

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction & Warburton



Third Sunday of Advent

15 December 2019

Readings

Next Week

Is 7:10-14
Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

in a nutshell

The blind see again. Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus. Many wondered; 'Are you the one who is to come?' Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth this Christmas by being the good news to the poor.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend especially, Kaye Williams, Charlie Booth, John Pas, Des Hillas.

For those who have died recently and whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

Vinnies Christmas hamper appeal this weekend.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Psalm Response

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours
Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Warburton: Saturday—7:00pm
Yarra Junction: Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday 7:00pm-7:45pm
Thursdays at Yarra Junction
First Thursday at Warburton

Exposition

6:00pm
Thursdays at Yarra Junction
First Thursday at Warburton

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Nick Boyhan
Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Web: www.sacredheartuyv.org.au

Email: moutevelyn@cam.org.au

Ministers Roster

December 14/15

Sacred Heart Saturday 7:00pm

Lector	R Mathews
Extraordinary ministers	P Bullard, M Fahey
Cuppa	Maureen

St Thomas Á Becket Sunday 8:30am

Lector	A O'Shaughnessy
Extraordinary ministers	M Schachter, T Fitzgerald
Gifts	C Morse
Welcome	Trish
Morning tea	Rod & Family

December 21/22

Sacred Heart Saturday 7:00pm

Lector	R Mathews
Extraordinary ministers	A Fairbanks, M Fahey
Cuppa	

St Thomas Á Becket Sunday 8:30am

Lector	K Desai
Extraordinary ministers	C Lord, P O'Shaughnessy
Gifts	T Fitzpatrick
Welcome	Volunteer
Morning tea	Pauline & Nancy

Church Cleaning and Flowers

Warburton-flowers	Volunteer
Warburton-Cleaning	A Fairbanks
Yarra Junction	Sue & Kris

December Mowing: Mick Eldridge

Bulletin notices by midday Thursday please
mountevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit,
<http://www.cam.org.au/Jobs.aspx>

Parish Notices

Christmas Supper—14 December

All parishioners are invited to stay after 7:00pm Mass at Warburton on Saturday 14 December for a Christmas Supper.

SVDP Christmas Hamper Appeal—14/15 December

Christmas is upon us once more and we need your kind support to help families, especially those with children, in our community with Christmas Hampers. Monetary donations will be collected on the 15th Dec. Your generosity will be appreciated as we buy most of the items for the hampers.

Christmas & New Year's Day Mass Times

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm Yarra Junction

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

New Year's Day—11:30am Yarra Junction

The Eucharist

Poverty: Jesus becomes poor in the Blessed Sacrament, “emptying Himself” of His glory and majesty, that He may make you rich with the abundance of His grace... Pope Saint Pius X

Adoration, Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration. Friday mornings 8:00am except second Friday of the month (Mount Evelyn).

Thanksgiving Envelopes—Have you picked them up?

Please pick up the next set of envelopes which are now available. They are in alphabetical order. It is the money put in these envelopes that goes towards paying the bills. This is the Parishes only income. You may like to consider joining the program if you are not already receiving envelopes. Call the office on a Thursday and speak to Janine or send through an email with your request.

Stewardship Corner

“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (James 5:8)

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Faith Night is back with The Eucharist in Scripture—begins this week

For Advent, we will have three nights of reflection and discussion of the Mass and the Eucharist. They will take place on the three Wednesdays of Advent from 7.30pm to 9pm on 4, 11, 18 December. The Faith Night will be in the Parish Community Room (portable next to the presbytery at Mount Evelyn)

Pro-Life News

Payer for Life—Feast of the Holy Innocents Saturday 28 December. The Jericho Prayer and Prayer at the Memorial Gardens for Lost Infants, see the notice board for more information or pick up a leaflet.

NOTE: On Code Red Days, the Church will remain locked

There will be no liturgy celebrated on Code Red days.

What does Code Red mean?

These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.

What should I do?

