



## VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

### OUR VISION:

To build a faith community centred on the loving relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, expressed in personal lives and communal parish activities.

### OUR MISSION IS TO:

- Develop relevant and prayerful Eucharistic celebrations
- Foster the experience of a personal relationship with God
- Provide Faith Formation opportunities
- Care for each other particularly the sick, lonely, aged and disabled
- Witness to God's love for our earthly common home and all its creatures that abound

### WE WILL:

- Reach out to those in need
- Be committed to Catholic Social Justice principles
- Pray and work together with Christian Churches and all people of goodwill
- Engage with young people
- Care for our environment towards a sustainable future
- Strengthen bonds with First Nation peoples

## MASS TIMES

### • VICTOR HARBOR

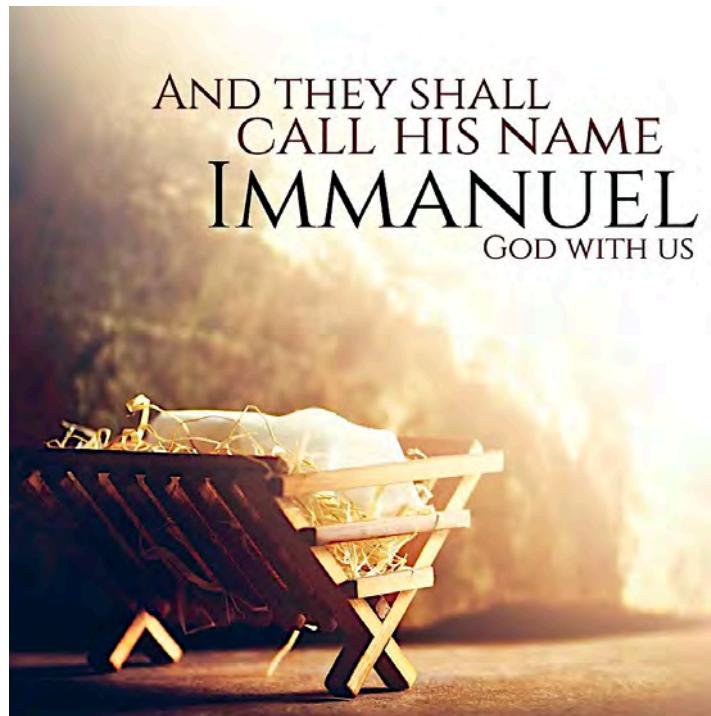
Weekend - Saturday 6.00pm;  
Sunday 11.00am.  
Weekdays - Tuesday, Thursday,  
Friday 9.00am

### • GOOLWA

Weekend - Sunday 9.00am.  
Weekday - Wednesday 9.30am

## RECONCILIATION

St Joan's, Victor Harbor - Saturday  
11am - 11.30am, or by appointment.



## FIRST READING

### *Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### *Ps 23:1-6*

*Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. <R>
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. <R>

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. <R>

## SECOND READING

### *Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

*(Continued page 4)*

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS** (These names will be removed after one month. To keep names on this list please contact Parish Office)

Graham Blacket, Paul Fahey,  
John Tregeagle, Betty Berry,  
Geoff & Rose Munro, Mark Kelly,  
Tommy & Eileen McCoey,  
Mairead & Neil Cummings,  
Mary Ferguson, Pat Mezzino,  
Pat Chigwidden, Robyn Kelly,  
Stephen Chalmers, Lourdes Carle,  
Sandy Lee, Tony Mawdsley,  
Janet Murray, Claire Galpin,  
Rosene Edwards, Shaun Edwards  
Patricia Haynes

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Dan Kennelly, Chris McCarthy,  
Jim Huppatz, Frank Scriva,  
Peter Kennelly, Jim Clingan

