



# 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."*

## CHRISTMAS 2024 / New Year 2025 (Year C)



### A Christmas Message from Fr Richard Rosse, PP



Tuesday 24th December 2024

My dear people,

It is interesting to note that every year around this time we experience the same sort of excitement. I guess it is because we realise that the end of the year is drawing very near, and the approach of the new year represents a bit of a reset to which we all look forward. The excitement is also due to Christmas, the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord; the celebration we have been waiting for since the start of Advent. The birth of Jesus is the decisive event in the history of salvation and of humanity. The birth of the Son of God brings us joy and peace because it represents the light which removes all darkness, especially the darkness of sin.

Our Mass times are:

Tuesday 24 December | 5pm, 7pm, 9pm & 12 midnight  
(with carols sung half-an-hour before)

Wednesday 25 December | 8:30am & 10:30am only  
(No 12:30pm Mass or evening services)

This year has certainly had its own set of challenges throughout the world. We remember parts the world being ravaged by war particularly the situation in the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan and so many other areas. There have been many natural disasters as well around the world and one very close to us in Vanuatu, only last week. Let us spare a thought and pray particularly for all those families who for the first time will have an empty seat at the table. These are to be acknowledged because they remind us that

unfortunately, there is evil and suffering in the world, and they cause tears to be shed.

However, we, disciples of Jesus, believe firmly that tragedies and evil are not the final word. The celebration of the birth of Jesus is an opportune reminder that one day this child will suffer and die for us so that every tear will be wiped away. Once the tears are wiped and time starts diminishing the pain, we know that God will provide the strength and courage required to continue with our own pilgrimage. This certainty accompanies us in all parts of our lives, be it at our work or in our family and indeed in everything that makes up our lives.

While in no way diminishing the seriousness of the pain of loss, I thought that it would be good to think about our achievements as a parish community this year. Firstly, we completed our eleventh Alpha. Through Alpha, many people deepened their faith while others re-discovered the beauty of their faith, and many have joined ministries as a way to serve God. Through our two catholic primary schools and the Society of Christian Doctrine, more than 300 of our younger parishioners have celebrated the Sacraments of either Reconciliation, Confirmation or received Holy Communion for the first time. At the Easter Vigil, we welcomed three parishioners as members of the parish

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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



A Christmas message from Most Rev. Peter A. Comensoli  
Archbishop of Melbourne

Dear friends,

Over recent weeks, much attention has been drawn to the window displays in the heart of Melbourne's CBD. These displays have sparked conversations about their social history and the tradition they represent for families. At the same time, they've prompted reflections on the suffering caused by global conflicts, urging us to look at ourselves in our local settings.

This year, the windows feature a variety of displays, with a theme of animals and nature. However, one window stands out. It depicts a mother and a father hovering attentively over their newborn child. In this moment, they have found shelter and security, a place of refuge and safety from their struggles. They are together, united in a joyful love, at peace with each other, and resting in the grace that surrounds them.

We all know this scene, even if for some, the gift it represents has become hidden. In the midst of what may be a commercial display, this simple image reminds us of a promise that transcends time and place. Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus are there, inviting us into their lives. Hope springs from this image; peace is at its heart. The Holy Family speaks to us of hope and joy in new life—to each of us in our own local families. The child points us to where peace can be found—especially for the world beyond us.

Here in Melbourne, we await this Christmas knowing far too many are suffering in the throes of war internationally, and struggle at home. As we look to that humble family from Bethlehem, how might we give special attention to how we live with all our brothers and sisters as a holy family?

Families, of course, are not always easy places to be, and they require a daily practice of love and self-giving, patience and respect, attentiveness and forgiveness.

As we see the loving gaze of Mary and Joseph on their Child, who is our Saviour, might we lift up a humble prayer, asking that God's love and mercy surround us, and Christ's peace and compassion flourish among us. May you have a hope-filled and peaceful Christmas.

Watch video here: <https://youtu.be/IJait9KXmmM>

## The Season of Christmas

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment").



It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him, He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him... including the fact that he was born to die for us.

### In Summary

Colour: *White*

Duration: *At least 2 weeks*

Start: *Christmas Day (Vigil)*

Finish: *Baptism of the Lord*

Themes: *Rejoicing, celebration, salvation*

Special Considerations: *Christmas manger or nativity scene*

### **MASSES on NEW YEAR'S EVE AND DAY**

Tuesday 31 December

6:00pm (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

7:00pm (*Vigil Mass - Mary, The Mother of God*)

### **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, The HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Wednesday 1 January (*Public Holiday*)

9:30am (**No Mass in the Evening**)

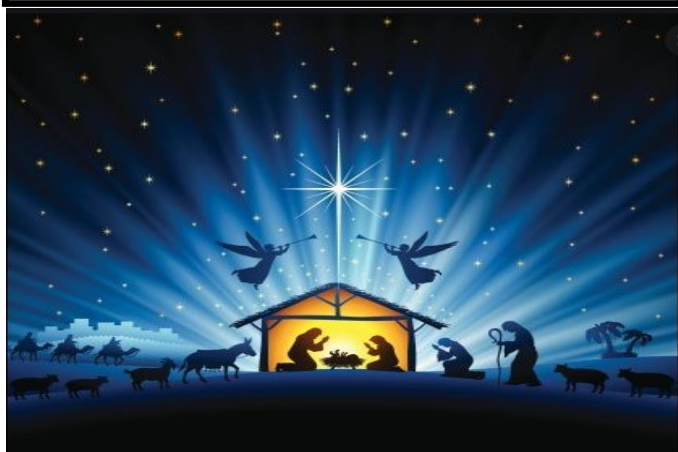
### **1st FRIDAY MASS on 3 JANUARY 2025**

Please note that due to the holiday season there will be **NO 1st Friday Mass on 3 January 2025**. The next 1st Friday Mass will be on 7 February.

