

First Reading Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10 (R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

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

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

PARISH DIRECTORY

St. John the Baptist
62 Bowden Street
Glenorchy

St. Monica's
67-69 Allunga
Road Chigwell

Parish Priest
Fr. Gaetano (Guy)
Riolo SDB

Pastoral Associate
Sr. Pamela Davis
OP

Parish Secretary
Threesa K. Dona

Office Hours
8:30am - 2.00pm
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday

Phone No:
6272 6363

Email Address:
jbaptist56
@bigpond.com

Parish website
<http://cddtas.org.au/glenorchy/Home.aspx>

Postal Address:
PO Box 41
Glenorchy 7010

Salesian Contact
204 Tolosa Street
Glenorchy 7010
Phone: 6273 4313

Dominic College

Principal
Mrs Beth Gilligan
Ph. 6274 6000

GYC
Principal
Mr. Craig Deayton
Ph. 6238 4350

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NEWSLETTER

21-22 December 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT— YEAR A



St. John the Baptist



The Parish has been entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco since 2000



St. Monica

Dear Friends,

The Angel of the Lord said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit" (Mt 1:20). The Gospel Reading for this fourth Sunday of Advent is about Jesus' divine origin - Jesus is conceived 'by the Holy Spirit'; and the name 'Jesus', given to Him by 'the angel of the Lord' symbolises His role as divine saviour. St Matthew the Gospel writer, also wants to highlight the virginity of Mary - "She has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit" (Mt 1:20). Therefore, although Jesus has a human mother He does not have a human father.



May we entrust ourselves to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and to Her spouse, St Joseph and may we ask them to live our lives in a truly Christian way, free from worldly care and ready to welcome the Infant Jesus, our Saviour, the Emmanuel, the God-with-us.

A Joyful and Holy Christmas

On behalf of Fr Peter, Fr Damien, Br Barry, Fr Bob, Sr Pam and Threesa and on my own behalf may I offer all parishioners best wishes for a joyful and holy Christmas feast and season. Your intentions are remembered at the altar and in our prayers.

Thank you

So much is done by many in and around the churches of St John's and St Monica's and in serving both the parish community and beyond. Thank you to all who have done and who do so much.

Parish Office

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday 25 December until Monday 6 January 2020. In case of an emergency, Fr Peter Rankin may be contacted on 62734313.

(Fr Guy)

**PARISH DIARY
December 2019**

21 Saturday, St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor

- 9.00am Mass at St John's
- 9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation at St. John's
- 6.00pm Mass at St. John's

22 Sunday, FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

- 8.30am Mass at St Monica's
- 10.00am Mass at St. John's

23 Monday, St John of Kanty, priest

- 9.00am Mass at St John's

24 Tuesday, Christmas Eve

- 9.00am Mass at St John's
- 5.30pm Carols & 6.00pm Family Mass at St John's

25 Wednesday, Christmas Day *****

- 8.30am Christmas Mass at St. Monica's
- 10.00am Christmas Mass at St. John's

26 Thursday, St Stephen, the first martyr

- 12.00pm Mass at St John's

27 Friday, St John, apostle, evangelist

- 9.00am Mass at St John's

28 Saturday, The Holy Innocents, martyrs

- 9.00am Mass at St John's
- 9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation at St. John's
- 6.00pm Mass at St. John's

29 Sunday, The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 8.30am Mass at St Monica's
- 10.00am Mass at St. John's

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will close on Tuesday 24 December 2019 and it will reopen on Monday 6 January 2020.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS

Eight cards per pack at \$4.00 per packet. If interested, please contact Des Mortimer on 62726023. Thank you!

**EVENING NOVENA MASSES
IN HONOUR OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

Where? St Paul's Catholic Church, Bridgewater.
When? At 7.00 PM from 15-23 December.