#### ANNIVERSARIES – JANUARY

Keith Fawkner, Margaret Ray

#### PARISH COLLECTION 13th & 14th December

1st (Presbytery) \$988.40  
2nd (Parish) \$1086.80

#### VICTOR MORNING TEA 28th December

W. Baker & F. Hanna

#### VICTOR MEET & GREET December Saturdays

M. Tuckey

#### December Sundays

R. Reid & A. Rose

#### GOOLWA MEET & GREET

December

P. Kennelly

#### MORNING TEA

December

A. Turner, R. Lee

#### ST JOHN'S MUSIC GROUP

Practice 3.00pm Wednesday.  
Claire Williams 0429 008 199

#### PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE and

THE

HOLY  
LAND



# Bulletin Board

#### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FATHER VINH

While we are living in this world with many crises may we experience the peace of Christ in our darkness. May the Light of Christ penetrate our hearts. May you have a blessed and holy Christmas. Each of you makes my life easier. Thank you for your Christmas Greetings and gifts to me. Have a wonderful Christmas

#### PEACE CANDLE

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the last week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. *This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolises peace.* It reminds us of the message of the angels: **"Peace on Earth, Good Will to All."**



#### FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

*there will be no middle news section of the Encounter.*

The Encounter Team is taking a month's break! The readings and reflections on pp1 and 4 will still be distributed. We will still send out the Commentator's Sheets and send a copy to Readers and EMCHs as a reminder. But be sure to check your rosters as well.

#### THANK YOU

to all who have contributed items to the Encounter during the year with a special thank you to Paul Kennelly who sends in a news report from Goolwa and the Knights and other Goolwa Church involvement each week. Thanks to all those who do our rosters - getting them to us in good time. Our very special thanks to Gael Maloney from the Willunga Parish who faithfully prepares our cover pages. Thanks so much Gael. Have a blessed Christmas everyone and we will see you again in February 2025!!

*Encounter Team*



#### THANK YOU SO MUCH!

#### - VINYNES HAMPERS

This year with the support of parishioners and other organisations 91 Christmas Hampers were distributed to local families in Goolwa, Pt Elliot and Victor. Thanks to all those who contributed goods and time to make this possible. Thanks to our packers. Special thanks to the Vinnies members themselves and to Rose and Joe, our co-ordinators.

#### VICTORIA HOUSE AND EMMANUEL CENTRE

The practical generosity of St Joan's and St John's will allow residents of Victoria House and Emmanuel Care to share gifts for Christmas.

Thank you all from Margaret Chalmers from St Joan's and Pat Stone and Rose Mulraney (from St John's) for your generosity.

#### ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD NOTICE

**Save the Date: DIALOGUE WEEK February 22-28 2026**



In preparation for the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod, February 22-28 is designated as **Dialogue Week**. During this week people in parishes, schools and communities will have the opportunity to gather, reflect on the themes and recommendations of the Synod, and provide feedback to the Archbishop and Synod members.

See [www.togetherontheway.au](http://www.togetherontheway.au) for more information.

#### COMORO NEWS

- Our raffle of four baskets raised \$427.00.

Winners were: Faye Harris (two baskets), Fran Hanna and Liz Sunman.

- \$20,000 was sent this week to the Agricultural and Elementary School at Fuloro to fund an agricultural protective fence and pig feed, a fruit and vegetable garden expansion, a refectory roof extension and library building restorations.

- Father Gersio, a Timorese priest will be with us from the 6th-12th of January.

# Bulletin Board



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**GOOLWA: 5.00PM**  
 Commentator: D. Huppatz  
 R.1 V. Scriva  
 R.2 R. Lee  
 EMHC T. Siciliano

**VICTOR: 7.00PM**  
 Commentator: P. Clingan  
 R. 1 W. Baker  
 R. 2 A. Fawkner  
 EMHC M. Libutan  
 E. Dabinett, J. Baker

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**GOOLWA: 8.30PM**  
 Commentator: P. Kennelly  
 R.1 E. Bourne  
 R.2 M. O'Halloran  
 EMHC A. Turner, S. Muller,  
 R. Austin

**VICTOR: 10.30AM**  
 Commentator: T. White  
 R. 1 K. Dudley  
 R. 2 T. Hounslow  
 EMHC E. O'Connell,  
 M. Libutan, J. Baker

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**GOOLWA: 6.00PM**  
 Commentator: J. Ryan  
 R.1 P. Kennelly  
 R.2 R. Austin  
 EMHC M. Ryan

