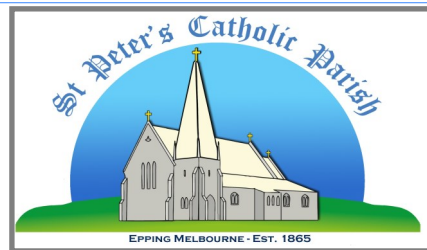


**3rd Sunday of  
Advent Year C  
15th December  
2024**

The Parish of St. Peter's, Epping, Epping North and Wollert as a community of faith inspired by Love for God welcomes everyone who joins us as we worship together the same Lord in the same Tradition. Our vocation is to listen, share and live the Word of God actively.



**Parish Priest:** Fr Anh Nguyen  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Sr Huyen Nguyen LHC  
**Sick & Homebound Co-Ordinator:** Sr Phuong Nguyen LHC

**Parish Secretary:** Michelle Hood  
(Mon- 9-3pm, Tue-Wed 9.30am-3.30pm)

**Office Admin:** Christine Paterson  
(Wed & Fri 10am-3pm)  
**Seminarian:** Rhys Lowther

**Parish Office and St Peter's Church:**  
13 Davison St, Epping  
Ph: 9401 6300  
Email: epping@cam.org.au

Web: <https://www.melbatholic.org/epping>  
Facebook: StPetersCatholicParishEpping  
ABN:- 70 309 275 608

**WEEKEND MASSES**

**St Peter's** Saturday 9.15am, 6.30pm,  
Sunday 9am & 10.30am

**St Mary of the Cross:** Saturday 5.00pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

**St Peter's**  
9.15am Tuesday - Friday  
(Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)  
**St Mary of the Cross**  
12 noon on Fridays during school terms only

**Baptism**

Baptism is celebrated on the Second and Fourth Sunday of each month at 12pm. A Baptism preparation class for parents of the child to be baptised is required.

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 9.45-10.30am following the 9.15am Mass

**Marriage**

By appointment and three month notice required. Please contact the parish office.

**Sacramental Programs for non-parish school children**  
9401 6300

**Parish Schools / College**

St Peter's Catholic Primary School  
32 Wedge Street, Epping  
Principal: Angela Tonkin Ph: 9401 1157

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop  
47 Farmhouse Boulevard, Epping North  
Principal: Claire Pitcher Ph: 8432 4500

Mary Glowrey Catholic Primary School  
10 Baltrum Drive, Wollert  
Principal: Tim Kelly Ph: 8579 6505

Carlo Acutis Catholic Primary School  
58 Jardin Road, Wollert West. 3750  
Principal: Damian Howard

St Monica's College  
400 Dalton Road, Epping  
Principal: Brian Hanley Ph: 9409 8800

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE**  
Free Call 1800 305 330



**RECONCILIATION** during Advent:-

\*the regular Saturday mornings :- 14th & 21st December at 10am - 11am.

\*Evening sessions on Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th December at 7pm-8pm



**Christmas Mass Times**

**Tuesday 24th Dec - Christmas Eve**

**SMCM - 6pm Carols with Mass at 6.30pm.**

Angela & Don (Parish Liturgy Group members) to arrange readers/ leaders

& Special Minister so please speak to them if you wish to assist

**St Peter's - in the Galilee Space**  
**6.30pm Carols with Mass at 7pm**

Choir:- Winston & they will provide Reader & Leader.

If there is a Special Minister from the Roster available please leave your name at the parish office.

**St Peter's - in the Galilee Space**  
**10.15pm Carols followed by Mass at 11pm.**

Bishop Curtin will celebrate this mass with Fr Anh.

Choir:- Youth Group and they will provide Reader & Leader.

If there is a Special Minister from the Roster, who will be available for this mass please leave your name at the parish office.

**Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day**

**St Peter's - in the Galilee Space**  
**8.45am Carols and then 9am Mass**

Leader, Reader & Special Minister required please.

**10.15am Carols then 10.30am Mass.**  
Cassie to be Leader  
Reader & Special Minister required.



**Prayers for the Sick:** Roni & Michael Donovan, Robbie Abdelnour, Olga Olypios, Mary Hill, Emma Anderson, Rachel Gormley, Sairandree Fernando, Daniel Zammit, Bernadette Sexton, Elliott Donovan, Ernesto Bergamin, Ashley Koomen, Zaine Villella, Enzo Scalzo, Samuel Bezzina

**Recent Death:**

**Anniversary:** Harold Mathias

**CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT**

*St Peter's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all our children, young people and vulnerable adults.*

*Children are to be supervised by a parent / guardian at all times in the church and when leaving the church for any reason.*



**Rite of Welcome for Baptism**

Louise Aibhlinn Laird  
Henry Cillian Treacy  
Sedena Frederick Sietalcha



Our Parish recognises the Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the traditional owners of this place.

# 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C

## 15th December 2024

### Entrance Antiphon

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

### First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.  
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

### Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Acclamation

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

### Gospel Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

### Communion Antiphon

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

## ADVENT FAMILY RETREAT

*"Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14)*

An opportunity to spiritually prepare our families for Christmas.

**Date:** Sunday, 15 December 2024

**Time:** 2:00pm - 6:00pm

**Location:** St Peter's Catholic Church, Epping

#### What to expect:

- Talks
- Rosary
- Sacrament of Penance/Confession
- Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
- Shared dinner and fellowship

Any questions, email Bro Rhys Lowther (Rhys.Lowther@cam.org.au)

Children to be supervised by a parent/guardian or, if not possible, a consent form must be completed upon arrival.



