

NOVEMBER 2020



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
Holy Family

MOUNT WAVERNE

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give thee my heart and soul.

Welcome To Holy Family

"The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life". These words of encouragement offered by Pope emeritus Benedict take on a new significance for each of us as we emerge from these 112 days of strict lockdown. After patiently enduring the long winter of isolation we can now begin to hope and to imagine what life might be like "COVID-normal". Our Church is open once again for prayer and worship. Families are beginning to reunite and celebrate after many months of separation. Workplaces are slowly coming back to life.

Christian hope offers the possibility of a new life. In these days we find ourselves more grateful for the simpler things: for family, friendship, visiting the local park or walking trail. Over these last few months we have seen more clearly what is important and sacred. This recent time of deprivation has created a yearning in us for the Sacraments, especially The Eucharist. It has also reminded us of the importance of this community of faith which strengthens and encourages every faithful Christian.

'Advent is the season of hope par excellence', because Christmas celebrates the gift of God coming into our lives again. As we joyfully prepare for the coming of Christ, we do so with great expectation. Advent reminds us that God promises new gifts and graces for each one of us, if only we are patient and hold fast to our faith. Let us prepare well for Christmas by setting aside time for prayer at home, attending mass and encountering Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

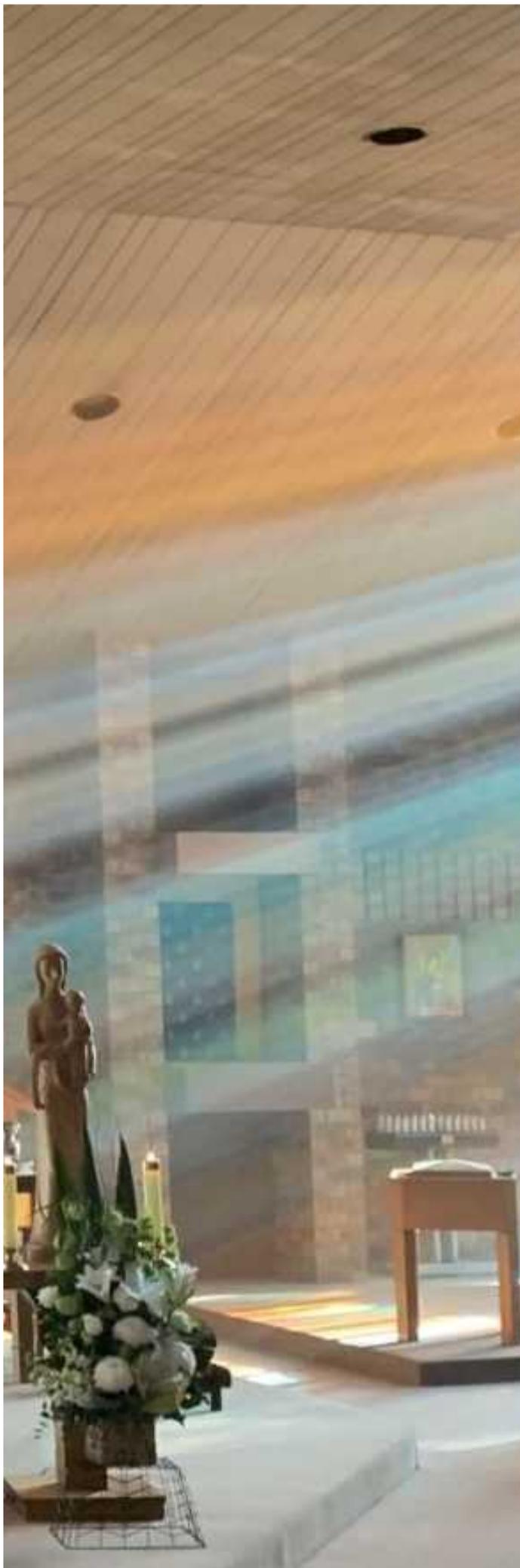
The virtue of Christian hope can strengthen us to embrace change. As we say goodbye and farewell to Father Pearce after five years as Pastor at Holy Family Parish, we give thanks to God for his zeal and enthusiasm, his encouragement of young people and his special care for parishioners in their time of need. Fr Pearce begins his new appointment at St Michael's, North Melbourne with care for the Catholic students at Melbourne University and responsibility for Chaplaincy at Universities across the Archdiocese. We pray that Fr Pearce's many gifts will continue to bear fruit in this new role.

