



# St Paul's Catholic Church / Mt Lawley Parish

We warmly welcome you to  
106 Rookwood St / Menora WA 6050  
telephone: (08) 9271 5253 / email: stpaulsmtl@inet.net.au  
Father Tim's email: casapgf@inet.net.au  
website: [www.stpaulsmtlawley.com](http://www.stpaulsmtlawley.com)

Rev Fr **Timothy E Deeter**, Parish Priest  
Rev Fr **Mariusz Grzech**, Assistant Priest

Gillian Theobald, Parish Secretary



Estab. 1956

**Parish Office**  
**New Parishioners**  
**Baptism**  
**Reconciliation**

Please ring for an appointment.  
Please complete a census form, found in the church porch, and return it to the office or sacristy.  
Sunday afternoons. Please contact one of the priests to make an appointment for instruction.  
WEDNESDAYS, 6.15 to 7.15pm and SATURDAYS, 3.30 to 4.30pm, or please ring for an appointment.

## The OCTAVE (Eight Days of Celebration) of CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> - Mass	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	† Margaret - recently deceased
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5.45 pm</b> - Mass	ST STEPHEN, <i>The First Martyr</i> (Boxing Day)	Suellen Horgan - 79 <sup>th</sup> birthday
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5.45 pm</b> - Mass	ST JOHN, <i>Apostle &amp; Evangelist</i>	Kevin & Suellen Horgan, Reg & Janny Firth - wedding anniversaries
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5.45 pm</b> - Mass	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, <i>martyrs</i>	† Tommy Kearns - recently deceased
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> - Mass (Acacia) <b>5.45 pm</b> - Mass	FIFTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE / <i>St Thomas à Becket, martyr</i>	† faithful departed † Lynette Scanlan - recently deceased
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10.00 am</b> - NO MASS	SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE	-----

## The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4.30 pm</b> - Mass <b>6.00 pm</b> - Mass	for our families for the parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> - Mass	† departed members of our families

## PARISH MINISTRIES ROSTER

23 - 24 December 2023	Saturday 4.30pm		Saturday 6.00pm		Sunday 9.00am	
Readers	F Jones	C Archer	C Ryan	V Kurak	Z Kirkup	S Horgan
Acolytes	A Coelho	E & F Archer	R Novacsek		J Pereira	
Altar Servers	Please volunteer		H & H Miles		T Clare	S Macnish
Musicians	A Loiacono	T Murphy-Jelley	A Loiacono	T Murphy-Jelley	Fr T Deeter	T Murphy-Jelley
IT Operators	G Torre		Please volunteer		Please volunteer	
Counters	A Vajda	V Kurak				

*Thank You*

Thank you for your contribution. Here are our parish account details:  
**Parish Account:** St Paul's Parish \* 086 006 \* 66717 2345  
**Presbytery Account:** St Paul's Parish Presbytery \* 086 006 \* 551882898  
**Building Fund Acc't:** St Paul's Building Fund \* 086 006 \* 151619353  
**Direct Debit:** Make arrangements with your bank to make regular deposits.

Building Fund	17/12	Planned Giving	17/12
Jar, envelopes, online	\$ 120.00	Online donations	\$ 1,204.96
Pledges	370.00	Loose	614.90
Containers for Change	4.80	Tap and Go	142.25
		Catholic Weekly	21.00
		Candles	100.35
		Columban calendars	20.00
		Special donation (flowers)	100.00
		Lessons & Carols service	719.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 494.80</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,972.46</b>

**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.  
**Communion Antiphon:** Behold: a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His Name will be called Emmanuel.