## Francis' Focus

### Reflection by Nick Brodie

When people asked John the Baptist what they must do, he responded with examples, as Pope Francis points out, 'that are different for each group' and situation.

As the Pope indicates, the Baptist 'directs a specific word to each person that responds to their actual situation in life.' People with two garments should give one to those who have none. Those with food should share with those without. Tax collectors needed to be fair, soldiers to be restrained, and so on.

This specificity, the Pope reflects, 'offers us a precious teaching: *faith is incarnated in concrete life*. It is not an abstract theory.'

This Advent we might remember that we are called to practical service for the world. The Pope suggests that we should each consider: 'what can I do concretely during these days as we draw near to Christmas? How can I do my part?'

We might therefore turn our efforts to doing something, however small, to serve our Lord. With actions suited to our own time and place and situation, our faith should take on some 'concrete commitment', and in doing so bring a little bit more justice into the world.



### Parish Carols Night Organised by the Parish Choirs

Friday 20th December

6pm –8.30pm

@ St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

This evening will be held outside, weather permitting, so bring along chairs / rugs to sit on.

If the weather is not suitable to be outside the Carols will move inside.

Santa will visit so please give your child / children's names to the choirs at weekend masses so that they can receive a gift.

### IT IS THE TIME TO THANK ALL PARISHIONERS

As we approach the end of the year it is time again to acknowledge all the support given by parishioners to parish groups who strive to help others.

Thank-you for you ongoing support of the Catholic

Women's League with the milk for 'Children First', with funds for victims of domestic violence through 'The Good Samaritan Inn', for some funds to assist 'Vinnies' here in our parish and to assist Father Anh with works for our church.

Thank-you also for your generous support of our 'St Vincent de Paul' workers, via donations of food, gifts and money for them to provide assistance to those in need in our area.

Also thank-you for your support offered to the various charity requests we receive during the year from the Archdiocese and other Catholic Agencies that support the needs of others.

We also thank the parishioners who are able to offer their time to visit and support others in the parish either in their homes or in hospital or care.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all.

### CHURCH CLEANING DURING DECEMBER & JANUARY—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

During the months of December and January we require the assistance of volunteers to clean the church.

If you are able to assist please contact the Parish Office and let them know which weekend you can help. Thank-you.



### FAREWELL & Morning Tea

Our parish has had the pleasure of having Rhys (Seminarist) with us since February this year. Next weekend is his final weekend with us.

We give thanks that as well as learning from us about life as a priest in a parish, we have learnt much from him - Catechist Classes, Holy Hour, visiting the hospital, and especially our every day interactions with him. Rhys has demonstrated his devotion to his calling as a priest.

We all wish Rhys continued growth in his faith as he continues his studies towards the Priesthood and hope he looks back fondly at his time here with our parishioners.

### Morning Tea for Rhys

Place:- Galilee Space

Date:- Sunday 22nd December

Time:- After 10.30am Mass

Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a plate to share e.g. cakes, biscuits, sandwiches.

Thank-you



Date	Mass	Leader	Reader	Special Ministers	
21/12	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Grace O'Brien	Angela Vandenberg	
	6.30pm	Joan Bahen	Sheriz Moreno	Volunteer please	
22/12	9am	Cassandra Martin	Des Madden	Bernie Dias	
	10.30am	Ophelia Francis	Lillian Abbew	Cathy Gatt	
Date	Cleaning	Team	Date	Cleaning	Team
14/12		2 Volunteers please	28/12		Thi Nguyen, Anjith Abraham
21/12		Jeanelle Extross, Volunteer			



## Liturgy Readings of The Next Week

**16/12 Monday:** 3rd Week of Advent  
**Readings:** Num 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27;

**17/12 Tuesday:** 3rd Week of Advent  
**Readings:** Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17;

**18/12 Wednesday:** 3rd Week of Advent  
**Readings:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24;

**19/12 Thursday:** 3rd Week of Advent  
**Readings:** Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25;

**20/12 Friday:** 3rd Week of Advent  
**Readings:** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38;

**21/12 Saturday:** 3rd Week of Advent  
**Readings:** Song 2:8-14; or Zeph 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45;

**22/12 Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent  
**Readings:** Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44;

## THANKSGIVING PROGRAM for the Church and Presbytery

After the recent Giving Program there were many new parishioners who became regular contributors. Also others who increased their contributions to the parish. Some families have changed family circumstances and have maintained their level of support.

Thank-you to all for your generosity and support of the priests and parish needs.

If you have not yet made your contribution please begin now.

## Safeguarding Online Training

To access the online training go to: [www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org](http://www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org)

To login, you will need:

- your unique Working with Children Check ID/VIT ID number
- an email address

Upon registration you will be asked to identify your role within the parish i.e. a member of clergy, parish staff or volunteer.

To register:

**volunteers** will need to select their **parish** from the dropdown menu as their Primary Organisation of Service.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE— Tues 31st December

**7pm Mass in the church**, followed by Adoration and Benediction

Reader & Leader provided by the choir.  
A Special Minister is required please

## NEW YEAR'S DAY— Wed 1st January

**9.15am Mass in the church.** Cassie will be the Leader for this mass.

We need a Reader and a Special Minister please.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE—Raffle Winners

1st Prize	Isabella	2nd Prize	David
3rd Prize	Deanne	4th Prize	Lesleigh (Mr)
5th Prize	Grace	6th Prize	Rosa

The winners have been notified and have collected their prizes.

Thank-you to all those who supported our raffle either by buying tickets in the raffle or offering us a donation. We raised \$850 which will be put to our charitable causes next year.