



This Week's Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

The first Sunday of Advent somewhat resembles the last Sunday in Ordinary Time. Both focus on the second or final coming of Christ. Although the first reading from the Book of the Prophet of Isaiah carries both the Coming of the Messiah among us and the Day of the Messiah when judgments are dispensed and everlasting peace reigns. Both Sundays contain the same Responsorial Psalm and Response. "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Ps 121 (122) v1.

The Gospel of this Sunday is apocalyptic in its tone and message about the return of the Master. We know that he will return, we know what we ought to in this present life, but we do not know the time: the century, the year, the month, the day or the hour. We need to be attentive waiters. Advent is a season of waiting. Here in Australia, students are waiting for their exam results and reports, perhaps a job, children waiting for the school breakups and for Christmas, adults waiting for the annual break or holidays and the elderly waiting for visitors. Attentive waiting during advent is an attitude of preparing for the coming of Christ at Christmas and greeting him in faith. We stand ready – not looking busy – but being aware of people around us and aware of our own shortcomings and believing in the mercy, peace and love of God.

Advent Image

The artwork in the left column depicts Santa Sophia (Holy Wisdom or Lady Wisdom). Wisdom is an attribute of God. The image of Emmanuel, God with us! Santa Sophia is surrounded by scrolls of the prophets that foretell the coming of the Messiah and appear in the Advent lectionary. She holds an owl and a lamp. The owl is classic symbol of wisdom and the oil lamp a symbol of vigil waiting.

Quote from Pope Leo

Dialogue is not a tactic or a tool, but a way of life — a journey of the heart that transforms everyone involved, the one who listens and the one who speaks. We walk this journey not by abandoning our own faith, but by standing firmly within it. For authentic dialogue begins not in compromise, but in conviction — in the deep roots of our own belief that give us the strength to reach out to others in love." Pope Leo XIV in the Vatican, October 28, 2025.

On the Lighter Side

When cars had bumper bars, many decorated them with stickers and slogans. A past but relevant one for today is: "Jesus is coming, look busy!" Though a more appropriate one may be: "Jesus is coming, stay awake!"



ADVENT

Liturgy Jottings

The ORDO II

The main content of the Church's Ordo is the listing of months and day of the liturgical year. It is a 13-month Calendar starting with the First Sunday of Advent and closing with the end of December the following year. For each day it gives the name of the Season or Feast Day eg the Monday of the first week of Advent or the memorial of St Nicholas. With the day's liturgical colour, the Scripture references for the daily readings and psalms, and directions about inclusion or omission of the Gloria, Creed, Special Prefaces or Blessings and may give optional readings. It mentions anniversaries of each Cathedral's dedication and recent Bishops' deaths and current Bishops' anniversaries and any special notes or directions.

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St Mel's Parish would like to acknowledge the elders past and present of the Yorta Yorta Nation, and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish and church is situated.



Weekly Reflection

First Sunday of Advent – A - Let's reflect and learn.

Readings - Is 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:37-44

"In the days to come." These words set the tone as they invite us into Advent, 28 days of seeking to better perceive where and how God is active in our midst.

Isaiah ushers us into Advent with his vision of the future God has in mind. We do well to remember the situation Isaiah was addressing when he outlined his vision. In the opening chapter of his work, the prophet described Israel's sorry state by comparing Israel unfavorably to an ox and ass who responded to their masters. According to Isaiah, Israel's culpable ignorance about God's presence has left her dumber than the ox and more stubborn than the donkey. As an alternative, Isaiah depicts a new possibility, a transformed future in which God's plan for peace and well-being is the divine design for all peoples.

Matthew's presentation of God's future plan is summarized in the image of the coming of the Son of Man. "Coming" translates the spectacular Greek word, *parousia*, a word that combines the concepts of presence and essence. The Parousia brings us into the presence of the essence of Christ. It's easy to understand why many have understood the Parousia as a reference to the end of the world and Christ's coming in glory.

This year, we celebrate the longest possible Advent season, with four full weeks to seek and receive the grace this season offers. We need each of these days as Advent invites us to reconsider time and history. On one hand, we will recall the long story of God's interaction with humanity, how everything from creation, through the saga of Israel, led toward the birth of Christ as the centerpiece of history. On the other hand, Advent focuses on time's horizon when we will finally experience Christ bringing all creation into union with himself so that God becomes all in all. Standing in the tension between these two intimately related moments invites us to identify with our ancestors in faith who slowly perceived how God was drawing them toward ever-greater life and ever-deeper relationship with God and all of creation.

Reading today's Gospel, we almost feel taunted or teased by Jesus' message. Three times he gears us up to hope for details about the future with the phrase, "So it will be." Then, each time he lets us down by illustrating the unpredictability of his Parousia. It's as if he is saying, "You can count on this for sure! You won't have any idea of when or how it will happen." The message? "Stay aware! Be ready for the unexpected!"

How do we do that? Obviously, much as we would like to, we can't draw a map to guide us into an unknowable future. How can we plan a journey to the unexpected? The first chapter of Isaiah offers us an essential hint. Isaiah described Israel as God's rebellious offspring, as people who had forsaken God. They had mistakenly presumed that mimicking the obsequious cults that pagans practiced would appease the God of Abraham and Moses. But, beyond empty ritualism, their real apostasy, their worst betrayal of the God who loved them, was their refusal to care about all God's beloved. No incense or sacrifice could make up for not heeding the cry of the orphan and widow. (In "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis adds Earth to this list, calling her, "burdened and laid waste ... among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor.")

In response to this situation of disorientation and rebellion, Isaiah offers the one solution possible. He invites Israel and us as well to join with "the nations," with all those who seek God, and to say, "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain," so that God can instruct us in the divine ways and that "we may walk in his paths."