Liturgical Ministries		
Acolytes	John Pereira	0401 623 521
Altar Linen	Lori Valerio * Maria Odorisio	
Altar Servers	Lilian Bellandi	0412 980 261
Collectors & Counters	Dianne Smith	0408 569 969
Extraordinary Ministers	Simon Hehir	043 778 6023
Flowers	Jasmin Biagioni	0411 123 575
Liturgy Committee	TBA	
Music - Sun 9am Mass	Fr Tim Deeter	9271 5253
Music - Sat 4.30pm & 6.00pm	Alessio Loiacono	0466 461 892
Readers	Genevieve Saldanha	0405 806 848
Acacia Residence Chapel	Judith Paxman	9262 8533
Sacristan	David Cleary	9272 5114

Parish Ministries & Activities			
Finance Committee	TBA		
Planned Giving	Andrew Vajda	9275 9328	
St Paul's Primary School	Peter Merry, <i>Principal</i>	9462 6000	
RCIA	Fr Tim Deeter	9271 5253	
St Paul's Youth Ministry	TBA		
Parish Social Committee	Ingrid Vajda	9275 9328	
Sunday Morning Tea	School P&F mothers	9462 6000	
Bible Study	Fr Tim / Fr Mariusz	9271 5253	
PREP Co-ordinator	Susan Brown	0403 441 525	
Safeguarding Officer	Stephen Cain	0418 515 889	
Safeguarding Officer	Linley Plowman	0407 383 914	
St Vincent de Paul Society	Peter Quinn	9375 1024	

## Community News

**DING, DONG MERRILY ON HIGH!**  
More than 130 attended last Sunday night's Lessons & Carols service. The choir and our musicians performed beautifully, **Zak Kirkup** gave a moving account of his adult journey into the Catholic Church, and there was wonderful fellowship afterwards in the undercroft. *Thank you, everyone!*

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**  
Sun 24 Dec 4.30pm (carols beforehand)  
6.00pm (carols beforehand)  
Midnight 11.30pm (choir program)  
12.00mid (choral Mass)  
Mon 25 Dec 9.00am (carols beforehand)  
There will be NO 5.45pm Mass on Christmas.

**PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN**  
Tue 26 Dec: 9.30am Rosary & Litany, then a cuppa on the presbytery veranda. *Join us!*  
**DRINK TO THE LOVE OF ST JOHN!**  
Wed 27 Dec: After the homily at 5.45pm Mass, we will bless the bottles of wine that you may bring, in the traditional blessing given on this feast day. *St John's Gospel is the only one with the story of the changing of water into wine, and his Gospel and Epistles highlight the love of God. Cheers!*

**HOLY HOUR & ST JOSEPH DEVOTION**  
Every Wednesday: Adoration 6.15-7.15pm; confessions; devotions to St Joseph; simple Benediction. Jesus says: *Come, rest in Me.*

**READERS WORKBOOKS ARE HERE**  
Please pick up your copy in the porch.

**SAFEGUARDING INDUCTION**  
*A reminder: the Archdiocese asks that ALL of our parish workers - PAID AND UNPAID - take part in the Online Safeguarding Induction Level 1 Session. Online sessions dates & times:*

Wed	24 Jan	10-11am
Tue	06 Feb	7 - 8pm
Wed	14 Feb	2 - 3pm
Thurs	22 Feb	10-11am
Tue	27 Feb	7 - 8pm
Wed	06 Mar	7 - 8pm
Thurs	14 Mar	2 - 3pm

Access this online at home with this LINK: [safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/training/](http://safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/training/) Thank you, everyone, for doing this!

**BUILDING FUND TO DATE**  
**TOTAL in Building Fund: \$226,139.48**  
**BUILDING FUND PLEDGES**  
Please note your bank reference like this: *Your surname - Pledge.*  
**ONGOING EXPENSES**  
church & undercroft cleaning - \$748.00 \*  
underground power - \$500.00 \* electricity - \$533.99 \* **TOTAL - \$1,801.99**

**Please pray for parishioners who are unwell:** Tony Bonavita, Billy Francis, Terry Merchant, Blanche Pereira, Lori & Tony Valerio, Rebecca Webster, Thomas Mazza, Thelma Hannigan, Francesca Fairclough, Thomas Chong, Rhiana Powell

**parishioners whose anniversary of death occurs at this time:** James Patterson, Lillian Moncrieff, William Casten, Camillus Urquhart, Patricia Trantner, John Lyons, Doris Annie Cavanagh, Jack Kennedy, Horace Moir, Peggie Massam, Ted Curtain