Hope also allows us to look forward to the future with trust and confidence. Last week I learned that I will be moving down the bay to Mount Eliza as the Administrator of St Thomas More Parish from January next year. My last day at Holy Family Mount Waverley will be Sunday, 27th of December. During the short time I've been at Holy Family, I have been encouraged by the spirit of faith, devotion and generosity of so many parishioners. As we emerged from lockdown and restrictions, you have made me feel warmly welcomed and a part of the community here, which I am very grateful for. We now warmly welcome Fr Justel Callos who will be the Administrator of Holy Family Parish beginning from early 2021. Fr Callos is currently the Assistant Priest at Sacred Heart, St Albans. We wish him all the best in this exciting new venture as he brings his many gifts and talents to build up the community of faith here at Mount Waverley.

In the meantime, I will continue to keep you all in my prayers as each of us embrace God's will and trust in his providence for us. Wishing you all a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas,



Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, and in it the whole Church is called to become hope, for herself and for the world. The whole organism of the Mystical Body acquires, so to speak, the "colour" of hope. The whole People of God continue on their journey, attracted by this mystery: that our God is "the God who comes" and calls us to go to meet him-
Pope Benedict XVI



We Are Open!

Holy Family Parish is now able to host up to 260 parishioners for Mass, Sacraments and prayer. Parishioners are most welcome to attend Mass, Adoration or Confession at Holy Family by registering your attendance on our website or by calling the Parish Office during business hours. Doors will open thirty minutes before each Mass. For the moment, entry is only available through the Narthex where our volunteers will register your entry to the Church. For weekday Masses, you will be issued a white token. We ask you attach this token to the pew in front of your seat and leave it in the Church so our volunteers can sanitise this area. For weekend Masses, you are welcome to sit in any available alternating pew, as clearly signed around the Church. After Mass, you are invited to leave either through the doors near the memorial garden or the Confessional. Masks are no longer required, as long as you remain at least 1.5 metres from the next household.

The Church is during the following times: (Doors open 30 minutes prior)

Sunday

6:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass
10:00 am Mass
5:00 pm Mass

Tuesdays

7:00pm Mass

Wednesdays - Fridays

9:15 am Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession

Tuesdays 7:30 pm - 8:30pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Your contact information is required by law, which will be stored according to the Parishes Privacy Policy and thus bookings are strongly encouraged. If you have not booked there may be some delay entering the Church, and if we've reached our legal capacity you will not be able to enter.

Bookings can be made online at holyfamily.melbourne or by calling the Parish Office between 9:30am and 2:30pm Monday to Friday. Also, bookings can be made after each Sunday Mass by approaching one of our volunteers at the back of the Church.



Sundays This Month

22 NOVEMBER

Christ the King

"Since the announcement of His birth, [He] was described as 'king' in the Messianic sense, that is, heir to the throne of David... for a Kingdom that would have no end... Appearing to the Apostles after he had risen, he said: 'Full authority has been given to me both in heaven and on earth.' This power flows from the love that God manifested in its fullness in the sacrifice of his Son. The Kingdom of Christ is a gift offered to the people of every epoch so that those who believe in the incarnate Word ' may not die but have eternal life" (Pope Benedict XVI).

READINGS

Ezekial 34:11-12,
15-17
Corinthians 15:20-
26, 28

PSALM

R. The Lord is my
shepherd; there is
nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 25:31-46

15 NOVEMBER

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Why does the master call the two servants "good and faithful"? Because, when entrusted with a vast amount of money, they do not run off and spend the money on themselves. Rather, they invest what was given to them as their way of honouring their relationship with their master. We are "sons of light" inasmuch as we have been given an all-surpassing Master, whom we desire to glorify by our obedience.

