



Warragul and Drouin Catholic Parishs
St. Ignatius', Neerim South-St. Joseph's, Warragul-St Ita's, Drouin
'Forming Missionary Communities'

Parish Administrator
 Father Confidence Masvosva

Presbytery:
 3 Witton St PO Box 275
 Warragul. Warragul 3820
 ph: 5623-1642
 Confidence.Masvosva@cdsale.org.au

Deacon:
 Deacon Mark Kelly
 0427 748 646
 Mark.Kelly@cdsale.org.au

Churches:
St. Joseph's:
 17 Queen St
 Warragul.

St Ita's:
 Victoria St,
 Drouin.

St. Ignatius:
 Main Road,
 Neerim South.

Parish Office:
 19 Connor St, PO Box 275
 Warragul. Warragul 3820
 Ph: 5623-1642
 Warragul@cdsale.org.au

Parish Staff:

Secretary:
 Prue Walkinshaw

R.C.I.A. Coordinator
 Joan Robertson Ph: 5623-1642
 Warragul.rcia@cdsale.org.au

Sacrament & Catechist Coordinator
 Thérèse Meggetto and
 Elizabeth Curtain Ph: 5623-1642
 Warragul.sacraments@cdsale.org.au

Youth Minister
 Olivia Daly Ph: 0431 239 637
 Warragul.Youth@cdsale.org.au

Schools:
 Marist-Sion College 5623-5944
 Principal: Ms. Lisa Harkin

St. Joseph's Primary School 5623-2943
 Principal: Mrs. Ros Joyner

St. Ita's Primary School 5623-7222
 Principal: Mr. Andrew Osler

St. Angela's Primary School 5622-9800
 Principal: Mr Justin Greenwood.

Sunday 18th December—Fourth Sunday of Advent— Yr A

Weekday Mass Times

Monday:	Warragul	9.30am
Tuesday:	Drouin	9.30am
Wednesday:	Warragul	9.30am
Thursday:	Drouin	9.30am
Friday:	Warragul	9.30am

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday:	Neerim South (Vigil)	5.30pm
	Warragul (Vigil)	7.00pm
Sunday:	Warragul	9.00am
Sunday:	Drouin	10.30am

LETTER FROM FR. CONFIDENCE

The fourth Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that Jesus offers us peace in every season, and nothing is impossible with him. The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes peace. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace (Luke 2:14). Let us pray for peace and receive peace in order to give it to others.

As Catholics we must ask ourselves, "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." Mother Teresa. Few weeks ago, we started Advent praying in the spirit of hope, love, joy and peace and the four are religious gifts in preparation for the coming of Lord.

At Christmas, we often want to ask for material things. But what we should put on our wish list must be Jesus. If you want to give the best gift this Advent and Christmas Oren Arnold gives us a special message he said "Christmas gift: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."

Let us pray for peace in the world, continent, nation, state, region, families and our hearts. May Jesus Christ Prince of Peace richly bless you all.
 Fr Confidence

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday December 24th
7.00pm

Marist Sion Hall, Warragul
 (Carols 6.30pm)

9.00pm

St. Joseph's Church Warragul
 (Bell ringing 8.30pm – 8.50pm)

Sunday December 25th
9.00am

St. Ignatius Church Neerim South
9.00am

St. Joseph's Church Warragul
10.30am

St. Ita's Church Drouin

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS TEAM

One of the pastoral discussions at the Council of Priests this year has been the need to strengthen engagement in vocation awareness, promotion and support.

One of the ideas has been to establish a Diocesan Vocations Team which would work toward enhancing our outreach through promoting the Christian life, inviting broader dialogue on the ways of living our discipleship in Christ, and developing pathways for those who may wish to discern their personal call of God in Jesus Christ in the life of the Catholic Church.

The Pastoral Letter will be placed on the notice boards in the churches and also emailed out with the bulletin. Please see Fr Confidence if this interests you.