## The Wisdom of the Saints: The Incarnation of Christ

*Christ did not pass through the Virgin Mary as though through a conduit - no, He truly took flesh from her, and was truly fed with milk from her. He truly ate as we eat and drank as we drank. For if the Incarnation was fiction, then our salvation is also fiction. - St Cyril of Jerusalem*  
*Invisible in His divine nature, God became visible in our human nature. Beyond our grasp, He chose to come within our grasp. Existing before time began, He began to exist in a moment in time. Incapable of suffering as God, He became a Man Who was capable of suffering. - Pope St Leo the Great*  
*Christ submitted Himself to the elements - to cold and heat, hunger and thirst, sweat and exhaustion. He concealed His power and divested Himself of glory, and became one of us, so that He might teach us weak and wretched mortals how patiently we ought to bear our tribulations. - St Angela of Foligno*  
*Our human body has acquired something great through our sacramental communion with the Word made Flesh. From being mortal, we have been made immortal. Our earthly body has become a spiritual body. Made in this world, we can now pass through the gates of Heaven. - St Athanasius*  
*Christ became a child and grew to teach us how to avoid falling into sin. - St Peter Chrysologus*



Mary said to the Angel:  
*"Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
Be it done unto me  
according to your word."*

## A Short Meditation from The Imitation of Christ by Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)

**Chap 24 (cont.):** All troubles that we suffer patiently will be pleasing to God, and all injustice will be silent when Christ returns in glory.  
On that Day, all those who love God will rejoice, but all those who do not love Him will mourn.  
On that Day, the body that has suffered in affliction will be exalted more than if it had always been fed on delicious things.  
On that Day, poor rags will become most splendid, while fine clothes will be drab.  
On that Day, the humble cottage will be admired more than any gilded palace.  
On that Day, simple obedience will have higher standing than all worldly cunning.  
On that Day, a pure and good conscience will bring more joy than any philosophy.  
*Teach yourself to endure in little things.*

## Pastoral Ponderings

*It's been a short Advent - the usual four weeks have been abruptly cut off, because today is both the Fourth (and last) Sunday of Advent AND Sunday is also Christmas Eve. Just three weeks of Advent!*  
*And so Christmas has 'snuck up on us' - and here we are! Thank you to those intrepid parishioners who came to church last Sunday afternoon to drag out the Christmas decorations from the shed, set up and arrange the Nativity scene so lovingly, put up the trees and garland, lights and candles and bows, so that we have a beautiful setting in which to pray during the Christmas season.*

*Most of those parishioners went home, grabbed a bite to eat, changed clothes, and then returned that same evening for Lessons & Carols at 7.00pm.*  
*This was our 15<sup>th</sup> annual L&C, and it just seems to get better each year. The choir was magnificent, supported by our strings group and trumpeter, with ever-faithful Alessio at the organ.*  
*The readers represented a cross-section of our local community - St Paul's, Ordinariate, city and state. Our own Zak Kirkup gave a moving account of his journey to the Catholic Church via our parish - I noticed that all the young people in the choir were hanging on his every word. He spoke about how he had plans for his life, and he achieved those plans - but then everything fell apart.*  
*It was at that very moment of collapse that Zak came to St Paul's, joined our RCIA program, was baptised (at a time when most adults want little or nothing to do with Church or even God Himself) - and now Zak reads at Mass, helps with IT, and is a member of our parish Finance Committee.*

*We like to say that "God works in mysterious ways." Indeed, Zak gave us a good witness of how wonderfully God can come to our rescue when we think all is lost.*  
*At every Christmas, we remember this: God came to our rescue when it seemed all was lost. Rome had conquered the Western world - Rome, with all of its grandeur, literature & architecture, its technology, its legal system - all of which we still use today.*  
*But it was also Rome with its pagan culture that had little or no sense of personal morality, no system of helping the poor and the sick, no qualms about killing unwanted children, no awareness of the deep despair of its millions of slaves (a huge portion of the population of the time!).*  
*And it was Rome, with no hope of life after death - only 'eat, drink, and be merry today - for tomorrow we die.' This Rome needed to be saved from itself.*  
*And then, in the days of Caesar Augustus of Rome, Joseph and Mary made their way to Bethlehem . . .*