

Parish Office Hours:
Mon—Fri 9:30am-2:30pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest:

Fr Jude Pirotta mssp
Telephone: 9401 6367
email:
hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au

Assistant Priest:

Fr Silvio Bezzina mssp

Assisting Priest:

Fr Brendan Byrne sj

Deacon:

Dcn Royden Dsouza

Parish Council President:

Geralyn McCarthy

Parish Secretaries:

Red Lusterio
Tita Manalo

Thanksgiving:

Maria Saldana

Parish Bookkeeper:

Angel Hartanto
Wed & Fri 9:30-2:30

Sacramental Co-Ord

Other Schools:
Wendy Gonsalves
hopperscrossingnorth.sacraments@cam.org.au

Youth Ministry Co-ord:

Red Lusterio 0409 184 299

St James Primary School:

Telephone: 9749 1000
Principal: Mary Abbott
principal@sjhen.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Primary School:

Telephone: 9749 9900
Principal: Michelle Gillett
principal@sfatarnet.catholic.edu.au

St Clare's Primary School:

Telephone: 9371 8400
Principal: Andrew Leighton
principal@sctruganina.catholic.edu.au

Thomas Carr College:

Telephone: 8734 2444
Principal: Craig Holmes
tcc@thomascarr.vic.edu.au

Weekday Masses:

Tues—Sat 9:00am

1st Friday Monthly:

Mass at 7:30pm
Adoration at 8:00-9:00pm

Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday: 9:30am-10:00am
5:00-5:30pm

Sacrament of Baptism:

Contact Jacinta & John Fisher
0438 793 630
hopperscrossingnorth.baptism@cam.org.au

Weddings:

By appointment only
9401 6367



ST JAMES PARISH BULLETIN

336 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing North, 3029
Under the Pastoral Care of the Paulist Missionaries
www.stjamesapostlehcn.com.au

We acknowledge the living culture of the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in the life of this region.

St James Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

4th Sunday of Advent 20 December 2020

WEEKEND MASSES AT ST JAMES

Celebrating the Eucharist

There is still a requirement to have a density limit (1 person per 2 sqm), electronic record keeping (e.g. Trybooking) and a Covid-Safe plan to maintain a Covid Safe environment for our Masses. The density limit for the Paulist Centre permits a maximum of 300 people.

Weekend Masses

Bookings for weekend Masses continues. However there have been some changes due to the increased number of people now permitted to attend religious services.

The restriction of only booking seats at **one Mass every 2 weeks has been removed**. You may now book for each weekend, subject to availability.

Booking for Masses during the weekend will be released in 2 week blocks and will open when the previous block finishes.

Bookings will now **close two hours before the start of each Mass**.

Weekend Mass will continue to be available online from the Parish website.

How to Make a Booking

Bookings for Christmas and weekend Masses can be made online at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BJPOT>

(Link is available on the parish Facebook page and website.)

If unable to book online you can book through the Parish Office.

You will receive a confirmation email after successfully making a booking. If you do not receive a confirmation email, check your junk or spam folders. If unsure please email the Parish Office hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au and ask them to confirm your booking has been recorded.

In consideration of your fellow parishioners, **if you cannot attend a Mass you have booked please cancel your booking** so your seats can be released to others who would like to attend. Click on the link found at the bottom of your booking confirmation email to 'return your tickets'.

Attending Mass During Covid Times

- No one will be allowed entry without a booking
- Wear a face mask. In order to maximise the number of people that can attend Mass, face masks are required due to the increased density.
- Arrive early to allow time to check in and take your seat. The check in desk opens 20 minutes before Mass commences.
- Follow the directions of volunteers and adhere to designated seating arrangements and physical distancing requirements. Only members of the same household may sit in a row together. Parishioners are not to congregate around the entrance before or after Mass

Weekend Mass: Sat 6pm, Sun 8:30am, 10:30am, 5pm and online from Sun

SUPPORTING ST JAMES PARISH



We encourage you to continue supporting our parish through online payment. Thanksgiving contributions or Church Extension donations can be made directly to the Parish Bank Account through an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT).

Account Name: St James the Apostle Parish
BSB: 083-347 Account Number: 646 205 822

For Thanksgiving please use your Thanksgiving Envelope number and your surname so we can attribute your donation correctly. Eg: If your Thanksgiving number is 123, and your surname is Smith, then use the reference "123-Smith".

For Church Extension, please use as reference your surname and -ChExt. Eg: Smith-ChExt.

For Credit Card / Direct Debit contributions, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Thank you for your continuous support and may you be blessed abundantly for your generosity.

Yours in mission,

Fr Jude Pirotta mssp
Parish Priest

Angel Hartanto
Parish Bookkeeper

CHURCH EXTENSION DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Church Extensions. Thank you to the Parishioners who together donated \$1755 this week including donations of \$1000 and \$500.

