



**Brighton Catholic Parishes Newsletter**  
**St James The Great**  
**&**  
**St Joan of Arc**



Second Sunday of Advent. Year B

10 December, 2017

***Services***

**Sunday Mass**

Sat 6.00pm & Sun 9am  
at St James Church

Sun 11am & 5.30pm at  
St Joan of Arc Church.

**Weekday Masses**

Tues at 7.30pm &  
\*Thur 9.15am at  
St James.

Wed & Fri at 9.15am at  
St Joan of Arc.

\*First Thursday of the  
month at noon, chapel at  
Cabrini Hospital, Btn.

**Weddings  
& Baptisms**

By appointment.

***Parish Groups***

**Card Players:**

First Thursday of the  
month in the St Joan of  
Arc presbytery meeting  
room from 11.30am.

**Meditation:**

Mon 10am- presbytery  
at St Joan of Arc

**Prayer Group:**

Thursday at 8pm St Joan  
of Arc Church

***Reflection***

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.'

Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us. We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent.

*Richard Leonard S J*



***Remember In Our Prayers***

**Wedding:** Roseline Selvarajah to Cameron Grant.

**Illness:** Lucio Cocceani, William Cavanagh, Kathy Chatham, Maureen Fahey, Andrew Florenti, Anna Hall, Leanne Ickeringill, Jo Kenny, Ariel Low, John Marich, Carmel Negline, Beth Pilcher, Elvira Rios, Patricia Roberts, Tracey Rowley, Catherine Ryan, Rosa Santos, Edward Shelley, Ante Skoblar, Tom van Kampen, John Wilczek & Melanie Young.

**Recently Deceased:** Frank Dixon & Warren Fisher

**Anniversaries:** Peter McPherson Carr, Margaret & Jack Kyne, John Sullivan.

***Parish Contacts***

**Parish Priest:** Fr Martin Dixon

**Sacramental Co-ordinator:** Carole Cheng      **Pastoral Care:** Eileen Marchmont

**Organist:** Mary Taylor      **Cantors:** Adam Kaczanowski & Marie-France Urruty

**St James**

**Address:** 73 North Rd. Brighton. 3186  
**Tel:** 9596 1334      **Fax:** 9596 8492  
**Email:** parishoffice@stjamesbrighton.org.au  
**Web:** www.stjamesbrighton.org.au  
**Parish Secretary:** Robyn Hirt  
**Parish Office Hours:** Tue-Thur  
 9.15am-3pm. Entrance in Murphy St  
**School Principal:** Brendan Flanagan  
**School Tel:** 9596 4766

**St Joan of Arc**

**Address:** 118 New St, Brighton. 3186  
**Tel:** 9593 1703      **Fax:** 9593 3155  
**Email:** Brighton@cam.org.au  
**Web:** www.cam.org.au/brighton  
**Parish Secretary:** Elaine Bolitho  
**Parish Accountant:** Marina Stevenson  
**Parish Office Hours:** Tue-Fri:  
 9.30am-3.30pm.  
**School Principal:** Tony McMahan  
**School Tel:** 9592 3840

# Welcome to the Brighton Parishes

## Services This Week

Thank you to Fr Paul Castley MSC who will celebrate the 11am Mass for us this Sunday.

Please remember in your prayers :

- ◆ Warren Fisher who passed away during the week. Funeral Mass at 10.30am on Monday at St Joan of Arc
- ◆ Frank Dixon, Fr Martin's brother who passed away in Ballarat.



### Christmas Bowl Appeal Collectors Needed Please!

Help us to bring hope and healing to the world this Christmas by volunteering to collect for the Christmas Bowl this Friday 15 December.

Members of the Brighton Covenant of Churches will be collecting all week.

Volunteer to collect outside Woolworths Brighton in the morning for St Joan of Arc or for St James in the afternoon. Sign-up sheets in the church.

### Advent Christmas prayers with Holy Icons

Parishioners are invited to join the St James Prayer & Liturgy group for 20 minutes of quiet prayer with candlelit Icons for the four weeks of Advent each Saturday before the 6pm Mass in the popup church: 16th and 23rd Dec.

**Venue:** St James Presbytery, front room

**Time:** 5.25pm –5.45pm (before the 6pm Mass)



### Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our appeal last week. We raised \$878.65. It's not too late to donate as appeal envelopes are in the church foyer for you to take home today.

