



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

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

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A - 14th December 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)

*The Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday – ‘Rejoice’ Sunday – takes its name from the first word of today’s Entrance Antiphon: ‘Gaudete in Domino semper’ (‘Rejoice in the Lord always’), which in turn comes from St Paul’s Letter to the Philippians (4:4). Rose vestments may be worn, and the tone of our readings switches to joy and anticipation at the closeness of the Lord’s coming at Christmas.*



## CHRISTMAS 2025



### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES 24th December

6:00pm	Stella Maris, Beaumaris (Carols from 5:45pm)
6:00pm	St Patrick's, Mentone
8:00pm	St John Vianney's, Parkdale (Carols from 7:30pm)
8:30pm	St Joseph's, Black Rock (Carols from 8:15pm)
12:00 Midnight	St Patrick's, Mentone (Carols from 11:15pm)

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES 25th December

10:00am	St Patrick's, Mentone
10:30am	Stella Maris, Beaumaris (Carols from 10:15am)

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Wed 17th Dec	9:45am St Patrick's, Mentone
Thu 18th Dec	9:45am St Patrick's, Mentone
	7:00pm St Patrick's, Mentone
Fri 19th Dec	9:45am St Patrick's, Mentone
	7:00pm St Patrick's, Mentone
Sat 20th Dec	9:45am St Patrick's, Mentone
	9:45am Stella Maris, Beaumaris
	5:15pm St Patrick's, Mentone
Sun 21st Dec	9am (after 8am Mass) St Joseph's, Black Rock 10am (after 9am Mass) St John Vianney's, Parkdale



School-aged children are invited to join us for singing at the 6:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Mentone.

Rehearsal in the church Wednesday 24th December.

Register your interest by contacting the Parish Office:  
(P) 9583 2103, (E) [mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au](mailto:mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au)  
by this Tuesday, December 16th.

### St Joseph's Church, Black Rock, 8.00am Mass – Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion 2026

We invite parishioners who may be interested to become a Reader or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for the 8.00am Sunday Mass at St Joseph's Church, Black Rock, to please contact the Parish office on 9583 2103 as a new roster for the first half of 2026 is being prepared. Thank you.

### ST PATRICK'S SACRISTY WORKING BEE

Please see the Sacristan following the 9:15am Mass on Tuesday 16th December to prepare St Patrick's Church for Christmas.

**Thank you to all who helped organise  
our Christmas hampers at Nazareth,  
and all who generously donated!**

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)

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon 15th Dec	11:00am (Mentone)
Tue 16th Dec	9:15am (Mentone)
Wed 17th Dec	9:15am (Mentone & Black Rock)
Thu 18th Dec	9:15am (Mentone & Beaumaris)
Fri 19th Dec	9:15am (Mentone & Black Rock)
Sat 20th Dec	9:15am (Mentone & Beaumaris)

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
at **St Patrick's Mentone**  
every Friday following 9:15am Mass  
until 4:30pm **Benediction.**  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
at **Stella Maris Beaumaris**  
every Saturday 9:45-10:15am.

## RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION

**Wednesdays** following 9:15am Mass (**Mentone**),  
**Saturdays** following 9:15am Mass  
(**Mentone & Beaumaris**) and at 5:15pm (**Mentone**).  
**EXTRA TIMES FOR ADVENT—SEE P. 1**

## Recently Deceased:

Foster Heatley

## Anniversaries:

Sebastian D'Imperio, Libby Poppleton

## We pray for those who are sick:

Fr James Grant, Max Byers, Jim Lacey, Janis Williams, Ching Price, John Nicholson, Mirella Townsend, Michael Papworth, Margaret Rose Durston, Alan Laver, Bernadette Chaplin, Peter & Kaye McCall

### St Patrick's Mentone Piety Stall

Open after Sunday 11:00am Mass, now selling a delightful range of Christmas cards and gifts.

### **2026 Columban Calendars NOW available.**

A limited number of calendars also available at **St John Vianney's Parkdale**.

### St Vincent de Paul - Parkdale Conference Christmas Giving Tree



The Giving Tree is in the foyer at **SJV Parkdale**. Please peg a gift card from any store, for any amount, to the tree for distribution to needy families this Christmas.