READINGS

Proverbs 31:10-13,
19-20, 30-31
Thessalonians 5:1-6

PSALM

R. O blessed are
those who fear the
Lord.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 25:14-30

8 NOVEMBER

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The oil is our personal virtue - it is something that cannot be shared. "The wise maidens represent all those who possess the ensemble of virtues which characterise a complete Christian life. The burning lamps... symbolically portray Christian wisdom... This wisdom empowers all those who embrace prudence and the other moral virtues to fulfil the requirements of an integral and holy life" (R Cessario). God will bring with him those who seek wisdom with the same ardour with which the virgins seek the bridegroom.

READINGS

Wisdom 6:12-16
1 Thessalonians
4:13-18

PSALM

R. For you my soul is
thirsting O God my
God.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 25:1-13

29 NOVEMBER

1st Sunday of Advent

The deepest cry of the human heart is for union with God, that all distance and separation from him might be overcome. In Advent, the Church recognises that God answers that prayer: first, in the Incarnation of his Son, and at the end of time, when he returns in majesty. Both coming of Christ reveal that "by calling you [God] has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful".

READINGS

Isaiah 63:16-17,
64:1, 3-8
Corinthians 1:3-9

PSALM

R. God of hosts,
bring us back; let
your face shine on us
and we shall be
saved.

GOSPEL:

Mark 13:33-37



Farewell Holy Family

2020 has already been a year of surprises, change, and disruption, and I am acutely aware that on top of all that has been going on, our inability to gather together in person has been a cause of great pain for many of you.

I now need to inform you of one more change before the year is out. The Archbishop invited me to take up a new Parish appointment as Parish Priest of St Michael's Parish in North Melbourne. This small Parish on the city's outskirts has until recently been looked after by the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, but in the last few months has returned to the Archdiocese's care. The Archbishop would like to use this opportunity to reinvigorate the Parish, which is in a growing area of the inner city, and more closely unite it with the University of Melbourne, whose chaplaincy I took up earlier in the year.

Sadly this will see me leaving Holy Family on Sunday, 15th November. Over the past five years, Holy Family has been my family, and I will be sad to be leaving, especially in the challenging times in which we live. As a Parish, we have achieved much during this time and can be proud of many things. A special mention must be made of the many young families who fill our Parish with such vibrancy. It has been wonderful to see so many families involved in our Parish's life and have seen so many youth and young adults call Holy Family home over the past five years. My new appointment sees me working closely with the Archbishop and his team to support Young People and University Students across our Archdiocese. A crucial work for our Church's future and one that I entrust to your continued prayer.

While there has not been a decision made yet about my replacement, we are incredibly lucky to have Fr Patrick Bradford, who has recently joined us. Fr Bradford will hold

the fort and will be with you over these next few months as we come out of lockdown and navigate the ever-changing environment that is COVID Normal. My departure is made much easier by knowing that I am leaving the Parish in such capable hands and that a fine priest like Fr Bradford will be with you during this time of transition.

The opportunities at this time for traditional farewells will be limited. Still, I look forward to finding creative ways to say goodbye to as many as possible over the next few weeks.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph continue to inspire and intercede for each one of your families, and may God Bless you.

Fr Nicholas Pearce
Parish Priest

Fr Pearce's video message can be viewed via this article on our website.



A Return to the Lord

Written by: **Christian Bergmann**

“As soon as is possible, we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord.” Earlier in September, Cardinal Robert Sarah, arguably the finest spiritual writer on the scene today, published these words to encourage the faithful to return to Mass as safely as possible. The cardinal said that this time apart from the Eucharist has been an opportunity for us to rediscover its “importance, beauty, and immeasurable preciousness.”

I would like to reflect a little on the significance the Eucharist has for us, especially when shaped by deep biblical intuitions. As with most things in the Catholic universe, it’s important to take a step back and follow the roots of what we say, do and believe back to Jewish antiquity – the Old Testament.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the Temple in the life of the Jewish people. Everything was built around this sacred space. It was the centre of their existence. Political, religious, economic – it didn’t matter. Why? The Temple was of supreme importance because deep within dwelt what they referred to as “the glory of the Lord”: the manifestation of His presence.

