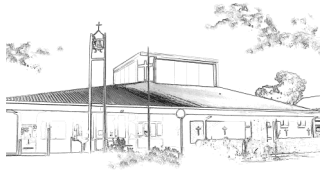


The Parish of Richmond



St Monica's Church
Cnr Windsor & Bourke Sts
RICHMOND, NSW

St Gregory's Church
5 Old Bells Line of Rd
KURRAJONG NSW

St John of God Chapel
177 Grose Vale Rd
NORTH RICHMOND, NSW

St Monica's Primary School
32 Francis St RICHMOND NSW
Ph: 4570 3700

Parish Office
1A Bourke St RICHMOND NSW
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri
9:30am-4pm
Ph: 4578 1410
www.parishofrichmond.org.au



Third Sunday of Advent – Year B 17 December 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon
me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one
who is coming after me.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not
fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save
us.**

Parish Prayer

*Ever loving God, we the community of the
Catholic Parish of Richmond, praise you and
dedicate our lives to you. Through the example of
St Monica, St Gregory, and St John of God we aspire to
be people of faith and prayer, who extend peace, hope
and light to the wider community.*

*When we listen to your Word, let it nourish us, giving us
strength and perseverance in our daily lives. May the
Holy Spirit enkindle in us a spirit of compassion and
hospitality and a profound respect for each other.*

*Help us to care for the sick, the elderly and those in
need. Bless our young people that they may be inspired
to know, love and serve You. May we strive to grow in
holiness and dedicate our lives to Your service.*

*We make this prayer through the Intercession of our
Mother Mary and Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*



Christmas Mass Times ...

St Monica's: Sunday December 24

6pm Vigil (Children's Mass) Midnight Mass - Carols from 11.30pm

Monday December 25 7.30am & 9.30am

No evening Mass on Christmas Day - Monday 25th December

St Gregory's: Sunday December 24 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Monday December 25 8.00am

PARISH TEAM

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Gayan Thamel
frgayan@parishofrichmond.org.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Fr Thomas Bui
frthomas@parishofrichmond.org.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Teshana Laferla
Kara Hargrave
admin@parishofrichmond.org.au

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR

Maria Boyd
sacraments@parishofrichmond.org.au

PARISH CO-ORDINATOR OF MINISTRIES

Mary McGuinness
mary.mcguinness@parishofrichmond.org.au

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK CO-ORDINATOR

Angela Copland

PRINCIPAL - ST MONICA'S SCHOOL

Melissa Beggs
StMonRic@parra.catholic.edu.au



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The Parish of Richmond

Prayers and Sympathy: The whole community has been shocked and saddened to hear the loss of Firefighter Michael Kidd in a house fire at Grose Vale this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and Fire & Rescue members. As we approach the holiday season we thank all those who work to protect lives, Police, Fire, Paramedics, SES, and those working in Accident and Emergency for their dedication in serving the Community.



Funeral service will be held on Friday 22 December at St Monica's, 10.30am.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Rite of Reconciliation

Extra times this week - Monday, Wednesday & Friday following morning Mass 9am at St Monica's.

Please note: next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The Sunday evening Mass next week is the Vigil of Christmas and will be at 6pm.

Parish Office hours: The Parish Office will be closed from 4pm next Friday 22 December until 9.30am Monday 8 January. Messages can be left on the Parish phone number where an emergency contact number is available if you need a Priest.

Please note: There is NO first Friday Benediction & Mass on 5th January.

Christmas Wishes: Some may be going to family for Christmas or a short break, we wish you and your family all the Blessings of this Holy Season. We pray for your safety as you travel to your destination. Enjoy and Relax!

Save the date: Come celebrate with us, St Paul's Festa 20th January 2024.

Christmas Nativity Rehearsal dates: Richmond - 17 Dec after the 9.30am Mass in the old church & 20 December at 4pm in Richmond & rehearsal dates for Kurrajong 17 Dec following the 8am Mass in Kurrajong.



The St Monica's Conference of St Vincent de Paul wishes to thank sincerely all parishioners for your generous support of our children's Christmas gift drive this year.

We anticipate that we will see more than 80 children this year and your generous response reminds us of the close connection we have with all the members of our community who need assistance from our Parish and our Conference.

Members of the Conference will be working over the next couple of weeks to deliver Christmas hampers generously donated by St Monica's Primary, St Matthew's Primary, Bede Polding College and Chisholm Catholic Primary.

Again, a sincere thank you from all members of the Conference.



