



# Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

(Canonically Established: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006)

## OUR PARISH VISION

*"A welcoming and dynamic faith-filled Catholic Community, living and sharing the Gospel, to set the world ablaze."*

## 3rd Sunday of Advent (Yr B) – 17 December 2023



*A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. (Gospel)*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

### Today's Scripture Readings

Is 61:1-2, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thess 5:16-24;

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 ; Ps 88 ; Rom16: 25-27;

Lk 1:26-38

### PRAYER REQUESTS

#### For the Sick

Lilian Song, Sr Pauline Nicholson, Conchita Claudio, Patricia Muscat, Mary Buhagjar, Emmanuel Chime, Violeta Serimogan, Ezio Rischitelli, Alida Beric, Patricio Lavilla Jr, Sarah Buol, Christian, Giahna & Arianna D'Souza, Roberto Bascuna III, Arturo De Jesus, Patricia McCarthy, Baby Luca, Obi Obi, Eleonor Rivera-Mendoza, Gloria Ng, Edwin Dragwidge

### BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

**Mass Offering/Intention for the Dead** – Please submit these not later than 12 noon on Thursdays | **Announcements & Notices** – Please submit these by the end of Wednesday. Thank you.

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Stewardship: **\$2,597.50** | Presbytery: **\$743.80**

*Thank you.*

## CAROLINE SPRINGS PARISH

*Parish Priest:* REV. FR RICHARD ROSSE

*Parish Coordinator:* MR ROBERT DURAI

*Parish Secretary:* MRS MAGGIE MAZZULLO (Tue - Thur)

*Evangelisation Coordinator:* MS ANN O'BRIEN

### POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 3014, Caroline Springs, Vic. 3023, Australia

### CHURCH, PRESBYTERY and OFFICE

28 College St., Caroline Springs

**Phone:** 03-8361 9822

**Email:** carolinesprings@cam.org.au

**Website:** www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday to Friday 9:30am–1:30pm

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

*Saturday (Vigil):* **6:00pm**

*Sunday:* **9:00am, 10:30am & 12:00pm**

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES, SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

*Tuesday:* **7:00pm** (except on Public Holidays: **9:30am**)

*Monday, Wednesday - Saturday:* **9:30am**

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Tuesday:* 6:00pm - 7:00pm (except on Public Holidays: **8:30am**)

### DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

*1st Friday:* 7:00pm (Mass followed by adoration of Bl. Sacrament)

**CONFESSIONS:** Tuesdays: 6:00pm; Saturdays: 8:45am, 10:00am and 5:00pm or by Appointment at any other time.

### MEN'S GROUP

*3rd Friday of the Month:* 7:00pm (Adoration followed by fellowship)

### LEGION OF MARY

Every Monday: 7:00 – 8:30pm

### SRM CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Every Thursday: 7:00 – 8:30pm

### PARISH PLAYGROUP

Every Thursday: 10:30 – 12:00pm (except School Holidays)

### ABLAZE YOUTH GROUP

Every Friday for Youth in High School (Year 7 to 12): 6:00 - 7:30pm

### SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH

**CHRIST THE PRIEST PRIMARY SCHOOL** (Prep-Yr. 6)

54 Caroline Springs Blvd. | Phone: 93618600

(PRINCIPAL: Mrs Adele Vesty)

**ST GEORGE PRECA PRIMARY SCHOOL** (Prep-Yr. 6)

22-48 Lancefield Drive | Phone: 7378 5500

(PRINCIPAL: Mr Michael Ozburn)

**CRC CAROLINE SPRINGS** (Year 7-10)

10 College Street | Phone: 9217 8000

(PRINCIPAL: Mr Jamie Madigan)

For the latest updates, please visit our Parish Website and other social media platforms

Website: [www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au](http://www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au)

Facebook: @St.Catherine.Siena.CarolineSprings.Australia



**ST CATHERINE OF SIENA**  
CAROLINE SPRINGS

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world ablaze"

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

My dear people,

This is a final notification of the consultation with the architects on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7:45pm in the church meeting room. Please come and share your observations and concerns about our church's proposed refurbishments.

My proposal to bring about changes in the times of Masses on a Sunday morning has generated wonderful discussions and conversations among you. Members of the Leadership Team have received responses and feedback which have been sincerely welcomed. I have sent all of you an email this morning outlining the reasons for the need for more time between Masses. That email also contains the new proposed Mass times.

Our parish's Carols by Candlelight, held last Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at the CRC Hall was a huge success. I would like to sincerely thank the Carols Organising Committee as well all the other volunteers for all their hard work to prepare for the night, the social committee for organising food and drinks and all the choirs for participating. I would like to also sincerely thank Byteway Pty Ltd for supporting our event. More importantly, I thank all of you who attended and made the night such a great success.