## Bethlehem In Brighton



We extend a special thankyou to all the parishioners who baked for our cake stall last weekend. With the sudden cancellation of the event they were all left with the goodies to hopefully freeze. Special thanks also to Sheila Vernon who had prepared the 200 halos and take home bags for the children. Hopefully they can be stored away for the happy event next year.

From the Bethlehem in Brighton Committee.  
*Many thanks also to Marg Fox for coordinating the event for the parish.*

## News From The Social Justice Group



Many thanks to all those who bought items from the Christmas stalls at St Joan of Arc last Sunday. We sold heaps for all of the charities who passed on their warm good wishes and thanks. You can buy coffee from Timor-Leste and chutney from Hazari asylum seekers today for the last time until February. Final donations of food and gift cards to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project are also sorely needed and most welcome.

## Thank You Card Players

A BIG thank you to our card players for collecting \$185 for the St Vincent de Paul Society. Special thanks also to our coordinators who have catered beautifully for the group: Eula and Michael Scott and Kay and Tony Killen.



*We invite you to join us again next week*

## Christmas Services

### St James Church

#### Christmas Eve

- 6pm Family Mass– outdoor
- Mass at 9pm

#### Christmas Day

- 9am Mass



### St Joan of Arc Church

#### Communal Penitential Service

Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm

#### Christmas Eve

- 6pm Family Mass
- 8pm Reflective Mass
- 10pm Mass with carols at 9.30pm

#### Christmas Day

- 8.30am Mass
- 11am Mass

### **Archbishop Hart responds to the Royal Commission's Report into Case Study 35 Tuesday 5 December 2017**

The Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne Denis Hart has today received the report by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse into the Archdiocese of Melbourne in Case Study 35 covering the period up to the introduction of the Melbourne Response in 1996.

The Archbishop accepts the report's conclusion that the Case Study showed that there was a prevailing culture of secrecy within the Archdiocese in relation to complaints which were dealt with in a way that sought to protect the Archdiocese from scandal and liability and prioritised the interests of the Church over those of victims.

He said that mishandling of complaints against priests and church personnel and the resulting lack of response to such complaints led to unnecessary suffering for many victims and their families.

He said that 'the Church should be a safe place for children but the events point to it having been unsafe for all those who are victims. Where this abuse occurred resulting from the passivity or inactivity of predecessors of mine, I sincerely apologise and accept responsibility'.

Archbishop Hart also made the point that he was now confident that the Archdiocese and its parishes and schools have the policies, codes and processes required to ensure child safe environments and to deal with complaints.

He added that there was a firm commitment from all those in parishes, schools and across the Archdiocese 'to the ongoing safety and well-being of children in our care'.

The Archbishop said 'as a Church we will learn from this Case Study and the upcoming Royal Commission's report and I make a commitment to greater transparency in our processes, in order to assist victims and their families'.

### **Year for Youth and Vocations.**

In Australia we have just begun the 'Year for Youth and Vocational Discernment', called by the Bishops of Australia. This began with a huge gathering of youth in Sydney in early

December for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. This coming year will be the tenth anniversary of World Youth Day in Sydney. Let us pray for our young people in our families and our parish. Can we all say one 'Hail Mary' for them now to help them in their discernment of their call from the Lord?

Surfing the Net these holidays? Check out [www.melbournepriest.com](http://www.melbournepriest.com)



### ***St James Church Roster***

#### **Saturday 6pm Mass on 16 & 23 December**

**Special Ministers:** Ruth Martinez, Vin Underwood, & Alberto Sabato

**Collector:** Wendy Lord-Henry.

**Reader/Com:** Antoinette Negline & Adele Nicolas

#### **Sunday 9am Mass on 17 & 24 December**

**Special Ministers:** Robert Messina, Nancy Ohlert, Peter Toms

**Collector:** Vickie-Lee Young.

**Reader / Com:** Kevin Custerson & Denise VanBaer.

**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40: 1-5. 9-11**

Console my people, console them, says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.

A voice cries, Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, Here is your God. Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**SECOND READING: 2 PETER 3:8-14**

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

*Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.*

**IGOSPEL: MARK 1: 1-8**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



**Readings Next Week**

Is 61:1-2, 10-11

1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

### **A Baptism of Forgiveness**

*The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.*