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**VICTOR: 10.00AM**  
 Commentator: F. Hanna  
 R. 1 V. Coffey  
 R. 2 W. Baker  
 EMHC M. Libutan

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO WEDNESDAY MORNING MASS AT GOOLWA ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**GOOLWA:** Christmas Eve **5.00pm**  
 Christmas Day **8.30am**

**VICTOR:** Christmas Eve **7.00pm**  
 Christmas Day **10.30am**

## NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

**GOOLWA:** **6.00pm New Year's Eve**  
**VICTOR:** **10.00am New Year's Day**

**THIS WEEK: 20th & 21st December**

### **VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm**

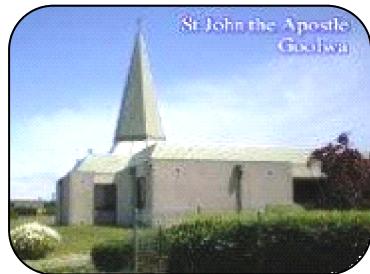
Commentator: T. White  
 R.1 C. Sutherland  
 R.2 M. Mulvihill  
 EMHC E. O'Connell

### **Sunday 11am**

Commentator: F. Hanna  
 R. 1 G. Ryan  
 R. 2 L. Sunman  
 EMHC A. Rose

### **GOOLWA 9am**

Commentator: V. Scriva  
 R1 P. Kennelly  
 R2 A. Cowley  
 EMHC R. Austin



**Catholic Charites Christmas Appeal**  
 A Leaving Collection at Christmas Masses will be taken up for Catholic Charities, which provides much-needed funds to Hutt St Centre, Centacare Catholic Family Services, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Our Lady of La Vang and St Patrick's special schools. These agencies play a significant role in bringing hope to people in need here in South Australia. *Your contribution will make a profound difference in the lives of those who rely on the support of Catholic Charities.*

## KNIGHTS SOUTHERN CROSS DECEMBER REPORT

**MONTHLY BBQ** Another sell out in our December BBQ with a profit of \$82. We look forward to our visitors in January to give us another good morning.

**CHRISTMAS TEA** Members and their spouses enjoyed a lovely night at the Goolwa hotel recently. Good food, good company, and good service. Can't beat it

**DONATIONS** We donated \$100 to South Coast Southern Care to complete our \$400 donation to that organisation. Thanks to the support of St Joans Social Club we were able to also give \$1000 to Vinnies for their Christmas Appeal.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TONY SICILIANO AND ROBERT LEE** on their outstanding service to our order. Both recently received their certificates and I am sure they hold pride in place in their homes. Tony has served us with 30 years of service and Robert 25 years.

**GET WELL SANDY LEE** the wife of member Robert Lee who has been in poor health for so long. Both yourself and Robert are always in our prayers and may God give you both a healthy Christmas.

**ANNIVERSARIES** Phil Burns sixth anniversary and Bill Longworth with his third anniversary in December and January respectively, were truly great servants of our order, serving state and our local branch. Both men received the KSC Bill Keane award for their great service to our parish.

**GOOLWA CHRISTMAS NIGHT.** Thank you to all who have commented on how they enjoyed the night on Dec. 7th. Heartening to see such great support from the Victor people.

**HOLIDAY TIME** The Knights will have a break in December and January. Enquiries Paul 0402 852 825.

**NEXT WEEK: 27th & 28th December**

### **VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm**

Commentator: E. O'Shaughnessy  
 R.1 J. Jeffery  
 R.2 L. Blacket

### **EMHC**

### **Sunday 11am**

Commentator: P. O'Brien  
 R. 1 A. Weygood  
 R. 2 P. Clingan  
 EMHC E. Dabinett

### **GOOLWA 9am**

Commentator: A. Fawkner  
 R1 E. Bourne  
 R2 M. Freeborn  
 EMHC S. Muller



*We light a candle for those killed in the Bondi Massacre, for the wounded, for their families and friends, for the brave men and women who stood up to such violence. We ask Jesus, who comes to us as the Light of the World at Christmas, to shine his light on us all in this painful time.*