Earlier this year, I announced that a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land was organised for next year. Owing to the situation in Israel at the moment, there has been a need to cancel that pilgrimage. Hopefully, we will be able to go to the Holy Land in 2025 or 2026. Instead of the Holy Land Pilgrimage, we are organising a pilgrimage to the Europe as a Marian Pilgrimage and Saints of Italy Pilgrimage. We will go to Fatima, Lourdes and Loreto and also to visit shrines associated with saints such as our own Patron Saint, St Catherine of Siena and also, St Anthony of Padua, St Teresa of Avila, St Francis of Assisi and St Padre Pio to name a few. A few days will be spent in Rome also. I strongly encourage you to consider coming on the pilgrimage since these can be wonderful experiences of encounters with Our Lord through the lives of the Saints whom He has inspired to live holy lives. There is a flyer on our website. Should you like to check the detailed itinerary please email the parish office and one will be sent to you.

As announced in the bulletin for a few weeks now, our Christmas Eve Masses (Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023) are at 6pm and 8:30pm. Our Masses on Christmas Day are at 12 Midnight, 9am and 10:30am. On the 20<sup>th</sup> December, there will be five priests here to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 7:30pm until 9:30pm.

We continue turning to our patron saint and we ask for her intercession.

St Catherine of Siena, Pray for us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr Richard Rosse PP

**2023 ADVENT-CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

**RECONCILIATION FOR ADVENT**  
**WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER @ 7:30pm - 9:30pm**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER**  
**Masses @ 6:00pm, 8:30pm & 12:00am (Midnight)**  
 (Carols sung half-an-hour before Mass)

**CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY 25 DECEMBER**  
**Masses @ 9:00am & 10:30am**  
 (No Church services at 12pm or in the evening)

**TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER (Public Holiday)**  
**Adoration of Bl. Sacrament & Confession @ 8:30am**  
**Mass @ 9:30am (St Stephen, 1st Martyr)**  
 (No Church services in the evening)

**MONDAY, 1 JANUARY 2024 (Public Holiday)**  
**Mass @ 9:30am (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)**

[www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au](http://www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au)

### CONFESSION FOR ADVENT

Confessions for the season of Advent will be heard in the parish on Wednesday 20 December from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. There will be 5 priests present.

### MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

We still need volunteers (Readers, EMHCs and Welcomers), who are part of the ministries currently, for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. There are clipboards with sign-up sheets in the Gathering Space. Please write down your names for the Masses that you will be attending.

### MINISTRY OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

We need more volunteers for this important ministry. Our florists do wonderful flower decorations for our church on the weekends and for important liturgical celebrations like Christmas, Easter, Solemnities and our Parish Feast Day. You do not have to be a qualified florist to be part of this ministry. If you are interested, please call the office.

### CASH DONATIONS: FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Cash donations to defray the costs of buying flowers for Christmas are most welcome. Please indicate as 'Christmas Flowers' on the envelope when you give a donation. Thank you.

### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

Archbishop Peter Comensoli is appealing to parishioners to give generously to the people of Ukraine who are badly affected by the war. Archbishop Peter met with the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand, Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR who has asked to pray for the people back home and for any support we can provide. There are donation cards, together with pre-addressed and postage paid return envelopes in the gathering space. Thank you for your generosity.

### NO 1st FRIDAY MASS on 5 JANUARY 2024

Please note that due to the holiday season there will be no 1st Friday Mass on 5 January. The next 1st Friday Mass will be on 2 February.

### LAST BULLETIN FOR THE YEAR

Please note that the last edition of the parish bulletin for this year will be published on the 4th Sunday of Advent. We will start publication of next year's volume on the weekend of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, end of January 2024.

### SHRINES OF OUR LADY PILGRIMAGE 2024

The Holy Land pilgrimage that was planned for May 2024 is now cancelled due to the war. Instead we are planning to visit the shrines of Our Lady like Fatima and Lourdes, and the shrines of significant saints including our own Patron Saint, St Catherine, in Siena. The pilgrimage will be from 21 May to 3 June 2024. Please book before 30 Jan 2024. For the itinerary, call or email the office and it will be sent to you. For more details and bookings, please call Magi Pilgrimages at 1300 721 561.



### CONGRATULATIONS! CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS

1st Prize (\$200) - Lachlan Buswell  
 2nd Prize (\$100) - Maria Zanic  
 3rd Prize (Hamper) - Sandra Thomas



### BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH

We welcome into the Catholic faith the following who were baptised on Saturday 16 December: **Sadie & Layla Zarka, Nevaeh Grima, Harris Rince, Lenny Ceddia and Louis Mustafa.** Please pray for them and their Families.

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