MASS INTENTIONS & 2ND COLLECTION

For those who would like to offer a Mass Intention during this time, you can submit the name and intention to the Parish Office via email (hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au) or via phone (9401 6367). In answer to a common query, Mass Intention donations can be made to:

Account Name: Missionary Society of St Paul
BSB: 083-153
Account number: 869470113
Reference: M.Int-[Surname of intention]

For Presbytery Collection (2nd collection) contributions, please use the account above and use the Reference: Presby-[Your Surname]

ST JAMES PRIMARY MISSION MARKET

Thank you to the Yr 6 students from St James Primary who donated \$2075 to the Paulist Missionaries, Philippines Project in aid of those families displaced by the typhoon that recently hit the Philippines, raised from their Mission Market. The mssp communities are truly grateful and encouraged by the support given.

BAPTISMS AT ST JAMES

Baptisms at St James have for 2020 are fully booked. We are taking bookings for 2021 starting from January 17th. If you would like to have your child baptised please call the Baptism Coordinator on 0438 793 630.

THANKSGIVING RECEIPTS & ENVELOPES

We thank you once again for your generous contribution to St James the Apostle Thanksgiving Program.

Receipts and Thanksgiving 2021 Envelopes are now available at the Play Plaza this weekend and next weekend.

Receipts for parishioners who are contributing through Credit Card and Direct Debit will be sent via email before the year ends. School Families will receive their Envelopes at the start of the School Term next year.

If you are interested in helping to support St James Parish through the Thanksgiving Program, Please get in contact with the Parish Office on 9401-6367 or email hopperscrossingnorth.stewardship@cam.org.au

WELCOME BACK FR BRENDAN BYRNE

We welcome back Fr Brendan Byrne SJ who will be celebrating Masses again at St James beginning with the Christmas Eve 6:30pm Mass.

JOSEPH DE PIRO AWARD

Congratulations to the recipients of the Joseph De Piro Award for 2020:

Rachael Glowacki—St James Primary
Grace Choate—St Francis Primary
Rhys Are—St Clare's Primary

Thank you to the MSSP for their generosity and support. The Scholarship is for \$1500 each and will be used for the continuation of their Catholic education at Thomas Carr College.

JANUARY NOTICES

With the New Year approaching us, many of our formal Ministries and the Parish Office will be on holidays to allow all people involved to be refreshed and rejuvenated for 2021. With this in mind please take note that:

- ◆ Attendance at Weekend Masses will continue via Online Booking throughout January.
- ◆ The Parish Office will close from Wed 23 Dec and re-open on Mon 04 Jan 2021.
- ◆ The last Parish Bulletin will be this Sun 20 Dec. It will resume on Sun 31 Jan 2021.
- ◆ There is no First Friday Adoration in January. This will resume on Fri 05 Feb 2021.
- ◆ Sun Night Youth Group has finished for the year and will resume on Sun 31 Jan 2021.

With the possible rapid changes that can occur to restrictions due to Covid, please refer to the Parish Website and Facebook Page for up to date information regarding our Masses.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

We would like to thank Parishioners, St James, St Francis and St Clare's Primary, Thomas Carr College and IGA Werribee for the generous support to the Vinnie's Christmas Appeal 2020.

We are overwhelmed and hankful for the donations received, especially after a tough 2020. Your continued belief and support has enabled us to provide assistance to those in need through food vouchers this year as well as providing them with the Christmas spirit. We would like to share the many thanks from all those who received help as well, who all had a smile on their face when help was given, arms opened for a hug to thank us and the tears of gratitude.

Thank you and wishing you a safe and very Merry Christmas from the Hoppers Crossing North St Vincent de Paul Conference.

GRATEFUL THANKS

Over the Covid period and in the absence of Tess Mijares the Presbytery Carer for the Priests, several families have lovingly provided food at the Presbytery. Thank you to Terese and Natasha Smith, Phuong-Tran and John Nguyen, Sujee and Beatrice Silva and Judy Debono. May God bless them and their families.

Thank you also to Michael and Alex Lapina for their generosity and expertise in producing the St James Parish Online Christmas Carol Event: Sounds of Christmas. This will be live streamed this weekend on Sun 20 Dec at 7pm from the Parish Facebook Page.

Thank you to Roger Baatjies and Mark Dooley for taking the initiative to volunteer their service at the Presbytery.

9:00AM WEEKDAY MASSES—UPDATE

Weekday liturgy services at 9:00am will be held in the Paulist Centre until school resumes in the new year. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion is held on Mondays, and Mass on Tuesdays to Saturdays.

There is no need to prebook to attend weekday 9:00am Masses. Instead people attending will be required to use their mobile phone to **scan the Parish QR code** upon arrival to record their attendance. Assistance will be provided to those who need it.

With the return to in-person weekday Masses, **live streaming of these weekday services will now be suspended.** We look forward to seeing you again in person during the week.

ADVENT ANGELS

Thank you everyone who supported the Advent Angels Fundraiser. \$2735 was raised and will go towards the typhoon victims in the Philippines through the mssp missions.

