



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

" BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD..."

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:30am - 2:30pm

Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

Parish Priest : Fr Peter Taylor

St Mel's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Second Sunday of Advent

4 December 2022

Readings for this week:



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

Readings for next Sunday:



Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11



Liturgy Jottings Advent Lectionary

The decree for the 1970 Lectionary (the second and current edition 1981) states: "The treasures of the bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word. In this way a more representative portion of the holy scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years" SC 51 (Vatican II Council).

This is most evident in the readings selected for Advent. The new lectionary has 36 readings for the four Sundays over three cycles and 34 for weekdays in one cycle. The earlier lectionary (1570) had eight Sunday readings and no weekend readings except 11 for the three ember days in week three of Advent. The selection for each day requires a *liturgical reading* of the texts noting the theme each week taken from previous Sunday and from the entire liturgy of the day (prayers and acclamations).

Looking at the Readings

The second Sunday of Advent is marked by the person of John the Baptist and his message to "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Matt 3:3, Isaiah 40:3). The first and second weeks of Advent express one of the two characters or expectations of the season: the second coming of the Lord. The other character is the time of waiting for the incarnation of the Word especially celebrated in the fourth week of Advent.

We have a thorough introduction of John the Baptism in today's Gospel: his locale, his clothing, his diet, his reputation and particularly his message of repentance and conversion through baptism and his mission to announce the coming of the Lord. John the Prophet echoes the Prophet of Isaiah "A voice cries in the wildness: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'." This message must be echoed again and again until the end of time because repentance and a change of heart will always be needed. The prophet will never be out of work. Our Advent readings will never be obsolete no matter how disturbing.

The first reading from Isaiah is not the prophecy of preparation for the coming, but two passages: one on the seven Gifts of the Spirit and the other on Peace and Justice. They are united by the opening line of passage: the shoot from the tree of Jesse that a future day will bring both the spirit of the Lord and integrity and faithfulness.

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, purify our consciences by your daily visitation, that when your Son, our Lord, comes he may find in us a dwelling prepared for him.
Gelasian Sacramentary of Angoulême, France 800

Quote for the Week

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery [incarnation of the Word], she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ. The Church asks us to ... remove all obstacles to his presence. *Pastoral Letter, St Charles Borromeo*

On The Lighter Side

Why did John the Baptist take his sandals off before going in the river? To save soles!



REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

From last week with the general theme of Advent seeking us to be on a new pathway, the second Sunday of Advent introduces one of the main “players” for Advent in **JOHN THE BAPTIST**. For John it was one whose voice comes from the wilderness and eager to proclaim a message from his isolation experience. It’s the Spirit who thrusts John The Baptist onto the banks of the river Jordan so as to awaken a people to a calling of Baptism to a moment of inner conversion.

The Jordan river saw a people coming out of their own wilderness experience crossing and wandering into the Promised Land. Taking this is our hope we could well ask ourselves ‘What becomes my Promised Land these days?’ Advent takes us deeper into our personal conversion for Christ to impact us and our hopes for a promise to come. A part of this conversion or change we bring is to know through the interruptions we face is realizing this Advent journey is simply not ...”plain sailing!”. May this week of Advent through John The Baptist enable us see of peace and justice reigning from within our hope so as to see the light of God impacting our lives.

ROTARY CLUB OF SHEPPARTON At the final gathering last Sunday announced a significant award winner of the ‘Paul Harris Fellow Award’ to our own Sev Cortese!
So well deserved Sev, who contributes often over and beyond! Sev received this along with Jeanette Powell well known to us across Shepparton. Sincere congratulations!!!
Fr Peter

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY St Mel’s Conference. Please know the *SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, IS FOR OUR CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF MANY ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY IN THESE DAYS.*



A NEW PRIEST IN SANDHURST Welcome Monsignor Crisologo Manongas, who is taking up the position of Parish Pastoral Leader at Our Lady’s Parish, Wangaratta South from December 16th. Mgr Cris is from the Philippines. Bishop Shane Mackinlay announced this to parishes last week.

A RITE OF ANOINTING Will be offered to all *NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH*, at both Masses.

PARISH RITE OF RECONCILIATION Is on Tuesday, December 20th at 7pm.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS AND UPCOMING CLOSURE

DATES The parish office hours will remain Tuesday to Thursday 9:30am - 2:30pm and Friday 9:30am -12:30pm through to the end of this year. From Friday, December 23rd the office will be closed until Tuesday, January 17th while we take a break to spend time with our families.



Weekday Masses this coming week December 5th to December 11th 2022

Monday December 5th - No Mass
Tuesday December 6th - **NO MASS**
Wednesday December 7th - 9:15am
Thursday December 8th - 9:15am
Friday December 9th - 9:15am
Saturday December 10th - 9:00am
Sunday December 11th - 9:30am & 5:00pm

READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday, December 11th 2022

9:30am - Denis Muto (Commentator) Trish Mathisen (L1)
Mick Hanlon (L2)
9:30am - Special Ministers: Leanne Daldy & Hollie Daldy
5:00pm - Mel Shiels (Commentator) Dom Poppa (Lector)
5:00pm - Special Ministers: Cathy Cannatelli & Maureen Matthews

Recently deceased: Roberta Cirillo (Italy)

Anniversaries: Aurelia Andreola, Kathleen Anderson, Ron Tanner, Rosina Rotella (Italy), Vincenzo Martino, Annunziata Cardillo

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.