The whole of creation, we read in Genesis, was intended to be a kind of temple, a place where God could dwell – or “rest” – with his people. But in the wake of Original Sin, everything fell apart. So, God chose Israel to be a special people through which he would established a new creation. God dwelt amongst them, mostly in a tent as they wandered through the desert. Then King Solomon built a temple. And this temple centred their existence, because God, the creator of the heavens and the earth, had chosen to make His presence manifest and dwell amongst them. It was a singular, incredible privilege that defined who they were.

However, later in Jewish history, something strange happens. We read in the prophet Ezekiel that the idolatry of the Jewish people becomes so bad – their abandonment of the living God had become so pervasive – that this “glory of the Lord”, His holy presence, what defined them as a people, *left the Temple* (Ezekiel 10). It just *up* and *left*.

After this point, the Jewish people awaited the return of the glory of the Lord. Fundamental to the novelty and excitement of the New Testament is that God’s holy presence *did in fact return*, but in a strange and unexpected way in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

When Jesus is presented at the Temple in the Gospel of Luke, he is described by Simeon as “glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:32). This should tell us everything about Jesus’ significance: God’s holy presence has returned to the Temple in this young child. Except – in another bizarre twist – Jesus replaces the Temple with himself as the crucified and risen Lord.

As I reflect on this incredible legacy and the significance of who Jesus is, I can’t help but think: this holy presence of God, around which Israel built their existence and defined themselves as a people, comes to me in the humble form of the Eucharist. How often do I reverence this mystery as I should? The glory of the Lord that once resided in the Temple now comes to dwell in me. How much does this centre my existence? The Jews built everything around it! What do I do? Do I treat this as the privilege that it is?

Too often the answer is no. Maybe now, having fasted from the Eucharist during this pandemic, together we can reverence the Eucharist for the truly incredible mystery that it is.



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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
DAILY REFLECTIONS 2020



Auf Wiedersehen

Farewell Speech to Fr Pearce

Written by: **Bernard Mulholland**

My name is Bernard Mulholland and as the Chair of the Holy Family Parish Pastoral Advisory Board, it falls to me to say a few words on behalf of parishioners to farewell Father Nicholas Pearce our Parish Priest as he leaves Holy Family Mount Waverley.

You might recall that I have also farewelled Fr Laurence Cortez, Fr Michael Kelly, Deacon Malcolm Lock and Sister Kim Thrin. There seems to be a common factor at play in all of this but I haven't quite worked out what it is. Needless to say that the new Parish Priest (whoever that might be), will not be looking forward to meeting me.

Father, when we heard the news that you were leaving, there was much sadness and disappointment amongst the parishioners. Sadness because we have had relatively such a short time together since you first came to us as our Administrator and later, our Parish Priest. As Howard Keel once sang, we've been sobbin buckets of tears.

Fr Pearce arrived at Holy Family in 2015 following the departure of Fr Cortez and was appointed into the role of Parish Administrator, which he took on with great zeal and determination.

One of the penultimate actions of former Archbishop Denis Hart was to appoint Fr Pearce as Parish Priest for Holy Family Mount Waverley in 2017. This is usually a 6-year appointment however as you have heard, circumstances at St Michael's in North Melbourne were such that Archbishop Comensoli asked Fr Pearce to consider a move. You will appreciate that a request when you have taken a vow of obedience to your Archbishop doesn't leave you much wiggle room. What is interesting is that we have now lost our past two Parish Priests to St Michaels, albeit different locations. An interesting coincidence.

As the Chair of the PPAB, I have had the pleasure of working directly with Fr Pearce over the past 5 years. He has always been generous with his time despite working for the Vocations office as well as running the Parish, coupled with the demands of studying and chaplaincy to the Melbourne University. Your energy and enthusiasm are well known to us all. This no doubt stems from your rather youthful age however, we at Holy Family have been the fortunate recipients of your outstanding organisational abilities whether it be our Christmas celebrations and Easter Ceremonies or the two monster fetes that were conducted during your tenure.

Spiritually, you have been very active with the regular scheduling of the Mass, sacraments and adoration of the Cross. You arranged the visitation of the Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima and for the Parish Mission to be held in early 2018 with Fr Antoine Thomas from New Zealand. You launched and continued the rollout of the Alpha program which aids in Christian development for new and not so new parishioners and despite the lock down of the State in the fight against Covid 19 which closed our Church for many months, you continued to engage directly with us through the electronic media and the wonderful series of Zoom presentations held on Sunday mornings on the Eucharist, the Holy Land and currently, the series on the Blessed Virgin Mary. In a time when we the parishioners have been separated from the Church, you found ways to keep us connected and growing in our spirituality. You encouraged our continuing support of the Korean Catholics of Melbourne availing them the use of our facilities for their home. Their presence at Holy Family continues to inspire us.