**CATHOLIC PARISHES OF WARRAGUL AND DROUIN OUR VISION -
FORMING MISSIONARY COMMUNITIES**

We are engaged together in the **mission** of Jesus today; as we seek to make God known and to love God and neighbour. Anything that helps people live in their full dignity and freedom, that serves the kingdom of God, is mission. We do this in **community** because we are more than individual believers and parishioners. We are one community made up of smaller communities: two parishes, three churches, our parish schools, ministry groups and families. We constantly need **formation** in our following of Jesus and we seek opportunities to grow in community for mission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As Fr Peter advised us, The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia decrees: Article 1 is "that each Catholic school, parish, diocese, eparchy or organisation will respond to the recommendations contained in the NATSICC position paper, "Embracing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Life of the Catholic Church" in the following ways:

a. acknowledges in a prominent and appropriate manner the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which their buildings stand.

Therefore our Parish Pastoral Council has approved a simple Acknowledgement of Country for use at all Masses and Parish meetings commencing with 2022 Christmas Masses.

"We begin this Mass/ Meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today".

(Any queries: Deacon Mark)

MASS AT FAIRVIEW HOMES

Mass will be celebrated at Fairview Homes Wednesday at 11am.

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS

As well as regular times there is to be a communal service for Reconciliation at St. Ita's Church on Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm. All parishioners are welcome.

HELP NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

We are looking for Greeters, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist etc for our Christmas Masses. If you would like to volunteer, you can fill out the provided sheet which is located in the foyer of the Churches. Inquiries:

Joan Robertson:
Parish Office: 56231642

OFFERTORY

We are now able to take up the offertory at Sunday Masses. I am seeking volunteers who wish to be on a roster for this at St. Ita's Sunday Mass. Please let me know if you would like to take part.
0458988899 Regards Jenny Winterton

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL DROUIN CONFERENCE.

Christmas Appeal for St Vincent de Paul Drouin Conference is taking place now. Envelopes are available in the foyer of St Ita's or in a marked envelope and place on the open plate.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Noel and Norma Coster on the occasion of their 68th Wedding anniversary today. Many blessings to you both.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS:

The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently. Groups around Australia have spent time in responding to the Document which reflect the voices of the People of God from over 114 countries around the world. A collation of the Australian submissions is being prepared for the Bishops from the Oceania region when they meet in Fiji in February 2023. Access the Document for the Continental Stage www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch

ROSARY:

An invitation is extended to all parishioners to come together to pray the Rosary. **Mondays**- St Ita's Church Drouin @ 10.30am Rosary followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet. **Fridays** - St Ita's Church Drouin @ 7pm Rosary followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet. On both days the Church is opened for quiet reflection 30 minutes prior to Rosary prayers

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL.

St Joseph's school wound up the school year with some significant events. On Monday night the grade 6 children celebrated their graduation with mass followed by dinner at the Downtowner. Later in the week, grades 5 and 6 children had a fantastic time at camp on Phillip Island and we finished off the school year with a some Christmas carol singing at assembly.

The St Josephs school community wish all of our parishioners a safe, peaceful and blessed Christmas season.

ST ITA'S SCHOOL

The St Ita's Primary School community would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Holy and happy Christmas. We thank the Parish for the on-going support of our students and families. We thank Fr Confidence, Therese and Elizabeth for their work with the Sacrament program. It has been a very busy week, Monday saw our Gr 6 students have their fun activities day in our school hall. We had our whole school orientation day on Tuesday, with excited students learning their new teachers and class mates for next year. Wednesday, we held our end of year Mass and final assembly.

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE –

You might never have thought about this, but Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a pregnant, unwed teenager. The man she was to marry knew that he was not the father of her child. It is an astonishing story – astonishing because it happened and because Joseph came to believe it. How would most of your male friends respond in this situation? What would most of your female friends say if they heard Mary's story about the Holy Spirit? What is the most astonishing story anyone ever told you? Did you believe them? Why or why not? Do you have a friend who is so close to you that you would believe anything he or she told you – even a story as astonishing as Mary's? Joseph did not believe Mary at first. A message from a dream helped him believe. Dreams can be powerful. Do you remember your dreams? Do you dream in colour? Have you ever tried to keep a notebook by your bed and write a dream journal? Have you ever had a dream that calmed you and helped you make a decision or deal with a difficult situation? Have your dreams ever affected the way you felt when you woke up?

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Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart (1958-2011)

Safeguarding - Our Parish is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. Our Safeguarding Officer is Brian Robertson who can be contacted via Warragul@cdsale.org.au or 56231642.

FAITHFUL JOSEPH

Faced with hurts and humiliations, ethical and moral dilemmas in our lives, we could do a lot worse than following the example of Joseph, the Nazarene carpenter.