RCIA JOURNEY: REFLECTION BY MORTEZA

Morteza Babaei, along with Anna Vo, Alize Zhang, Nancy Chohan and Ronald Main, completed their RCIA Journey finally on Sun 06 Dec after delays brought about by Covid.

To read Morteza's reflection on his journey visit <https://www.stjamesapostlehcn.com.au/?cat=?>

PRAYER LIST

Let us pray and support those in our community who are sick. We especially pray for Donald and Perla Brubeck, Fe Uytico, Roy, Lourdes, Jane, Ping and Raul Pagar, Teresita Ocampo, Tonina Elso, Juliano Carniato, Julie Grant, Valerie Weakly, Esther, Paul Cutajar, Graciano Licup and all those who are ill.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

Please pray for our loved ones whom we remember especially Catherine Bonnici, Frank Maloney and Josephine Zerafa who passed away recently, Roberto Maniquis, David and Lawrence Bracken, Richard Keating, Joan and Jack Grimes, Anthony Baldacchino, Sam and Frank Haber, George Bonnici, Maria, Charlie, Mickel, Nickolas, Emma, John, Michelle, Katie, Karmelo and Charlie Micaloff, Schembri Family, Psayla Family, Joe and Carmen Micaloff, Carmen Cutajar, Bernadet and Vince Attard, Victor and Dina Farrugia, Georgia Falzon, Rosa Caltabiano, Donato Di Russo, Assunta Tabone, Emy Saffarese, Natu Portelli, Bevan Wilson, Geff Ruthburn, Ron Gamble and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE—WHERE ARE THE SHEPHERDS?



Local councils and shopping centres have begun ‘dressing up’ their community spaces for Christmas. What a lovely surprise to find the nativity scene displayed amidst the lights and colour of the commercial world. Some nativity scenes are small and insignificant, perhaps found in one shop window but how wonderful to find larger, well-placed displays in shopping centres. Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus are there and often the three well-dressed Kings with their gifts tastefully presented.

But where are the shepherds?

I went checking the Christmas cards available and found that Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the Kings and a star are there in varying combinations but no shepherds.

We sing about shepherds in traditional Christmas Carols. When we coordinate children’s pageants, we have plenty of shepherds. We knew the shepherds well once, but it seems they are disappearing from public display and possibly from our consciousness.

The shepherds were the first to witness the birth of Jesus and in the Gospel of Luke we find them front and centre. It was within the ordinariness of their daily lives that they met Jesus. They were not the important kings or leaders; they were simple ordinary folk doing the hard-daily task of caring. They would have been tired and shabby after days watching the sheep. They knew the landscape and their flock well, but they were drawn to Jesus.

This year, the shepherds remind me of those many ordinary workers who have been working tirelessly day after day, caring and protecting those who come into their care. During COVID-19, we have been made aware of the many, many ordinary workers who are now heralded as the heroes:

The aged care workers, the cleaners, the lowly paid hospital workers, the security people and nurses, have a new-found dignity in the public eye. Those who have supported refugees, asylum seekers, prisoners, the homeless, those suffering domestic violence and those in quarantine.

Those seamen stranded on boats throughout the world keeping imports and exports flowing, not able to disembark anywhere. Teachers, parents and grandparents who took on the task of education of children when schools were closed.

You know all these people and many more who are the ordinary, often low paid workers or volunteers who have been drawn to service and care as were the shepherds.

The Shepherds need to be in the nativity scene this Christmas, if not in our towns and cities, then in our minds and hearts. The good news of the Christmas story is that the Shepherds had the best view and ever since, have announced to the world that God loves the humble and lowly ordinary worker.

On behalf of Fr Silvio, Fr Mario and the Parish Council, thank you and wish you all and your family a very Blessed Christmas.

Fr Jude Pirotta mssp

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AND UPCOMING EVENTS—UPDATED INFORMATION

Sounds of Christmas—An Online Christmas Carol Event: St James Parish is hosting this event on this weekend, Sun 20 Dec at 7:00pm. You can view this event with the family from our Parish Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesapostlehcn>).

Christmas Mass Times: Christmas is near! but COVID-19 is still with us. In our Paulist Centre we can only fit 300 people under the COVID precautions. We have added another extra Mass Time over the Christmas Period totalling 8 Masses: Thurs 24 Dec 9:00am, 5:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm and Midnight and Fri 25 Dec 7:30am, 9:00am and 10:30am, but most of our Masses are totally booked out! Unless you have booked a seat inside the Paulist Centre, there will be no space for you inside. You can, however, bring a chair or a rug and sit in the Play Plaza or on the oval. All Masses will now be live-streamed on the St James Facebook page, which is a public page and can be accessed by everyone. We suggest you bring your smart phone with you and participate in Mass through Facebook. At Communion time, ministers will be available to distribute Communion outside. You will be required to register on arrival using our Parish QR code.

New Year’s: Last Mass of 2020 celebrated on Thurs 31 Dec at 6pm in the Paulist Centre. First Mass of 2021 celebrated on Fri 01 Jan at 10:30am. Please note, no 9am Mass on New Year’s Day.