Although you have only been with us for 5 years, there have been a number of structural improvements at the Parish which you have been instrumental in achieving such as bringing the Parish into compliance with new Child Safety Act and Regulations with the implementation of policies and procedures to address these requirements for all our Parish activities and which also saw the reconfiguration of the Confessional and Altar Servers room. There was the creation of the new Parish Library and meeting room, which has been put to extreme good use by a multitude of parish groups. The Columbarium development, which further extended the existing peace garden and created a place of lasting connection between our forebears and current parishioners also formalised the opportunity for parishioners to be later interred in the grounds of their own Church. The kitchen and presbytery renovations have made the Parish house far more useable and comfortable for Priests and staff alike. Sorry Father, you can't take the new kitchen with you to North Melbourne but we will send you Parish Raffle tickets.

In 2018, while Parish Priest, we celebrated our 60th anniversary as a Parish. A ball was held at the Riversdale Golf Club and in spite of numbers being capped at 130, we still crammed in 150 new and old parishioners into the venue. Again, your organisational ability was on display and it was a great night with lots of dancing and reminiscing and a fitting celebration of our 60 years as a Parish.

You were instrumental in creating the opportunity for the Frassati Fraternity to take up residency in Mount Waverley. While creating the mechanism for a number of young men to live together and practice their Christian faith, their presence and involvement at Holy Family Parish has brought many advantages and blessings. You have also encouraged the development of youth and young adult groups, and conducted 2 Camino de Santiago walks during your time with us. You also showed a keen interest in the spiritual growth of our primary school children. Parishioners may have noticed the little spoon farm in the school garden near the exit from the Carpark and the rather large spoon no doubt depicting Fr Pearce.

This is reflective of the care and connection you made with our Primary school. I am sure that the school is going to miss the coffee stall that you provided at the start of each year. Equally, I believe that the Café shops of Mount Waverley will now go into serious decline.

“ Your care and attention to us, your parish family, your visitation of our sick and elderly, the provision of the Mass and sacraments, your energy, enthusiasm, skill and organisational ability, these are **so very much** appreciated by your parishioners. We can't thank you enough and we wish you every success at St Michael's and in your vocation to the Priesthood. Together, we have achieved a lot under your strong and energetic leadership.

We at Holy Family have, of course, been extremely fortunate to have Father Patrick Bradford recently appointed to the Parish which will somewhat smooth the transition between Parish Priests. A very warm welcome to you Father Bradford. We commit our support to you.

Father Pearce, you leave us today knowing that your job is done. You can be proud of what you have achieved as Administrator and Parish Priest at Holy Family. You take with you our heartfelt **thanks, love and prayers**. No doubt you will look up at the congregation at St Michael's from time to time and see some of us visiting. From all **your family** here at Holy Family, so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu.





Christ, the Strangest King

Written by: Christian Bergmann

The strangest thing we have ever called Christ is *king*. Nothing of his life seems, at first glance, to be the life of a king: he was born in dire poverty, the majority of his life was spent in obscurity, and when he finally burst onto the scene as an itinerant rabbi, he was brutally put to death as a slave and rebel. Hardly a successful career.

I think we need to spend time contemplating the strangeness of Jesus' kingship. This is especially important for us moderns, influenced as we are – perhaps unwittingly – by an understanding of history handed down to us by nineteenth-century thinkers. One such thinker, Thomas Carlyle, wrote that history was about 'heroes'. The great changes of history came in the form of great men who performed marvellous. To be frank, if this is what makes history then there is no room for Jesus in it. And this is what Carlyle realised: heroism was about pride, courage, nobility, greatness, and strength. The Christian life, on the other hand, was a matter of meekness, humility, forgiveness, compassion, and love.

Yet, the Christian claim is that history changed forever not with the great and heroic deeds of a political ruler like the others, but with a king crucified. A king who preached a *different* kingdom.