### **IMPORTANT: CHILD SAFETY**

**It is the Archdiocese Child Safety Policy that every child has to be under the care of a parent at all times within our premises. As such, we advise that from now on, any child who goes to the toilet has to be accompanied by an adult, preferably by a parent.**

## READINGS



24/25 December  
**CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES**  
5:00pm, 7:00pm & 9:00pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king.*  
**Alleluia!**

### Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 88; Acts 13:16-17,22-25; Mt 1:1-25

### CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS (12:00am)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*  
**Alleluia!**

### Readings

Isaiah 9:1-7; Ps 95; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8:30am & 10:30am (NO 12:30pm or Evening Mass)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.*

**Alleluia!**

### Readings

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 97; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18



28/29 December 2024  
**THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS,  
MARY & JOSEPH**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.*

**Alleluia!**

### Readings

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 ; Psalm 83;  
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 ; Luke 2:41-52

*Continued from page 1... Fr Richard's Christmas message* as they completed their Christian initiation. We ran three Leadership Summits with ministry coordinators and with members of their ministries. We conducted our census in October in preparation for our Thanksgiving Campaign and we launched our re-branded Young Adults Groups in the middle of November. The last event of the year, our Carols by Candlelight, has been a resounding success. These are the main events and you and I know there are many more smaller events which also need to be celebrated.

As we come to the end of the year I would like to sincerely thank, from the bottom of my heart, all the people who contribute to making our parish the wonderful community it is. I thank the office staff, the coordinators of ministries, and everyone involved in all the ministries. I would also like to thank the members of the Leadership Team. Most importantly, all of you,

the disciples of Jesus Christ here at St Catherine of Siena Caroline Springs. Thank you for your support and your love, which I treasure immensely.

Please be advised that the parish office will be closed from noon today and will re-open on 2 January. For the month of January, the office will operate at a slower pace and will close at 1:30pm.

My dear people, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2025.

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

St Catherine of Siena, Pray for us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Fr Richard Rosse PP.

Fr Richard Rosse PP



**SOLEMNITY OF  
MARY, MOTHER  
OF GOD**

January 1st

**NEW YEAR'S DAY (1 January 2025)  
MARY MOTHER OF GOD  
Wednesday - 9:30am (No Evening Services)**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*May God bless us in his mercy.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.*

**Alleluia!**

**Readings**

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 66; Galatians 4:4-7;  
Luke 2:16-21



11/12 January 2025  
**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Sat - 6:00pm | Sun - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

**Alleluia!**

**Readings**

Is 40:1-5,9-11; Ps 103; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16,21-22

18/19 January 2025

**2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)**  
Sat - 6:00pm | Sun - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Alleluia!**

**Readings**

Is 62:1-5; Ps 95; 1 Cor 12:4-14; Jn 2:1-11

25/26 January 2025

**3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)**  
Sat - 6:00pm | Sun - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

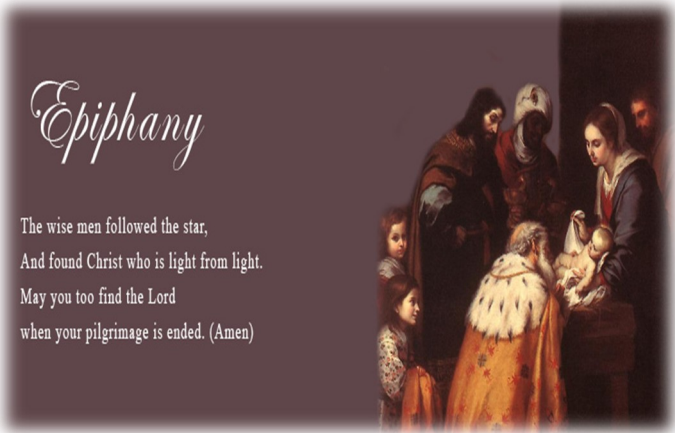
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.*

**Alleluia!**

**Readings**

Neh 8:2-6,8-10; Ps 18; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4,14-21



*Epiphany*

The wise men followed the star,  
And found Christ who is light from light.  
May you too find the Lord  
when your pilgrimage is ended. (Amen)

4/5 January 2025  
**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
Saturday - 6:00pm  
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.*

**Alleluia!**

**Readings**

Is 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE**



Please note that the Parish Office is closed over the Christmas and New Year period commencing from 1:30pm on Tuesday 24 December. The Office will re-open on **Thursday, 2 January 2025** in a limited capacity.

Normal office operation will resume from Monday 3 February 2025 onward.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.