HOLY TRINITY PARISH QUEENSCLIFF

HOLY TRINITY PARISH INCORPORATING THE MASS CENTRES AND COMMUNITIES OF

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
101 Hitchcock Av
Barwon Heads

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
68 John Dory Drive
Ocean Grove

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, QUEENSCLIFF
A PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE FOR JUBILEE YEAR 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A | **Sunday 21st December 2025**

PARISH TEAM

Fr Linh Pham PP
Mrs Daniella Sutera
Parish Secretary
Sr Nola Morrissy RSM
Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY

34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225
Telephone: (03) 5258 1673
Email: queenscliff@cam.org.au
Website: https://holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday from 10:00am to 1:00pm
(*closed public holidays)*

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil:	5:00pm — BARWON HEADS
Sunday:	9:00am — OCEAN GROVE
Sunday :	11:00am — QUEENSCLIFF

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tuesday:	9:15am — Ocean Grove
Wednesday:	9:15am — Queenscliff
Thursday:	9:15am — Ocean Grove
Friday:	9:15am — Queenscliff
Please see:	*Liturgy in our Parish This Week for others events and activities*

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is available prior to each weekend Mass,
and before or after weekday Masses if needed.

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St. Aloysius, Queenscliff
Principal: Ms. Miriam Leahy, Tel: 5258 1736

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
Principal: Ms. Kerryn Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

Dear Friends,

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we are invited once again to reflect on God's promise to remain close to us. Today's readings remind us of a God who enters human history, offering hope in moments of uncertainty and light in the midst of fear.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah addresses King Ahaz with words of reassurance, presenting a powerful sign from God: a virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be named Immanuel, meaning "God is with us." This promise of God's nearness is echoed in the second reading, where Saint Paul proclaims that God's saving plan has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The Gospel brings this promise to life through the story of Mary and Joseph. Confronted with confusion and fear upon learning of Mary's pregnancy, Joseph listens to the angel who appears to him in a dream. Trusting in God's word, he responds with faith. His faithfulness allows God's plan to unfold, preparing the way for the birth of Jesus, the true Immanuel, who dwells among us, bringing hope, peace, and salvation.

In this same spirit of trust and openness to God's guidance, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli announced last Sunday, 14 December 2025, that preparations have begun for a Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod to be held in 2026.

In his letter to clergy and the faithful, Archbishop A. Comensoli reflects on the grace of this Jubilee Year and the many opportunities for listening and discernment it has provided. He notes that synodality, a renewed way of walking together as Church, is rooted in our baptism and calls each of us, whether lay, religious, or ordained, to listen deeply to God's Spirit at work among us. The Archbishop invites all the faithful to journey together as the People of God, listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another, so that the Church in Melbourne may continue to grow in faith, service, and mission.

The upcoming Synod will be guided by three key themes: *Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation and Participation*. These themes have emerged through extensive listening and consultation across the Archdiocese, including the Plenary Council process, the global Synod, and local pastoral initiatives.

Further details about the Synod will be shared in early 2026. In the meantime, the Archbishop invites all of us to pray, remain open, and journey together in hope as the Church in Melbourne. *(A printed copy of the Archbishop's letter is available for pickup in the foyer).*

Fr Linh

We acknowledge the Wathaurong people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which our three churches stand

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 my 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. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) ***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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

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JUBILEE AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

During Jubilee Year Holy Trinity Church, Queenscliff, will be open for private/group prayer during the week: **Tuesdays to Fridays and Sundays from 9am to 3pm**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow 9:15amMass until 11:00am on Wednesdays and Fridays.

PRAYERS OF INTENTION

Recently Deceased: Fern Gallagher and Antoinette Gatt.

Anniversaries 21st December to 27th December:
Patricia Ellen Kane and Rita Tennant.

Please pray for those who are Sick:
Sr Helen Barnes, Naomi Bianco, Frances Blaine, Denise Blake, Mary Blonk, Peter Bourke, Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Sue Casey, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Nell Fraigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Mary Gladwin, Martin & Mary Grundy, Justin Hanan, Stephen Hanan, Peter Harrington, Jeanette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Melissa Keogh, Hilda Koerntjes, Margaret Leahy, Margaret Lomas, Michelle Mahoney, Belinda Monterosso, Caryn Murphy, Helen Pearce, Mavourneen Ray, Geraldine Richards, Betty Rushton, Salvatore & Santa Sutera, Kevin Teasdale, Richard Vaughan, Deanne Warren and Cathy Williams.