Parish Volunteers

To meet legal requirements as a result of the Royal Commission on sexual abuse, all parishes must ensure all staff and applicable volunteers have required compliance checks in place, namely a **current Police Check** as well as **Working with Vulnerable People Registration**. We are compiling a list of the status of all these checks and you may find that we contact you to arrange to have these checks in place if you do not already have them. Please contact Sr. Pamela Davis at the parish office as soon as possible. *Fr. Guy Riolo*

Catholic Women's League Craft Shop

Looking for some beautifully handmade Christmas gifts? - Catholic Women's League Craft Shop, 108 Bathurst Street, Mather's Lane. Open 10am - 3pm.

Parish Fundraising—BBQ

Thank you to Keith Lello who organised it last weekend. We successfully made \$110.00. Thank you to those who also contributed in any form to this great event.

**METRO BUS MALL RELOCATION
Jan 6th to Feb 7th 2020**

Due to construction of the Tolosa St/ Main Rd intersection under the CBD Revitalisation Project, the Bus Mall will relocate one block south on Tolosa St for a 6-week period. Note that sections of Main Rd will also be closed during this 6-week period. The Bus Mall will reopen in time for the return of school.

**See Notice board in the church foyer for more detail on re-access to the St. John's Church.
Thank you!**



**Christmas Masses -
Ministers of the Word and Communion**



We are looking for Ministers of the Word and Ministers of Communion to serve at the Family Mass at 6pm on Tuesday 24 December and Christmas Day Mass at 10am on 25 December. If you can please put your name on the lists in the foyer. Note - an extra Minister of Communion is required for the chapel at these Masses.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

Pope Francis writes, "I wish to encourage the beautiful tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. ... Why does the Christmas creche (crib) arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realise that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins." (No. 3)

**Made for Each Other Summer School
January 20-24 in Hobart**

The Made for Each Other Summer School will be held from January 20-24, 2020 at St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart. It will be a unique event for young Catholics aged 18-35.



The Summer School will offer a series of lectures from a well-qualified group, discussions, field trips, prayer time and social occasions to create a unique experience of the beauty, goodness and truth of the Church's teaching on relationships, sexuality, marriage and the family. For more information please contact Ben Smith on 6208 6036 or ben.smith@aohtas.org.au. A web page with detailed information on the event can be viewed at: bit.ly/2oCtnOU.

OUR SICK - Please remember in your prayers:

Maila Beekmeijer, Lani Baron, Alida Beric, Nell Smith, Peter Drake, Eileen Sherrin, Don Ambler, Doreen Street, Fr Bob Curmi, Frances Direen, Anne Hansch, Tom Carty, Ken Young, Judy Pigden, Ian Irvine, Robert Campbell and Mary Dowd.

Prayers for the Deceased

Please remember in your prayers our deceased parishioners, family and friends especially Augusto Di Tommaso, Marie Knight, Esther Underwood, Gwen Foster, Graziano Ceron, Peter Crane, Stephen Cooper, Steven Stivicic, Stan Brach, John O'Brien, Kevin Walsh, Anna Zito, Lena Trzeciak, Peter Imlach and Lynn Priest. Eternal rest grant unto their souls O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.

WEEKEND MASSES

St John's, Glenorchy

- 6.00pm Saturday
- 10.00am Sunday

St. Monica's, Chigwell

- 8.30am Sunday

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. John's, Glenorchy

- 9.00am Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
- 12.00pm Thursday

ROSARY

At St. John's, Glenorchy

- 8.15am every Wednesday & 8.40am every Saturday

RECONCILIATION

At St. John's, Glenorchy

- 9.30am & 5.15pm Sat.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND ROSARY

At St. John's, Glenorchy

- 8.00am Wednesday

LEGION OF MARY

at St. John's, Glenorchy

- 6.45 pm Every Tuesday

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER GROUP

at St. John's, Glenorchy

- 1st Wednesday of the month at 9.30am

COUNTERS' ROSTERS

This Week: 23 Dec

Bob Mochrie's Team

Next Week : 2 Jan

Bridget Hayde's Team

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Envelopes:	\$ 861.00
Loose Plate:	\$ 956.65
Direct Deposit:	\$ 305.00
TOTAL:	\$ 2,122.65
Week's Budget:	\$ 2,500.00
Deficit	\$ 377.35