## **VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC PARISH**

NGARRINDJERI and  
RAMINDJERI land

### **CATHOLIC PARISH HOUSE**

32 Seaview Road (PO Box 464)  
VICTOR HARBOR SA 5211  
Telephone: 8552 1084 (*Please leave a message if the Office is unattended - we will get back to you asap*)  
Email: [catholicvhg@bigpond.com](mailto:catholicvhg@bigpond.com)  
Web: [www.victorgoolwacatholic.org.au](http://www.victorgoolwacatholic.org.au)

### **PARISH TEAM CONTACTS**

- **PARISH PRIEST**  
Fr Vinh-Quang Tran (8552 1084;  
in an emergency - 0429 098 802)  
Email: [Vinh2511@bigpond.com](mailto:Vinh2511@bigpond.com)
- **PARISH MANAGER**  
Mrs Pat Clingan (0410 593 617)  
(Monday & Thursday: 10am - 12 noon)  
Email: [Parish\\_manager@bigpond.com](mailto:Parish_manager@bigpond.com)
- **PARISH ENCOUNTER**  
Please forward items for the  
newsletter to the Parish Office -  
8552 1084, [catholicvhg@bigpond.com](mailto:catholicvhg@bigpond.com)  
(*All items for the newsletter by  
Wednesday evening*)
- **PARISH TREASURER**  
Mr Merv Mallett (0412 103 443)  
Email: [parish\\_treasure@bigpond.com](mailto:parish_treasure@bigpond.com)
- **INTEGRITY & SAFEGUARDING**  
We are a safeguarding Organisation  
which is committed to the care, well-  
being and protection of children, young  
people and adults at risk.
  - Andy Nicholls  
(VH/G contact - 0475 893 521 or  
[andrewnicholls6@gmail.com](mailto:andrewnicholls6@gmail.com)
  - Integrity and Safeguarding Dept  
(8210 8150 - select Option 2)
  - CSHW SA (Work, Health and  
Safety) please contact Jim Dabinett  
(0460 033 529)



*(Continued from page 1)*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Mt 1:23**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The virgin will give birth to a son; his  
name will be Emmanuel"  
God-is-with-us. Alleluia!*

### **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 1:18-24**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

### **GOD IS WITH US**

All four candles on the Advent wreath are brightly shining. The anticipation for Christmas is growing more intense. As the shopping centres get busier, the parties become more frequent, and the carols are sung louder and louder, how do we stay grounded in the quiet waiting of this season?

One way to stay centred in the spirit of Advent is to reflect on a single word: Emmanuel, which literally means "God with us". In one night, in one small child, in a humble stable, God came among all people in the most intimate way possible – as one of us. God, right here in our midst!

Emmanuel in our joy.

Emmanuel in our suffering.

Emmanuel in our celebration.

Emmanuel in our loneliness.

Emmanuel in our song.

Emmanuel in our silence.

Emmanuel in our work and school.

Emmanuel in our home.

God is with us in everything and through everything!

In these final days of Advent, it can be very difficult to keep a sense of quiet and prayer with so much seasonal activity going on. Think about all the ways God is truly with you this week. Think about the ways you can make God's presence known to those around you. Think about the ways you can keep the spirit of Advent alive even as everything around you speaks of Christmas.

What puts me at arm's length from God? What keeps me from seeing and touching the goodness of God each day? What final preparations do I need to make within myself for the coming of Christmas? What can I do this week to let others know that God is with them?

*GPBS eNews*

### **THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

*(22 - 28 December)*

- **Monday, 22:** Mon 4<sup>th</sup> week, Advent (1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56)
- **Tuesday, 23:** Tue 4<sup>th</sup> week, Advent (Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66)
- **Wednesday, 24:** The NATIVITY of the LORD (**Christmas Eve** - Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25); (**Midnight** - Isaiah 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14)
- **Thursday, 25:** The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas Day - Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18)
- **Friday, 26:** St Stephen (Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22)
- **Saturday, 27:** St John (1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8)
- **Sunday 28:** The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23)

### **PASTORAL CARE**

If you need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8552 1084 or in an emergency 0429 098 802.