ROSTERS

OCEAN GROVE: Sunday 28th December at 9:00am:
(C) Janine Fitzpatrick (L) Lachlan Fitzpatrick (SM) Jenny Cole, Carmel Rice (W) Jo Ballard, Marg Lucas.

QUEENSCLIFF: Sunday 28th December at 11:00am:
(C) Terry Philp (L) Shirley Hurley (SM) Angela Hatch (W) Welcomer Required.

COUNTERS: Tuesday 23rd December at 10:00am:
Sam & Maria Sammut.

LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Tuesday 23rd December
9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
11:00am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Sea View Manor, Ocean Grove

Wednesday 24th December
No morning Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff
4:00pm Mass at Holy Family, Barwon Heads
6:00pm Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove (with Carols before 6pm)
8:00pm Mass at Holy Trinity , Queenscliff

Thursday 25th December
9:00am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
11:00am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Friday 26th December
9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Saturday 27th December
5:00pm Vigil Mass at Holy Family, Barwon Heads

Sunday 28th December
9:00am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
11:00am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE DURING CHRISTMAS – JANUARY 2026

The Parish Office will be closed from 12:00 pm, Wednesday 24 December 2025, until 6 January 2026. Daniella will be on annual leave until 20 January 2026.
During this time, the office will be open Tuesday to Friday, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Parish phone line will be monitored daily, and if you leave a message, we will return your call as soon as possible.
You are always welcome to contact us at 5258 1673 or via email at queenscliff@cam.org.au.
In case of an emergency, please call 0450 885 537.
We look forward to welcoming you back when normal office hours resume from 20 January 2026, and we wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas season.

SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

We sincerely thank all who regularly support our parish each week. If you are visiting today, we are grateful for your support. There will be the usual two collections during Mass:

The first collection is for Parish Expenses and Administration. Donations for first collection can be made via EFT:

Queenscliff Holy Trinity Parish Church Account
BSB: 083-347
Acct No.: 530 502 075

The second collection is for support of the Parish Priest, Retired and Sick Priests. Donations for second collection can be made via EFT:

Holy Trinity Parish Presbytery Account
BSB: 083-347
Acct No.: 931 706 909

Additionally, a Tap & Go terminal is available in the church foyer for your convenience.

The parish deeply appreciates your generosity and support.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

The Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the church and may be placed in either collection during Mass. These offerings provide essential support for the parish priest, as well as for sick and retired priests in Melbourne. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2026

Available at each church (foyer). Cost is $11.00 each.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Trinity Aid for Refugees (TAR) invites those who can, to donate a supermarket voucher and place it in the box by the Christmas tree. These will be passed on to the Wesley Asylum Seeker Welcome Place and distributed to refugee families in Geelong, helping them to put food on their tables.

REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

REFLECTION

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Wherever there is a human being,
there is an opportunity for a kindness.
- Seneca

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Visit our website for all information:
www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Visit our website for all information:
www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program-1/

COLUMBARIUM

Visit our website for all information:
www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

The RCIA journey is an opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith, ask questions, and grow in relationship with God within a supportive parish community. If you or someone you know is searching for deeper meaning in life, or is interested in becoming Catholic, you are warmly encouraged contact the parish office via 5258 673 or queenscliff@cam.org.au.

Ocean Eyes
OPTOMETRISTS

Anthony & Letitia Dowling with the friendly team you know and trust.

2 Park Lane, Ocean Grove VIC 3226
Phone: 5255 5655 - Email: info@oceaneyes.com.au
Visit: www.oceaneyes.com.au

Phone: 03 5221 7411 | **Email:** bellarine@npts.com.au

CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO

General maintenance, handyman, gardening, and cleaning. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas.
Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170
or email charlie.sutera76@gmail.com.

BULLETIN NOTICES

If a loved one has recently died or if you would like a deceased loved one prayed for as their anniversary is occurring, please contact the parish office on 5258 1673 or queenscliff@cam.org.au by 1:00pm on Thursdays to have your loved one(s) remembered in the weekly