



# ST PATRICK'S, ST JOHN VIANNEY'S, STELLA MARIS & ST JOSEPH'S

Partnered Parishes of Mentone-Parkdale and Ricketts Point (Beaumaris & Black Rock)

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - December 28th 2025

*St Patrick's, 10 Rogers St, Mentone*

*St John Vianney's, Cnr Warren Rd & Brisbane Tce, Parkdale*

*Stella Maris, 2 Charlotte Rd, Beaumaris*

*St Joseph's, 542 Balcombe Rd, Black Rock*

### SUNDAY MASS

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

**Sunday:** 8:00am (*Black Rock*)

**Sunday:** 9:00am (*Parkdale*)

**Sunday:** 10:30am (*Beaumaris*)

**Sunday:** 11:00am (*Mentone*)

**Sunday:** 5:00pm (*Mentone*)

**Our Year A gospel reading for the Feast of the Holy Family tells of the 'Flight into Egypt'.** Jesus, from his birth, received not only homage and adoration, but opposition from forces that feared his coming, leading to danger and exile.

Next week on the Epiphany, we will hear of the Magi - the 'wise men' - and how through them, King Herod the Great, the Romans' client king in Judea, became aware of the new-born King of the Jews and determined to kill this 'rival'.

Today, we hear in advance of the response to that threat by St Joseph, who when warned in a dream by the angel of the Lord, that very night escaped with Mary and Jesus, and journeyed to Egypt, outside Herod's jurisdiction. The journey of 400 km or more is estimated to have taken - on foot or by donkey, and with a baby - some three to four weeks.

**SOME HISTORICAL CONTEXT:** Egypt had only recently come under Roman rule. Prior to that, it had been ruled since about 3200 BC by the Pharaohs, through 31 dynasties. Well-known is the enslavement of the Israelites there, sometime in the 2nd millennium BC; then their 'exodus' under Moses.

Egypt fell under Hellenistic rule with its conquest by Alexander the Great (356-323 BC), and the Ptolemaic Dynasty founded by his general, Ptolemy I - its most famous member being the last, Queen Cleopatra VII (69-30 BC), whom we usually just call 'Cleopatra'. Known for her liaisons with Julius Caesar then Mark Antony, she and Antony committed suicide after their defeat by Octavian (63 BC - AD 14) in the naval battle at Actium (31 BC). Octavian, taking the name Augustus, then became the first Roman Emperor, bringing the Roman Republic to an end; and Egypt became a Roman province.

All this was only thirty years past when the Holy Family arrived. It was the same Caesar Augustus who called the census that had brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. Over the centuries from the time of the Babylonian Exile (587 BC) many Jews had migrated to Egypt, so there was a large Jewish community there, especially in Alexander's new city of Alexandria. (It was there that Jewish scholars (3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BC) made the influential Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint.) So the Holy Family would likely have found refuge among their own people.

The Jubilee Year of Hope will conclude in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Tuesday 6th January. In the dioceses round the world, however, the local celebration of the Jubilee Year concludes today, the Feast of the Holy Family, in accordance with what was decreed by Pope Francis in his Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee, *Spes non confundit*.



We give thanks to God for all the blessings of the Jubilee Year. In particular, we are grateful that St Patrick's Mentone was chosen by Archbishop Comensoli as one of the Pilgrim Places of the Archdiocese, and we rejoice to have been able to welcome numerous pilgrims to St Patrick's - both individuals, and also larger groups who many times came by the busload from different communities in the Archdiocese.

Two Pastoral Letters from the Archbishop for today's occasion - to the Archdiocese generally, and to the Pilgrim Places in particular - are printed on p. 3.

*Jubilee Years / Holy Years are customarily proclaimed every 25 years. However, we do not have to wait until 2050 for the next one. In 2033 we will have the Jubilee of the 2000th Anniversary of our Redemption - the Death and Resurrection of Christ, understood to have taken place in AD 33. As we conclude the Jubilee Year of Hope, we look forward eagerly to this great celebration to come.*

**Parish Priest:** Rev Fr Justin Ford **Assistant Priest:** Rev Fr Joseph Nguyen

**Presbytery:** 10 Rogers St, Mentone 3194 **Office:** 3 Mitchell St, Mentone 3194 **Office hours:** 9am-5pm, Monday - Thursday.