Leaving high risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option - do not wait and see. Avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass. Know your trigger - make a decision about:

1. when you will leave
2. where you will go
3. how you will get there
4. when you will return
5. what will you do if you cannot leave

For more information, visit the CFA website:

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare>

The Journey Catholic Radio Program – Airs 22 December

We have an amazing lineup of inspiration for you before Christmas this week! We hear an amazing reflection from the Gospel from Fr Chris Pietraszko. Go to WWW.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free. If you love the show, let your local radio station know that you'd like to hear it broadcast locally each week.

Australian Nativity Scene

Until Friday 10 January St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Baker Rd, Dandenong North

Wilson Fernandez has been creating the Australian Nativity Scene (ANS) for sixteen years. This intricate display is now regarded as one of Australia's best nativity scenes. Wilson creates the village and township of Christ's birth with handmade huts, stables, buildings, bridges, palaces, houses and temples surrounded by mountains, rocks, lakes and rivers to convey the story of Christmas. It features scenes like Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay and finding only a stable free, the birth of Jesus, visits from the shepherds, the three kings and ends with the holy family fleeing to Egypt. This event is free and open to everyone. Children are to be accompanied by a guardian. Melway 81A8.

Viewing time: After Mass and any other time by appointments only. Bookings: Wilson Fernandez, 0428 927 110 or 9795 6217 Further information:

<http://www.australiannativityscene.org/>,

<http://www.facebook.com/AustralianNativityScene>

Readings Reflection

[Here is Your God](#)

John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing "the works of the Messiah," foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2).

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

Joy exists because God exists and is with us!

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Parish of Santa Maria della Grazie,

We have heard Isaiah's prophesy, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted ... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Is 61:1–2). These words spoken so many centuries ago, ring out, in a very up-to-date way for us too, today, while we are halfway through Advent and already look forward to the great Solemnity of Christmas. These are words that revive hope, that prepare us to welcome the Lord's salvation and announce the inauguration of a season of grace and liberation.

Advent is precisely a time of waiting, of hope and of preparation for the Lord's coming. The figure and preaching of John the Baptist invite us to make this commitment, as we heard in the Gospel that has just been proclaimed (cf. Jn 1:6–8, 19–28). John had withdrawn into the wilderness to live a very austere life and to invite people to conversion, also by the example of his life. He conferred on them a baptism of water, a single rite of penance which distinguished it from the many rites of external purification of the sects of that time.

So who was this man? Who was John the Baptist? The response he himself gave is surprisingly humble. He was not the Messiah, he was not the light. He was neither Elijah come back to the earth nor the great prophet awaited. He was the Forerunner, a simple witness, totally subordinate to the One he proclaimed; a voice in the wilderness, as in our day too, in the wilderness of the great cities of this world, of the great absence of God, we need voices that simply announce to us "God exists. He is always near, even if he seems absent".

John the Baptist was a voice in the wilderness and a witness to the light; and this moves our hearts, for in this world where there are so many shadows, so much darkness, we are all called to be witnesses of light. This is the mission of the Season of Advent itself: to be witnesses of light, and we can only be this if we carry the light within us, if we are not only certain that the light exists, but also that we have seen a ray of light.

In the Church, in God's word, in the celebration of the sacraments, in the Sacrament of Confession with the forgiveness that we receive, in the celebration of the Blessed Eucharist where the Lord gives himself into our hands and hearts, we touch the light and receive this mission: to bear witness today that there is light, and to carry the light in our time.

Dear brothers and sisters, I am very glad to be with you on this beautiful, "Gaudete" Sunday, the Sunday of joy that tells us that "even in the midst of so many doubts and difficulties, joy exists because God exists and is with us!"...

"Brethren.... Rejoice always" (1 Thes 5:16). This invitation to joy which St Paul addressed to the Christians of Thessalonica in that time, also characterizes this Sunday, commonly known as "Gaudete" Sunday. It resonates from the very first words of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is at hand"; St Paul, in prison, wrote these words to the Christians of Philippi (cf. Phil 4:4–5) and also addresses them to us.

Yes, we are glad because the Lord is near us and in a few days, on Christmas night, we shall be celebrating the mystery of his birth. Mary, who was the first to hear the Angel's invitation: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" (Lk 1:28), points out to us the way to reach true joy, which comes from God. St Mary of Grace, Mother of Divine Love, pray for us all. Amen!

From a pastoral visit by Pope Benedict XVI