PARISH DIARY DATES



- Tuesday 26 December **Saint Stephen.**
- Wednesday 27 December **Saint John.**
- Thursday 28 December **The Holy Innocents.**
- Monday 1 January **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mass will be celebrated at St Monica's, 9am.**

Catholic Outlook has arrived. Please take your free copy today.

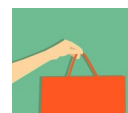
As the Pastoral Care team winds up their ministry for 2023, they express **sincere thanks to Caroline Pritchard** who has Coordinated the team's activity for the past twelve months. **In 2024 the Parish Coordinator of Pastoral Care will be Angela Copland**, with the assistance of **Annette Aquilina**. Already new volunteers have said they will offer their assistance to this very important Ministry. **We are looking for at least six new volunteers to visit the aged parishioners in our local Aged Care facilities and in private homes. If you can assist, please contact the Parish Office asap.**



To acknowledge the commitment and valued contribution of our **Junior Servers** & as a means of saying "thank you", each one is invited to St Monica's **5pm-7pm**, on **Wednesday Dec 20**, for two hours of food & fun activities. This is a prelude to doing more fun things with the team in 2024.

Piety Stall last minute shopping:

Some gift suggestions- God's Word, Break Open the Word, Daily Mass Books & Calendars.



PARISH MASS TIMES

St Monica's
Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 7.30am,
9.30am, 5.30pm
Mon, Wed & Fri: 9.00am

St Gregory's
Saturday: 9am
Sunday: 8am
St John of God
No Masses at this stage

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation
St Monica's:
Saturday 5.30pm - 5.50pm.
St Gregory's:
Saturday after 9.00am Mass.

Anointing of the Sick Mass
Second Friday of the month, 9am
at St Monica's or by arrangement
with the priests

Baptism

By appointment only.
St Monica's: 2nd & 3rd Sundays
at 11am.
St Gregory's: 1st Sunday at 11am
Booking & Preparation are essential.

Marriage

Strictly by appointment. A minimum
of 6 months notice is required. All
enquiries please email:
admin@parishofrichmond.org.au

**PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING 14 Feb
2024 at 7pm.**

**Meeting Minutes
available on notice
boards in church
foyers & parish
website.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS**

to the St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree and our
Christmas Cake Drive.

The cakes will be cut up and placed in individual bags ready for distribution at the John Moroney Correctional Centre, today following 9.30am Mass. If can help even for half an hour it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you once again.



The Light of the World

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. John 1:6, 8 (NIV)

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)



R L P R O P H E T E M E S V X
 F N W E G I W Y N Y Z A U N K
 R K A L E C Y H N I Y C N T P
 U L T I O G O A T N S H S C R
 J T E J X J D P A K Y R N O I
 E L R A H R A H Z J L I E N E
 R W Z H O B T U Z J B S Q F S
 U I I J T E B N A M E T L E T
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 A N U T R E H K F O W A L S O
 L E I R Q N V K T E S T I F Y
 E S V F E T I H D N F K G W P
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 L M D E G O D P O S G I T R S
 M C B T D B E L I E V E B W Q

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|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| BETHANY | JOHN | BELIEVE | SENT | LEVITES |
| CHRIST | TESTIFY | NAME | GOD | WATER |
| JORDAN | BAPTIZE | JERUSALEM | CONFESS | PRIESTS |
| LIGHT | PROPHET | ELIJAH | MAN | WITNESS |

STEWARDSHIP: Week ending 10/12/2023

1st Collection: \$1422.00
 2nd Collection: \$2839.35

Please note that you can make donations via the tap and go found in St Monica's church foyer. Credit Card Giving: Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to set up monthly giving via credit card. Online Donations are accepted through our parish website at parishofrichmond.org.au. The red "Donate Now" button at the top opens a new window, in the drop down box make your selection then complete all details. Debit or credit card may be used and there are no fees incurred.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Grant Eternal Rest to the recently deceased:

Alma Irwin, Betty Mckay, Diene Boatswain, Patrick Newman, John Allen, Gwenneth Doyle, John Cox, Antonia Refalo, Tom Hall, Eric Lillia, Gwen Doyle, Barry Love, Michael Sossine, Pamela Turner

... and those we remember at this time:

Kathleen Breaden, Paul McDonald, Maryanne Mizzi, Carmelo & Catherine Vella, John & Gwen McGuigan, Shirley Kearney, Domenico Galatin, Mary & Felix Aquilina, Ronald Clark, Warren & Bettridge, Ernest Bettridge, Anthony & Maryanne Xiberras, Joseph & Concetta Xiberras, Louis & Giovanna Portelli, Frangisk & Grezzja Xerri, Manweli & Carmela Azzopardi, Frank Cauchi, Theresa Mifsud, Peter Mifsud, Doris Cauchi, Peter Blumenthal, Barbara Capp, John Borg, Lonza Deguara, Joseph Camilleri

We Prayerfully Remember the Sick

Maria Polito, Endora Au, Hal Moloney, Zlato, Maree Spencer, Sharon Gregory, Charlie Camilleri, Greg Horan, Delina Galea, Yvette Brander, Pat Stanton, Rose Galea, Pam Everingham, Rhonda Jones, Helen Kenny, Rick Vella, Adam Taha, Roy Cutrone, Sr Anne Tregillgas, Vera Brglevski, Barry Wall, Peter Johnson, Trishy Rankin, Lorraine Smith, Stan Ujmiak, Leo Barbagallo, Diana Hurley



We welcome the newly baptized...
 Aniela Proskien
 Asher & Zara Donnelly

...to our Christian family



Happy birthday

to all those celebrating this week:

R.C.I.A. RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS –

Will take a break over the holiday season.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
 We hope you might come and join us. No obligation.
 ALL Welcome.

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITES

Rosary
 St Monica's: 8.40am before weekday Mass.

 St Gregory's: 8.40am before Saturday Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 St Monica's: Wednesday after 9.00am Mass to pray for vocations.

Parish Morning Tea
 After 9.30am Mass every fourth Sunday of the month at St Monica's & every second Sunday of the month at St Gregory's after 8am Mass

Body of Christ Prayer Group
 First Wednesday 7-8.30pm pray for vocations. All welcome.
 1 Hughes Ave, Hobartville.

Table Tennis fortnightly on Monday's 5-7pm in the Old Church.

First Friday Benediction & Mass
 Every 1st Friday of the month 6.30pm—7.30pm All Welcome

Suspended until further notice Youth Group Social
 Meet every 1st Friday of the month after 6.30pm HYPMA Mass



NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER
23/24 December 2023
4th Sunday of Advent
Year B

St Monica's

Readers
 6.00pm - J. Xiberras C. Hession
 7.30am - S. Duff A. Edwards
 9.30am - L. Sheffield M. Mizzi
 6.00pm - M. McMahon A. Tabone
 M. Fenech

Extraordinary Ministers at Holy Communion
 6.00pm - P. Hession J. Muscat
 7.30am - M. Fenech A. Dunbar
 9.30am - L. Ryan J. Cauchi
 6.00pm - J. Cauchi V. Muscat J. Portelli
 R. Ujmiak

Minister of the Altar
 6.00pm - A. Moloney
 7.30am - R. Ujmiak
 9.30am - C. Pritchard
 6.00pm - P. Delahay R. Ujmiak

Junior Ministers
 6.00pm -
 7.30am -
 9.30am - C & E. Cauchi
 6.00pm - C & E. Cauchi M. Hoffman

Data Projector
 6.00pm - M. Breaden
 7.30am - R. Ingram
 9.30am - A. Brailey
 6.00pm - M. Teuma

Children's Liturgy
 6.00pm -
 9.30am -
Cleaners - A. Edwards

Counters
 17 Dec - M. Ryan D. Bowles M. Hoffman
 24 Dec - R. Larven L. Clegg M. McMahon

WEEKDAY ROSTER
Monday 18 December 2023
 Reader - M. Breaden
 EMoHC - F. Crew
Wednesday 20 December 2023
 Reader - C. Allison
 EMoHC - A. Moloney
Friday 22 December 2023
 Reader - D. Bowles
 EMoHC - M. Ryan

St Gregory's

Saturday 23 December 2023
 Reader - P. Humphrey
 EMoHC - F. Crew
Sunday 24 December 2023
Readers
 8.00am - M. Mooney A. Drew L. Ducksbury
Minister at the Altar - F. Kelleher
Extraordinary Ministers at Holy Communion
 8.00am - C. Smiroldo
Data Projector - S. Stennett
Altar Preparation -
Cleaners - K. Hodgson

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Raine & Horne.
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Pope Francis @Pontifex December 15:
 The way we use these technologies to include the least of our brothers and sisters, the vulnerable and those most in need, will be the true measure of our humanity.