**Phone:** 9583 2103 **Email:** [mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au](mailto:mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au) **Website:** [www.sspjv.org](http://www.sspjv.org)



**A SHORT PRAYER TO JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**  
*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.*  
*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.*  
*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may my soul rest in peace in you.*

**Readings next week: Epiphany of the Lord**

Isaiah : 60: 1-6  
 Ephesians: 3: 2-3, 5-6  
 Matthew: 2: 1-12

### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

<b>Mon 29th Dec</b>	11:00am ( <i>Mentone</i> )
<b>Tue 30th Dec</b>	9:15am ( <i>Mentone</i> )
<b>Wed 31st Dec</b>	9:15am ( <i>Mentone &amp; Black Rock</i> )
<b>Thu 1st Jan</b>	<b><i>Solemnity: Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i></b> 9:15am ( <i>Mentone &amp; Beaumaris</i> )
<b>Fri 2nd Jan</b>	<b><i>Memorial: Sts Basil &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</i></b> 9:15am ( <i>Mentone &amp; Black Rock</i> )
<b>Sat 3rd Jan</b>	9:15am ( <i>Mentone &amp; Beaumaris</i> )

### **Masses on 1st January 2026**

This Thursday 1st January is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Although this is no longer a Holy Day of Obligation in Australia, obviously it remains highly recommended and beneficial to come to Mass and honour Mary on New Year's Day, placing the year ahead under the protection of her prayers. We will have our regular 9:15 am Thursday Masses on that day at St Patrick's and Stella Maris.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Patrick's Mentone:** over the summer holidays there is now a break in Friday Exposition. Exposition will resume at St Patrick's, 6th February 2026.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Stella Maris Beaumaris** continues over the summer holidays every Saturday 9:45-10:15am.

**The PARISH OFFICE, 3 Mitchell St Mentone is closed from Friday 19th December, reopening Monday 5th January 2026.**



Our number **9583 2103** and email [mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au](mailto:mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au) remain regularly monitored.

### **RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION**

**Wednesdays** following 9:15am Mass (*Mentone*),  
**Saturdays** following 9:15am Mass (*Mentone & Beaumaris*) and at 5:15pm (*Mentone*).

### **Parish Sacramental Program 2026**

For Catholic children in our Partnered Parishes attending non-Catholic schools. Appointments can be made to come and register on the following **Sundays**:

**18th January & 8th February, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Centre, 3 Mitchell St Mentone.**

Lessons are for children (from years 3-7) to receive 1st Reconciliation, 1st Holy Communion & Confirmation in 2026, and will commence mid **March 2026**.

Please contact the Parish on 9583 2103 or email [mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au](mailto:mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au)

Staff will contact you to confirm an appointment time.

### **Anniversaries:**

Leslie & Maria Belso, Peter Walsh, David Delac

**We pray for those who are sick:** Fr James Grant, Max Byers, Jim Lacey, Janis Williams, Mirella Townsend, Ching Price, Michael Papworth, Margaret Rose Durston, Alan Laver, Bernadette Chaplin, Peter & Kaye McCall

### **BANKING DETAILS** For direct credit to Parish accounts:

**Presbytery Account:** 083347 6808 76937  
**Mentone-Parkdale - Church Account:** 083347 6815 62913  
**Nazareth Parish (Ricketts Pt) - Church:** 083347 6864 78067

*Our Parishes are committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all persons. A copy of our Child Safety policy is on the noticeboard in our churches and on our website [www.sspjv.org](http://www.sspjv.org)*

### **HYMNS:**

**Mentone 6:00pm Vigil Saturday**

**Parkdale 9:00am Sunday** **Mentone 11:00am Sunday**

**Mentone 5:00pm Sunday**

**Mass Setting:** Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians

**Entrance:** CWB II 269 Once in royal David's city

**Offertory:** *Jesu, meine Freude* (Jesus, my joy) - J.S. Bach

**Communion:** CWB II 256 Away in a manger

**Recessional:** CWB II 255 Angels we have heard on high

### **Black Rock 8:00am Sunday**

**Entrance:** 728 Joy to the World

**Offertory:** 782 Once In Royal David's City

**Communion:** 863 Where There Is Charity and Love

**Recessional:** 622 Angels We Have Heard On High

### **Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday**

**Entrance:** Joy to the World

**Offertory:** Once In Royal David's City

**Communion:** Where There Is Charity and Love

**Recessional:** Angels We Have Heard On High

**Responsorial Psalm:** Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!



23 December 2025

### **Pastoral Letter** **on the Conclusion of the Jubilee Year 2025**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, Peace be with you.

As the Jubilee Year 2025 journeys toward conclusion in our local churches on 28 December, I write to you with gratitude - gratitude to God above all, and gratitude to you, the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, for the way you have received this year of Jubilee with faith, trust, hope and generosity.

From the initiation of this Jubilee, we have been invited by Pope Francis to be Pilgrims of Hope. This invitation has been about recognising that our Christian life itself is a pilgrimage - lived day by day, step by step, often quietly, always together. Across our Archdiocese, many have taken up this invitation through prayer, reconciliation, pilgrimage, service, and renewed participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

I have been especially heartened by the response of our Pilgrim Places - parishes, shrines, and communities who opened their doors and their hearts to welcome pilgrims from across the Archdiocese and beyond. In offering spaces of prayer, reflection, hospitality, and mercy, these communities reminded us that the Church is most fully herself when she is a place of welcome, encounter, and hope. I thank the clergy, religious, parish leaders, volunteers, and all the faithful who made this possible through their generosity and care.

What has marked this Jubilee most clearly for me has been the faithfulness of ordinary people: people who prayed, who welcomed, who listened, who served, and who walked with one another. In these simple but profound acts, the hope that does not disappoint has been made visible - not as an idea, but as a lived reality grounded in Christ.

