



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 3pm

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 ~ Cycle C

Sunday 5 December 2021

Readings for
this week



Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

Readings for
next Sunday



Zephaniah 3:14-18
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18



Liturgical Jottings

Advent Prophets

The Lectionary for Sundays Cycle C presents us with a great variety of Hebrew Prophets: Jeremiah (week one) Baruch (two) Zephaniah and Isaiah (three) and Micah (four). For the weekends Isaiah predominates with one reading from Malachi.

Their messages vary considerably from the verge of doom (Jeremiah) to expectation, comfort, joy and hope. The Prophets were guides to the peoples and mediators of God's messages to express God's love, his covenant, exhort kings and people to fidelity. The Advent prophets looked forward to the deliverance of Israel by the Messiah's coming



Focus on the Readings

There is another sense of urgency in the readings today, comparable to last week's urgency in the second coming of Christ to the urgency and immediacy on the Coming of Christ for each generation and for all peoples: god fearing and the pagans.

The responsorial psalm acknowledge that both the Israelites and the heathens will marvel at the great works of God in bringing peace and freedom. Baruch, one time secretary to Jeremiah and a prophet in his own right urges the people to celebrate this freedom and peace in the coming of the Lord.

We are to take this marvellous work of God personally. While this is for all nations, it is also for each individual. The Call of John the Baptist in the Gospel is one of repentance and conversion. Each heart and soul is to hear the voice and personally turn to God.

St Paul's letter to the Philippians (second reading) iterates the message for everyone generation, then, now and for the future. The message is one of joy, v.)love (v.) and goodness (v.)

Names of Jerusalem

In the first reading today the Prophet Baruch presents a new name for Jerusalem: **'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'**. Renaming a person or a city signifies God's taking possession and giving a new calling or vocation. Jerusalem has been given these names: • The city of our God (Ps 48:1) • The city of the great King (Ps 48:2) • The city of the Lord of Hosts (Ps 48:8) • Zion (Ps 76:2) • Mother Zion (Ps 87:5) • The city of righteousness (Isa 1:26) • The faithful city (Isa 1:26) • The holy city (Isa 52:1) • City of the Lord (Isa 60:14) • The Throne of the Lord (Jer 3:17) • The Lord is our righteousness (Jer 33:16) • The perfection of beauty (Lam 2:15) • The joy of the whole earth (Lam 2:15) • The Centre of Nations, the Lord is there (Ezek 48:35) • City of truth and the Holy Mountain (Zech 8:3)

Quotable Quote

Christmas: It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

On the Lighter Side

What is the difference between Santa's reindeer and a knight? One slays the dragon and the other is draggin' the sleigh. What do you call a dancing, singing elf? A wrapper!

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St Mel's Parish Is...

"A welcoming and caring community that helps all people grow stronger in our Catholic Faith."

REFLECTION

Against a backdrop of geography, politics, and history, Luke, the gospel writer brings John the Baptist onto the stage as a central character through the Advent season. It is this presence of John who looms large, his voice beckoning for a way to be prepared. In one sense John is calling for a people to make a crossing from another exile experience of the people and their unfaithfulness to a God open to forgiving people from past failings. Through John's eyes we seek a road way of life, waiting and moving gradually.....



We have become used to heavy weighted machinery and technology supporting the advancement of road improvement, enabling road users for safer travelling, where bends are reduced, smoothing bumps causing driver awareness, alleviating curves for clearer viewing. Advent is likened to a road work season. John the Baptist is the one with stop sign, he holds us up, and reverses the sign to travel slowly.

So what maybe a “pothole” causing you to be held up by John's stop sign?

Hopefully we can see this coming week as one taking us onto our “Bethlehem” destination, reaching this place of birth of Christ. So we travel along pathways of deepening God's presence of time, and our living time creatively within our Advent themes.

Caritas in our Sandhurst Diocese has signed up to the International Laudato Si action platform. Catholic Earthcare Parishes are beginning the journey. There is in place a Sandhurst Care for Creation Team. This group are interested in supporting us here at St Mel's along with other parishes in Sandhurst. If you are interested becoming involved or wanting further information, then this coming Monday 6th December a meeting via Zoom is being organized at 11am to 12.15pm or Tuesday 7th December from 7pm to 8.15pm. To receive a Zoom link you need to contact: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au I have mentioned before through Caritas our part in taking up the themes of Laudato Si from Pope Francis and from this year's Social Justice statement of “Cry of the earth Care of the poor”.
Fr Peter



QR code and entry into our Church Can I say a sincere thankyou for your co operation. Understanding with this procedure of entry into our Church building. Like other outlets we enter QR coding is a requirement we need to be diligent about. Keeping each other safe is an absolute necessity and I seek your continued understanding with this. With appreciation, Fr Peter.

MAJELLAN LADIES wish all the very best for Christmas and the New Year to everyone and ask if you would like to contribute non-perishable goods to St Vinnies you can leave them in the tub at the back of the Church.... Thankyou

REGARDING BULLETIN NOTICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Eve through to Late January, principally so Ainsley and Debbie can have a break. This means I am getting future Bulletins in place before hand. Should you be wanting to have names included for anniversaries, PLEASE.... submit them to the office over coming weeks before Christmas. Debbie and Ainsley are grateful. Fr Peter

RITE OF ANOINTING - Will be offered during both Sunday Masses next weekend - Sunday 12th December.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION - Will be offered here in our Church as a communal rite of Reconciliation on Tuesday 14th December at 7.00pm.

Graduation Mass for the Grade Six students of St Mel's will be celebrated on Tuesday 14th December at 9.45am

- ♦ **CHRISTMAS MASSES** : Friday 24th December 6.30pm (Family Mass) and 9.00pm
- ♦ Saturday 25th December 8.00am and 10.00am .. NO 5.00PM Mass!!!
- ♦ Sunday 26th December : 9.30am and 5.00pm (Holy Family)
- ♦ No Weekday Masses: 27th, 28th 29th December
- ♦ Thursday Mass 30th December at 9.00am
- ♦ Friday Mass 31st December at 9.00am
- ♦ New Year's Day SATURDAY 1ST JANUARY at 9.00am



Recently concluded celebrations of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Last weekend saw our final two groups receive these Sacraments and full initiation into our Church here at St. