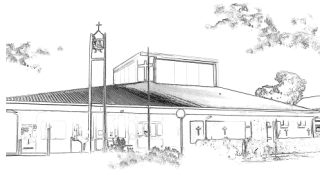


The Parish of Richmond



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



Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year C 21/22 December 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we will be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-44

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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.

Full of Grace, Full of Charity

Angel announced the good news of the birth of Jesus to Mary. When it happened, the first part of the beloved prayer in the Holy Rosary, 'Hail Mary, full of Grace,' is what we hear from the mouth of the angel Gabriel saying, "Hail, O Favoured one, the Lord is with you." Elizabeth continues the prayer as she says, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" This is just one example of how deeply biblical the Holy Rosary is.

So Mary is the favoured one; she is the most blessed among all women.

How is she responding to the news? Is she being all special and living like a princess? No. She travelled to the hill country of Judea, roughly 104 kilometers, on foot, and offered to help Elizabeth. She lived with Elizabeth for three months to do all kinds of help, like cooking, cleaning, and other household work. Mary had many good excuses to justify if she chose not to go. But she decided not to use any of them. Her heart was directed to the genuine need of Elizabeth, her cousin. In doing so, she was cooperating with God's plan.

Early Church Fathers thought that Mary's travel carrying Jesus in the womb to the hill country of Judea was similar to the travel of the ark of the covenant to the hill country of Judea during the reign of King David. Like King David, who danced in front of the ark of the covenant when the ark returned, John the Baptist, who was in Elizabeth's womb, also rejoiced and leapt for joy. This is one of the many reasons why she is called the 'new Ark of the Covenant.'

During Advent season, the easiest way to ensure that we are also cooperating with God's plan is to offer ourselves in service to our brothers and sisters who are in genuine need. During this Advent season, as we raise our eyes to heaven, let us also extend our hands and heart to our surroundings searching for those who deserve our help and support.

Fr Shinto Francis.

PARISH TEAM

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PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK CO-ORDINATOR

Angela Copland
angelacopland54@gmail.com

PRINCIPAL - ST MONICA'S SCHOOL

Melissa Beggs
StMonRic@parra.catholic.edu.au



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The Parish of Richmond

Christmas Mass Times ...



St Monica's: Tuesday December 24 6pm Vigil (Children's Mass)
Midnight Mass - Readings and Carols from 11.30pm
Wednesday December 25 7.30am & 9.30am



St Gregory's: Tuesday December 24 8pm Vigil Mass
Wednesday December 25 8am



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rehearsal today! Following 9.30am Mass at St Monica's **TODAY** Sunday 22nd December rehearsals continue for the presentation of the Nativity at the Vigil Mass, Christmas Eve 6pm.

Reconciliation will be available after 9am Mass tomorrow Monday 23 December.

Thank you again for your donations of cakes, over 400 slices were bagged for distribution at the John Moroney Correctional Centre. A special thanks to those who helped with the process. The new Catholic Outlook has a story on prisons which includes a 'Thank you' note from a prisoner, get your free copy today. May God bless you.

THE Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A) is taking a break until late January. Please keep in your prayers those who have embarked on this journey of faith.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Safe Journey to all who are travelling away to celebrate the festive season. May you have an enjoyable break.

Catholic Outlook Magazine is available in the church foyer. Please take your free copy today.

Stamps: Please save your used stamps for the Mary MacKillop Centre. Helping educate children. Thank you for your continued support.

Parish of Richmond Census. It has been many years since our Parish has conducted a census and it's time to update our records. We ask that everyone who is in our parish, to please complete our census form over the next weeks. In doing this, we help ensure that all our records are correct and up to date. The form can be completed by using the QR code below or via this link <https://forms.gle/yC61g4qSt2UPuoT79>

Paper copies are available in the foyer at both Mass centres. Please complete by 31 December 2024. The census helps us identify who is in our Parish, their potential needs based on age and status in life and the gifts that people are willing to share with the Parish community. We feel more a part of a community when we actively contribute to the life of that community. So please think carefully about all the ways you can be involved when completing the form!

The information you submit will be used for Parish purposes only. It helps us to get to know our parishioners and to keep in contact with you. You will be added to our Parish communication database.



PARISH DIARY DATES

- Thursday 26 December **Saint Stephen.**
- Friday 27 December **Saint John.**
- Saturday 28 December **The Holy Innocents.**
- Wednesday 1 January 2025 **New Year's Day Feast of Mary the Holy Mother of God** Mass will be celebrated at St Monica's at 9am. Come and pray for God's blessing on the New Year.

Christmas Roster - Readers. Please Note:
Richmond 6pm and Kurrajong 8pm – Vigil Mass.
Richmond – Midnight.
All Morning Masses – Mass of the day.

**Come Join the Celebrations at the
St Paul's Feast ..
Saturday, 18 January 2024 at 5.30pm
at St Monica's, Richmond ..**

Feast Mass

Saturday 18 January. St Monica's, Richmond
at 5.30pm followed by procession.

Other Details: Lady Queen of Peace Band,
BBQ, Food, Drinks, Rides & Chocolate Wheel.

**Volunteers are needed on the day.
Please contact Vicki 0410 545 783
if you can assist. Thank you.**

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 & PARISH
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING TBA
Meeting Minutes
available on notice
boards in church
foyers & parish
website.**

Sincere thanks to all parish ministers for your commitment to ministry and serving our Parish through your work throughout 2024.

All *Ministers of the Altar, Readers, EMs, DPs & Altar Servers* are asked to check the **completed 2025 rosters on the Parish Website**. Rosters for *Church Cleaning, Counters & Church Linen* will be emailed this week. *Children's Liturgy* roster will be circulated in January.

Christmas Office break:

The office staff will be having some holiday time, so if you drop in or phone the Parish Office and we don't answer, please leave a message or send an email - we won't be far away. The Parish Office will be closed from **Tues 24 Dec - Tues 7 Jan 2025**.

The Gift of Love

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Luke 1:45 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45

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

ELIZABETH	FULFILL	FILLED	GREETING	BELIEVE
BLESSED	CHILD	PROMISE	LEAPED	JUDEA
ZECHARIAH	JOY	BABY	HOME	MARY

STEWARDSHIP: PARISH DONATIONS

Donations can be made using the bank details below, or via the Tap-and-go machine and online donations which are accepted through our parish website at parishofrichmond.org.au. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

SUPPORT DONATIONS

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 Account name Richmond St Monica's Church

For EFT to the First Collection - Supporting the priests

Reference First Collection (Your name)

EFT to the Second collection - Supporting the parish

Reference Second Collection (Your name)

Grant Eternal Rest to the recently deceased:

Jim Fenech, Fr Max Blumenthal, Michael P. Murphy, Bernadette Pepper nee McMahon, Gary Wikman, John Maguire, Thomas Furse, John McGregor, David Kersivien

... and those we remember at this time:

Bill McMahon, Michael John McMahon, John Larven, Paul McDonald, Kathleen Breden, Joseph Baldacchino

We Prayerfully Remember the Sick

Jim Fenech, Sam Galea, Lily Vella, Bill Burnett, Fiona Daley, Anna Papallo, Bob Camilleri, Tom Hamilton, Endora Au, Drago Gracner, Delina Galea, Yvette Brander, Pat Stanton, Rose Galea, Pam Everingham, Helen Kenny, Peter Johnson



We welcome the newly baptized...

...to our Christian family



Happy birthday

to all those celebrating this week:

Luke 24 Young Adults Group (18-35 yrs): Parish of Richmond is dedicated to nurturing spiritual growth, fostering meaningful connections, and building lasting friendships within our youth community. Join us as we develop the Luke 24 Young Adults Group (18-35 yrs) and come along to our second meeting on Friday 17th January 2025 at 7pm in the Emmaus Room. Please register your availability at the QR code.



REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITES

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

St Gregory's: 8.40am before Saturday Mass.

Children's Liturgy
 Every Sunday excluding school holidays during 9.30am Mass at St Monica's

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.

Benediction & Mass
 St Monica's: Every 1st Friday of the month 6.30pm - 7.30pm.
 St Gregory's: Every 1st Saturday after 9am Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 St Monica's: Wed after 9am Mass to pray for vocations.

Luke 24 Youth Group
 Monday 10th February 2025 in the Emmaus Room from 5.30 - 7pm.



NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER

28/29 December 2024

The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C

St Monica's

Readers

6.00pm - J. Xiberras A. Copland
7.30am - T. Fogarty A. Tabone
9.30am - L. Sheffield M. Mizzi
5.30pm - T. Ross

Extraordinary Ministers at Holy Communion

6.00pm - V. Muscat J. Muscat
7.30am - C. Thompson L. Attard
9.30am - L. Ryan J. Cauchi
5.30pm - D. D'Mello J. Morley

Minister of the Altar

6.00pm - A. Moloney
7.30am - C. Fleetwood
9.30am - C. Pritchard
5.30pm - R. Ujmiak

Junior Ministers

6.00pm -
7.30am -
9.30am - C & E. Cauchi S. Borg
5.30pm -

Data Projector

6.00pm - M. Breaden
7.30am - M. McMahon
9.30am - E. Choudhary
5.30pm - M. Teuma

Children's Liturgy

9.30am -
Cleaners - K. Murphy C. Sultana
A. Edwards

Counters

22 Dec - V. Muscat F. Muscat R. Camilleri
29 Dec - C. Barber F. Pausanos
C. Thompson

WEEKDAY ROSTER

Monday 23 December 2024

Reader - A. Copland
EMoHC - M. McMahon

Wednesday 25 December 2024

Reader - As per Christmas roster
EMoHC - As per Christmas roster

Friday 27 December 2024

Reader - D. Bowles
EMoHC - M. Ryan

St Gregory's

Saturday 28 December 2024

Reader - P. Humphrey
EMoHC - F. Crew

Sunday 29 December 2024

Readers

8.00am - L. Ducksbury M. Mooney A. Drew

Minister at the Altar - A. Vincent

Extraordinary Ministers at Holy Communion

8.00am - C. Smiroldo

Data Projector - S. Stennett

Altar Preparation - M. Ryan

Cleaners - N. Fienberg

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Pope Francis @Pontifex 20 December:

#Advent invites us to prepare for Christmas in order to welcome Jesus without reservation. He is our hope. Let us pray together, full of trust: "Come, Lord!"