Joseph would have been, to say the least, mortified, perturbed and confused to discover that his betrothed is pregnant and he knows he is not the father. What personal, ethical and moral decisions must he make? He is certainly not going to live with Mary now but should he, as was his right according to the law, publically reject Mary? She would be stoned to death! He must have been tempted. Instead, as an honourable man, Joseph determines to informally, quietly, divorce her instead. This is a man of courage and compassion who sees beyond his own personal perspective.

Joseph doesn't lash out angrily in his hurt but rather, we imagine, goes to bed prayerfully, ruefully, pondering on this debacle in his life. In an astounding revelation, God sends him clarity to resolve matters and to go forward with confidence.

Matthew's gospel (*Mt 1:18-24*) seamlessly links the angel's message to Joseph with the Old Testament prophecy from Isaiah (*Is 7:10-14*) in our first reading this Sunday. Joseph understands that his awesome mission is to protect the mother of God and her Son. His demeanour has much to teach us.

His steadiness of character and his reflective, considerate decision making are worthy of emulation. Joseph's compassionate humanity manifests so that, whatever the legalities, whatever his hurt, he doesn't want barbaric revenge on Mary. Neither she nor her child deserve to die and his compassionate instinct is still to spare her indignity.

Situation clarified, Joseph immediately embraces the mission God has called him to, without counting the cost. Would that we all be faithful as Joseph is faithful!

Deacon Mark Kelly

Please pray for the following of our Parishes:

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5.30pm Neerim South Antoinette Schellekens (A)
Saturday 7pm Warragul Mass of Thanksgiving.
Sunday 9am Warragul Joan Morrison (A)
Sunday 10.30am Drouin Graham McMahon
Friday 9.30am Warragul Christopher Dicker (A)

RECENTLY DECEASED: Barbara Kelly (Dcn Mark's sister), Judy Ward, Jack Notman, Joe O'Mahony

ANNIVERSARIES: Ann and Bernard Gallacher, Ken Humphrey, Peter and Thera Slegers, Bill and Peter Slegers, Antoinette Schellekens, Joan Morrison, Graham McMahon, Christopher Dicker.

BAPTISM We welcome into the parish family **James Gabriel Lucero Paganaje** son of Kazy & Gracielle who will be Baptised today in St Ita's.

ROSTERS

17/18 December

Readers

7pm J Charles

9am D Cameron

Minister

7pm M Gleeson **9am** M Christian

24/25 December

As per Christmas Roster.

30/31 December

Readers

7pm J Parsons

9am F & D Matchado

Minister

7pm J Steven **9am** P Bertacco

St. Ita's

Readers

18/12 Eury Family **1/1** B & P Maunder

Ministers:

18/12 Marie Collins **1/1** G Collins

Communion to the sick

18/12 D Gleeson **1/1** F Godfrey

Amberlea

15/12 K Fahey **22/12** D Stewart

Lyrebird

20/12 B Maunder, J John

31/1 V Bibby, C Harkin

Cleaning

17/12 L Schellekens, S Jensen

24/12 T Meggetto

Welcoming:

18/12 V & J Bibby

25/12 Volunteer

1/1 J Winterton.

PASTORAL SERVICES

Parish Office: 19 Connor Street Warragul
Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

Baptisms: Celebrated on Sundays by prior arrangement including participation at an information meeting for Parents (and Godparents)

Marriages: By prior arrangement, six months notice requested.

Exposition: Saturdays 10am St Joseph's Church
Followed by Rosary and Benediction

Reconciliation: St Joseph's Wednesday 9.15am
Saturday 10.30-11.00am

St Ita's Saturday 9.45-10.15am

CatholicCare: Services include counselling Individual, Family & Natural Family Planning
Counselling Ph 1800 522 076

St. Vincent de Paul

Conference helpline: Warragul Ph: 0499 201 517
Drouin Ph: 5625 4715

First Collection (to support our Priests)

083879 941199437

St Joseph's & St Ita's Presbytery account.

Second Collection (Plan Giving)

St Joseph's Church Account

083879 489045334

St Ita's Church Account

083879 568166097

Thank you so much for your continued support.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

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".'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Next Weeks Readings:

The Nativity of the Lord.

Is 52: 7-10;

Ps 97: 1-6;

Heb 1: 1-6;

Jn 1: 1-18.

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