## BANKING DETAILS

For direct credit to Parish accounts-

**Presbytery** account: 083347 6808 76937  
**Mentone-Parkdale - Church** account: 083347 6815 62913  
**Nazareth Parish - Church** account: 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)*

## ROSTERS 20/21 December 2025

### St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	Commentator/Reader Extraordinary Minister	P Mount J Mount
11:00am	Commentator/Reader Extraordinary Minister	R Smith S Mathias
5:00pm	Commentator/Reader Extraordinary Minister	L Brick C Giosis

### St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	Reader Commentator Extraordinary Minister	J Brick R Papworth J Short
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### St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	Reader Commentator Extraordinary Minister Extraordinary Minister to the Sick Pilgrim Statue	M Webster C Beck B John B Fitchet D & B Atherton
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### Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	Reader Commentator Extraordinary Minister	M Droege M Link F Winkelmann
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### Readings next week: 4th Sunday of Advent - Year A

Isaiah: 7: 10-14

Romans: 1: 1-7

Matthew: 1: 18-24

## Parish Sacramental Program 2026

For Catholic children in our partnered parishes  
attending non-Catholic schools.

Registrations can be made on the following **Sundays**:

**14th December, 18th January & 8th February,**  
from 10:30am - 12:30 pm  
in the **Parish Centre**, 3 Mitchell St Mentone.

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

For details, ring the Parish office 9583 2103  
or email [mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au](mailto:mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au)



The Christmas artwork displayed in the Church narthex of St Patrick's Mentone has been lovingly created by students from a range of year levels at St Patrick's school. Parishioners are invited to take a piece home as a gift and a reminder of the joy of Christmas.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK – 11 December – St Damasus I, Pope

Of Spanish descent, Pope St Damasus I was born in Rome about 305. He became church archivist and preserved records of the still-recent persecutions. (Emperor Constantine the Great had declared legal toleration for Christianity in the Edict of Milan in 313, after two-and-a-half centuries of Imperial Roman persecution.) Elected pope in 366, Damasus was devoted to promoting the veneration of the martyrs.

It was under Pope Damasus that in 380, Roman Emperor Theodosius, with his co-emperors, moved beyond simple toleration and declared the Catholic Church to be the recognised state religion of the Roman Empire, acknowledging Pope Damasus as its primary voice:

‘...that religion which was delivered to the Romans by the divine Apostle Peter, as it has been preserved by faithful tradition, and which is now professed by the Pontiff Damasus and by Peter, Bishop of Alexandria... We authorise the followers of this law to assume the title of Catholic Christians.’ (*The first known use of the expression ‘the Catholic Church’ is in a letter of St Ignatius of Antioch from about AD 110.*)

Thus was completed the full reversal of the Empire, from having once crucified Christ and martyred his followers, to now being itself officially committed to his worship.

Pope Damasus presided at the Council of Rome (382) that decreed the correct list of books in Scripture (the Canon of Scripture) – the same list as would be defined infallibly by the Ecumenical Council of Trent in 1546.

When St Jerome, the great biblical scholar among the saints, was, as a young priest, secretary to Damasus from 382 to 384, the Pope entrusted him with revising existing Latin translations of the Gospels. (This went on to become Jerome’s virtually complete translation of the Bible into Latin, the Vulgate, completed in 405, and still the standard Latin translation in the Catholic Church.)

St Jerome wrote to Pope Damasus: ‘As I follow no leader save Christ, so I communicate with none but your blessedness, that is with the chair of Peter. For this, I know, is the rock on which the Church is built! ...This is the ark of Noah, and he who is not found in it shall perish when the flood prevails.’

Pope St Damasus died on 11 December 384.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK – 14 December – St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

St John of the Cross (Juan de Yepes y Álvarez) was born on 24 June 1542 at Fontiveros, near Avila in Spain, to a family descended from Jewish converts to Catholicism. He entered the Carmelite Order in 1563, and was ordained priest in 1567.

Later that year he met the Carmelite nun St Teresa of Avila (1515-82), who persuaded him to collaborate with her in reforming the Carmelites. In 1568, he took on as his religious name, ‘of the Cross’, and established the first reformed monastery for Carmelite friars at Duruelo. Further foundations followed. From 1572 he was five years in Avila, where he was spiritual director for many, including St Teresa and her convent of 130 nuns.