During Christ's dramatic confrontation with Pontius Pilate, Jesus is asked: "Are you the king of the Jews?" He replies: "My kingdom is not of this world." Now, we can easily interpret this as meaning a 'spiritual kingdom' that doesn't really have anything to do with the day-to-day affairs of the world, but that wouldn't be to understand Jesus *at all*. What Jesus means is that his kingdom is one that isn't *run* like other kingdoms; it isn't expanded through conquest and power; it isn't about the kind of heroic political leadership

that leaves its mark upon history. No. Jesus' kingdom is expanded through self-giving love, as his journey to the cross will testify; it is spread through the practices of humility and compassion and submission to the authority of the one who made heaven and earth.

In a way, this shouldn't surprise us. God has always called his people to a different way of life. The Jewish people didn't always have a king. They had judges and prophets, but never kings. God was always supposed to be their king. But there comes in the Old Testament a dramatic and pivotal moment where the people become discontent and demand that Samuel the prophet provide them with a king. They wanted to be, in the words of the Scriptures, "like the nations" (1 Samuel 8:20). This is biblical code for: *This is a very bad idea*.

You see, God never wanted his people to be like all the other nations. He called them to a different way of life. God suggests as much when he finally concedes. He tells them that if they have a king, then they will also be severely taxed and their children will be conscripted into military service. *This was not the kind of kingdom they were supposed to be*

That Jesus confronts us with a kingdom radically different to every other kingdom, then, should not surprise us. Maybe this feast day of Christ the King we should spend some time contemplating this fact: how does my life *differ* from the life of "the nations"? Does my life look like it is lived in submission to the crucified king? Do I embody the values of compassion, of self-giving love, of meekness and humility? Or, like those in the Old Testament, do I want to just be like everyone else?



Vinnies
good works

Christmas

Appeal

Vinnies would be very grateful for any donations of *non perishable foods* between 28th November -12th December.

Please leave your donation in the foyer of the church.



Contact Us

OFFICE HOURS

9:30am - 2:30pm (Mon - Fri)

ADDRESS

236 Stephensons Road,
Mount Waverley, Victoria
3149

PHONE

03 8539 2778 (temporary
number)

EMAIL

mountwaverley@cam.org.au

WEBSITE

holyfamily.melbourne

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Father Nicholas Pearce
Parish Priest

Fr Patrick Bradford
Assistant Priest

Mariana Hladik
Parish Administration

Joe Melhem
Youth Ministry

Lauren Considine
Religious Education Leader (Holy
Family School)

Leighton Hughes
Parish DesignOps

PARISH STAFF

Julie David
Principal - Holy Family School

Janet Cullinan
Parish Secretary

Christian Bergmann
Hall Coordinator

Fr David Kim OFM Conv.
Chaplain to the Korean
Community

HALL BOOKINGS

Small and Large Halls are
available for family and
group bookings.

Parishioners' rates available.
Please contact the Parish Office
for more information.

COLUMBARIUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

Plots are now available for
reservation for Parishioners
and Families.

Please contact the Parish Office
for more information.

Regular Mass Times *

MONDAY

9:15am

TUESDAY

9:15am

WEDNESDAY

9:15am

THURSDAY

9:15am

FRIDAY

9:15am

SATURDAY

9:15am

SUNDAY

10:30am

5:00pm

* Weekly Mass Schedule may
change from time to time. Please
check the Parish website for the
most up-to-date information.

Holy Hour & Confession

TUESDAY

7:30pm - 8:30pm

SATURDAY

10:00am - 11:00am

Confession Times

TUESDAY

7:30pm - 8:30pm

SATURDAY

10:00am - 11:00am

Baptisms

Sundays following 10:30am Mass.
Please ring the Parish Office for
preparation and scheduling of
Baptism.

Weddings

By appointment with the Parish
Priest.

CGB | architect

 0468 632 148 - Christian

Active Cleaning

 0418 382 505 - Simon



 9886 5318

Stitch 'n' Time

 0424 095 800 - Elsie



 0433 661 738 - Jeffrey Kang



 9807 3007

Choi Painting

 0402 354 246 - Alberto