Isaiah describes this pilgrimage as a climb because Jerusalem was a city on a hill. Even more, this journey requires a strenuous movement beyond self, beyond the boundaries of family, clan and nation, beyond a fixation on humans as the center of creation. It is a journey toward the heart of God who is present in everything created and who beckons us toward a future that is more (broader, deeper, more varied) than we would ever imagine.

In the days to come, especially during these 28 days, we have a unique opportunity to wake up to Parousia, the myriad simple and spectacular ways in which God is present, drawing us forward together. Like Israel, we are called to form integrated communities rather than remain as individuals, denominations or nations. Unknowable as the future is, we can trust that, to the extent that we give ourselves to the quest, we will find what we seek — no matter how impossible to imagine.

Sr. Mary M. McGlone, CSJ

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The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Beginning **Saturday, 29 November**, the Novena to the Immaculate Conception will be integrated into the scheduled morning Masses.

An **additional Mass** for the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception will be celebrated at **St Mel's Parish on Monday, 8 December, at 9:15am.**



A kindly reminder to please collect your weekly and monthly Planned Giving Envelopes from the Narthex.

Thank you.



International Day of People with Disability

International Day of People with Disability 2025 will be observed on December 3.

The United Nations Official Theme has been announced for 2025: **"Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress"**.

The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities. It also emphasises the need for inclusive practices in all aspects of life.

As a parish community we should reflect on our practices and strive for greater inclusivity. We must listen to people with lived experiences to help us achieve the UN goals which are consistent with Catholic social teaching.

Check the websites below:
international-day-of-people-with-disability

Misa De Gallo at St Mel's Parish

This year, St Mel's Parish will host nine Novena Masses in the lead up to the Nativity of The Lord - Christmas.

We warmly invite volunteers, current and NEW, to assist with Ministries over the nine evenings, including Commentators, Lectors and Special Ministers of the Eucharist.

If you are interested, or would like further information, please make contact with the office and speak with Mel.



The next **Novena Mass in Honour of the Sto Nino**, the Infant Jesus, to being held this coming **Friday 5 December at 6:00pm**. All welcome!

Cuppa after Mass is on next Sunday 7 December when urn will be boiling following the 9:30am Mass. Join us for a cuppa and biscuit, and chat with your fellow parishioners today.

There will be a **cancellation** of the **Daily Mass, Adoration & Confessions on Thursday 11 December**. Parishioners are welcome to join St Anne's College for their End of Year whole school **Mass at 9:45am** on this day.

Daily Mass on **Friday 12 December will begin at the later of time of 9:30am**. We will be joined by St Mel's Primary School as they celebrate the end of the year with us.

The next scheduled **Italian Mass** will be held on **Saturday 13 December at 9:15am**.



Shepparton & Nagambie Mass Schedule

St Mel's
SUNDAY
St. Mel's 9:30 am
St. Mel's 5:00 pm

TUESDAY to SATURDAY
St. Mel's 9:15 am

St Malachy's
SUNDAY
St. Malachy's 08:45 am

CONFESSIONS
St. Mel's: Every Thurs at 9:45 - 10:30 am

BAPTISMS (St Mel's & St Malachy's)
3rd Sunday of the month

MARRIAGE
2 months-notice required

Parish Staff
Fr. Ronaldo Masilang RCJ
Parish Priest

Fr. Ruel Desamparado RCJ
Assistant Priest

Fr. Damianus (Addin) Doe RCJ
Assistant Priest

Fr. Adi Indra
Assistant Priest

Sr Pam Barlow
Religious Sister of Mercy

Carmel Zito
Bookkeeper

Mel Shiels
Secretary
Sacramental Program Coordinator

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(03) 5831 2194

Office Hours
Tuesday to Thursday: 9:30am- 2:30pm
Friday: 9:30am -12:30 pm



Subscribe to Flocknote, to receive parish news & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.



2025

Christmas Masses

Join us at St Mel's Parish

<p>Wednesday 24 December</p> <p>6:00 PM - Family Mass</p> <p>9:00 PM - Christmas Eve Vigil</p>	<p>Thursday 25 December</p> <p>9:30 AM - The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)</p>
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18-22 Hamilton Street, Shepparton



We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Anniversaries: Aureila Andreola, Janet De Lai, Vincenzo Martino, Nunziata Cardillo

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

**Sunday 7th
December**

Commentators

9:30am Anthony Butts
5pm Samoan Community

Lectors

9:30am Gabrielle Barrette (L1) Pauline Pettigrew (L2)
5pm Samoan Community(L1) (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Sr Pam Barlow & Gita Kelleher
5pm Rosana Legalo & Erin Tanner

Advance Notice - Office Hours

The Parish Office will be open **only on Wednesdays** during the month of **January 2026**.

As our bulletins will be prepared in advance, we kindly ask that any items you would like included in the January bulletins be submitted to the office as soon as possible. This includes **names for anniversaries** occurring during that time. Thank you.



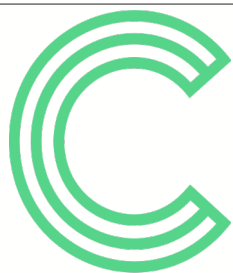
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We are a Safe Church Community.
We promote the safety, wellbeing
and inclusion of all and a zero
tolerance to abuse.
St Mel's Parish Safeguarding officer
is Trish Mathisen. Ph: 0428 213 757

To find out more ways on how you can help improve our Parochial
Community please contact Mel at **(03) 5831 2194**
Tuesdays to Thursdays, between 9:30am to 2:30 pm
email: sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
or visit our website at www.smps.org.au