As we now mark the formal conclusion of the Jubilee Year, we do not bring its spirit to an end. Rather, we are invited to carry it forward. The call to be pilgrims of hope remains with us - in our families, our parishes, our workplaces, and our communities. We are sent forth to continue walking together, attentive to the presence of the Lord who journeys with us, and responsive to the needs of those we meet along the way.

I encourage you to hold fast to the practices that have sustained you during this year: prayer that opens the heart, the sacraments that nourish and heal, and a generosity of spirit that reflects the mercy of God. May the seeds sown during this Jubilee continue to grow, bearing fruit in lives shaped by faith, hope, and love.

23 December 2025

### **Pastoral Letter to our Pilgrim Places**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My prayerful greetings to you all!

On behalf of the entire Archdiocese of Melbourne I write to offer our deepest thanks and gratitude to your community for your generous hospitality, prayerful welcome, and enthusiastic participation as a designated Pilgrim Place during this sacred year of Jubilee.

The Year of Jubilee has been a significant occasion of renewal in our local Church, inviting the faithful from across the Archdiocese to encounter Christ anew through pilgrimage, prayer, and the sacraments. By opening your doors wide to pilgrims who have journeyed from near and far, you have embodied the spirit of Christian hospitality and pilgrimage called for in this Jubilee.

Your commitment as a Pilgrim Place has enriched the Jubilee experience for countless men, women and children across the Archdiocese and beyond. Through your witness of faith and welcome, the mystery of God's love has been made visible and tangible to all who came seeking spiritual nourishment and transformation.

As Pope Francis reminds us, this Jubilee is a time to embrace the hope that does not disappoint, to walk together as pilgrims following Jesus - not as mere tourists, but as disciples on the way to deeper communion with the Lord and with one another.

Please accept our thanks for your hospitality, welcome, prayerful presence, and participation. We pray that your parish/community continues to be a place where all who enter may encounter the merciful love of God, experience renewal in the Holy Spirit, and go forth strengthened in faith.

May God bless you abundantly and may the joy of the Jubilee continue to bear fruit in your community.

With every grace and blessing, Yours sincerely in Christ,  
**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne**

# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - December 28th 2025



14 December 2025

## **Announcement: Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod**

Dear friends in Christ, the faithful of Melbourne...

I write to share with you an important moment in the life of our local Church in Melbourne.

This Jubilee Year of Hope has been a time of great grace for us. Throughout the year, I have been meeting with clergy and lay leaders, listening to them, and discerning with them as to how the Archdiocese of Melbourne might respond to the call to hold an Archdiocesan Synod.

From this time of prayer, grace and reflection, I now wish to share that I have initiated preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026. I have asked Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ to assist me in leading this process, drawing on the Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod 2025–2028, endorsed by Pope Leo XIV. I have also appointed Ms Cathy Jenkins as Synod Program Lead.

Over recent years, the whole Church has been invited into a renewed way of walking together. This way - synodality - is rooted in our baptism and asks each of us, whether lay, religious, or ordained, to listen deeply to the Holy Spirit and to one another. This is to be “the ordinary way in which the Church seeks to live and work in our time.” (International Theological Commission)

Here in Australia, this journey has been unfolding for many years. The Fifth Plenary Council (2021–2022) arose from a nationwide effort of prayerful listening and discernment. We then contributed to the global Synod (2021-2024), which invited us to reflect on how we live communion, foster participation, and carry out Christ's mission in the Church.

I am grateful for the many people across the Archdiocese who took part in these consultations. You have offered insights filled with faith in Christ, love for the Church, and hope for our future. The fruits of Take the Way of the Gospel, the

development of parish formation through the Bethany Way, and the vibrant witness of young people at the recent Australian Catholic Youth Festival likewise continue to shape our discernment.

Three themes will be taken up in the Synod process:

- Young Discipleship
- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation

These three themes have not arisen in isolation. They have emerged consistently and clearly through all the listening, discernment, and consultation undertaken in recent years across the Archdiocese, including the Plenary Council process, the global Synod, and our local pastoral initiatives. Together, they will now form the foundational focus of our Archdiocesan Synod.

They are vital to the missionary endeavours of the people of God in Melbourne because they speak directly to how faith is awakened, how leadership is exercised in service, and how every baptised person is formed and enabled to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church. When these three are alive and flourishing, they bring life, vitality, and vibrancy to the heart of the Gospel as it is lived and proclaimed in our parishes, families, schools, and communities throughout our world.

The first step in our journey toward the Synod will be the establishment of a Synod Commission. Following prayerful discernment and consultation - including with the Council of Priests - I will invite the Commission to help us explore the three foundational themes and prepare us for the journey ahead.

More information about the Archdiocesan Synod process will be shared with you in early 2026. For now, I simply ask for your prayers and your openness to journey together as the Church in Melbourne - across our parishes, apostolates, works and communities....

With every grace and blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**  
**Archbishop of Melbourne**