Resistance from some Carmelite friars to the reform movement led to increasing tensions, and in 1577, opponents captured John and imprisoned him in a monastery in Toledo in harsh conditions, accusing him of disobedience. Here he wrote his poem, *The Spiritual Canticle*. John escaped from captivity in August 1578.

In 1580, Pope Gregory XIII authorised the separation of the old Carmelites and the reformed ‘discalced’ Carmelites, easing the tensions. St John continued to

establish new reformed monasteries and make visitations to them.

From 1578, he wrote deeply about the spiritual life and mystical union with God, producing four masterpieces at the pinnacle of mystical theology: *The Spiritual Canticle*, *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *The Dark Night of the Soul*, and *The Living Flame of Love*. (His ‘dark night of the soul’ has now become a well-known phrase; St John’s meaning is not just any suffering or spiritual dryness, but a rare stage of advanced spiritual purification in which God prepares a soul for total union with him.)

St John of the Cross died at Ubeda in Andalusia on 14 December 1591, aged 49. Nine months later his body was found to be perfectly incorrupt and fragrant - a reality inexplicable by natural laws, but found with a substantial number of saints, and which can last for centuries: a sign of the resurrection to come. At its latest examination in 1955, St John’s body, though slightly discoloured, was still incorrupt, perfectly moist and flexible. (Cruz, *The Incorruptibles*, pp. 199-201)

John was beatified by Pope Clement X in 1675 and canonised by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726. In 1926, Pope Pius XI declared him a Doctor of the Church.

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A - 14th December 2025

## HYMNS:

Mentone 6:00pm Vigil Saturday

Parkdale 9:00am Sunday

Mentone 5:00pm Sunday

**Mass Setting:** Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin

**Entrance:** 249 When the King Shall Come Again

**Offertory:** Prelude for organ: *In dulci jubilo* - M Dupre

**Communion:** 247 The Angel Gabriel (vv. 1-4)

**Recessional:** 242 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1,6,7)

Mentone 11:00am Sunday Choral Mass

**Mass Setting:** Missa Emmanuel - R. Proulx

**Entrance:** Antiphon: *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* -  
Anonymous (16th century)

**Offertory:** Motet: *Angelus ad virginem* - 14th century  
anon. arr D. Willcocks

**Communion:** Motet: *Confortamini et jam nolite-*  
(Courage! Do not be afraid) - O. de Lasso  
247 The Angel Gabriel (vv 1-4)

**Recessional:** 242 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv.1,6,7)

**Postlude:** *Finale Toccata* from *Advent Suite* - P. Yon

## Black Rock 8:00am Sunday

**Entrance:** 794 Prepare the Way

**Offertory:** 394 Lord, You Are Good and Forgiving

**Communion:** 623 Be Consoled, My people

**Recessional:** 816 The Coming of Our Lord

## Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday

**Entrance:** Prepare the Way

**Offertory:** Be Consoled, My people

**Communion:** Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

**Recessional:** The Coming of Our Lord



**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, come and save us.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring the Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Memorial Acclamation:** Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



## St Patrick's Young Catholics Christmas Gathering TODAY, Sunday 14th December



Open to young adults 18 & over. **6:00-8:30pm**, following 5:00pm Mass at St Patrick's Mentone, in the **Parish Centre**, behind the church, entrance 3 Mitchell St Mentone. Enquiries: [stpatrickycg@gmail.com](mailto:stpatrickycg@gmail.com)

### Catechism of the Catholic Church — John, precursor, prophet, and baptist

523 St. John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way. "Prophet of the Most High", John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being "the friend of the bridegroom", whom he points out as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Going before Jesus "in the spirit and power of Elijah", John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

717 "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." John was "filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" by Christ himself, whom the Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary's visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people.

718 John is "Elijah [who] must come." The fire of the Spirit dwells in him and makes him the forerunner of the coming Lord. In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit

completes the work of "[making] ready a people prepared for the Lord."

719 John the Baptist is "more than a prophet." In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the "voice" of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John "came to bear witness to the light." In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfils the longing of the angels. "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God...Behold, the Lamb of God."

720 Finally, with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of "the divine likeness," prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John's baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth.