holy Mass
9:30 am Fellowship

You are most welcome to bring a plate to share.

St Andrew's Nativity Play

All Children are invited to be part of St Andrew's Nativity Play
Rehearsals in the Church~
Monday 15th & 22nd December
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday 24th December - 4:00pm

Performance date ~
Wednesday 24th December
5:30pm Mass
SCAN TO REGISTER
Susanne ~ 0438 372 952



Congratulation Fr. Frank on your 54th Anniversary of Priesthood

Last Thursday, 4th December, Fr Frank joyfully celebrated his 54th anniversary of priesthood. We give thanks to God for his many years of faithful service, dedication, and pastoral care to our community and to all those whose lives he has touched. Fr Frank humbly asks for your prayers as he marks this special milestone. Let us join in praying for God's continued blessings, strength, and grace upon his ministry.

ROSTERS FOR THE WEEK 7th to 15th December 2025

	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am	5.00pm
LECTORS 13 th / 14 th Dec	Gerry Ilagan	Darren Giese	Maria Malanyaon	Clare Taylor	Andrew Canet
MUSIC 13 th / 14 th Dec	St. Carlos Choir	St. Anthony's Choir	Padre Pio Choir	South Sudanese Choir	St. Andrew's Children Choir
Communion Minister 13 th / 14 th Dec	Kim Beyer Kristine Ventura Philu Fernandes	Peter Walters David Cox	Titus Lizardo John Faranda	Clare Taylor Stealth D'Rozario Anthony Acciarito	Maria Parba Stephen Hart
COMMUNION SERVICE (MONDAY)	This week: Next week:		Mon 8 Dec: Feast of Immaculate Conception Mass Mon 15 Dec: M. H. Chong		
CLEANER	Cleaning: Vacuuming:		Mon 8 Dec: C. Camilleri, G. Iaria Fri 12 Dec: A. Majok, N. Deng Mon 8 Dec: Volunteer		
ALTAR CLOTH	This week: Next week:		Sun 7 Dec: C. Ilagan Sun 14 Dec: M. Galea		
OUR LADY'S STATUE	This week: Next week:		Sun 7 Dec: G. Ilagan Sun 14 Dec: Volunteer		

CLEANING AND PREPARING OUR CHURCH

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we are pleased to announce that, once again and for the fourth consecutive year the East West Property Services Team, led by Nalaka Mendis, have steam-cleaned the entire church, sacristy, and church meeting room. We extend our sincere thanks to them for their unwavering commitment and generous support to our parish. This service has been fully sponsored by EWPS at no cost to the parish, and we are truly grateful for their continued dedication.



The parish will also be holding our **annual Christmas Working Bee on Saturday, 20 December 2025, from 9.30 am**. We warmly invite all parishioners to come along and lend a hand so that together we can prepare our church beautifully for Christmas.

WYNDHAM VALE COMMUNITY MASS UPDATE

Please note that there will be **'NO Wyndham Vale Community Mass'** during the month of December 2025. Our next Community Mass will be on Sunday, 18 January 2026 at 10:00 AM at OLSC Primary School Hall. We look forward to gathering again in the New Year to celebrate the Eucharist together. Wishing you and your families a blessed and peaceful Christmas season. *WVCC Leadership Team*

RINNOVAMENTO NELLO SPIRITO SANTO:

ricorda che il nostro gruppo di preghiera si conclude Mercoledì 10 Dicembre 2025 con la santa messa. Auguriamo a tutti un santo natale e felice anno nuovo. Il gruppo di preghiera riapre Mercoledì 18 Febbraio 2026 dalle ore 10.00am alle 12.00pm nella Penola Hub, 33 Mortimer Street, Werribee. Siete tutti benvenuti.



ST. JOSEPH'S STATUE IS BACK

We are happy that our St Joseph statue has been repaired, repainted and back in the Church. We thank all the generous people who have contributed towards this project.



HOME BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (HBRE) AT ST. ANDREW'S PARISH WERRIBEE

Parents of children attending *Non-Catholic Primary Schools* in the Werribee area who are interested in their child attending the Sacramental Program for 2026 are asked to leave their details at the Parish Office via email werribee@cam.org.au or call 9741 4144. The program is conducted for children in Grade 3 Pre- Sacrament, Grade 4 Reconciliation, Grade 5 Eucharist and Grade 6 Confirmation. Please note Enrolments close 20th December 2025. *Thank you.*

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF STUDENTS (RCIS)

St Andrew's Parish will be conducting workshops for Secondary Students residing within the Parish of St. Andrew's and wishing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and/or Confirmation in 2026. Please contact the Parish Office at St. Andrew's Parish on Ph. 9741 4144 or werribee@cam.org.au for more information and to leave your details. Enrolments close 20th December 2025. *Thank you - Benita*

FOR MORE INFORMATION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE PARISH, PLEASE SEE FLYERS ON THE NOTICE BOARD.

PRAYER OF WELCOME BEFORE BAPTISM - Dear Parents, as you prepare for your child's Baptism, the people of St. Andrew's rejoice that you have chosen to baptize your child, and we pray that in the coming years you and your family will continue to know and grow in the love of God that is everlasting.



We now have an official parish facebook page: **St. Andrew's Catholic Parish, Werribee**. This will be used to post announcements and other events in our parish. Please like and share our page.

St. Andrew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.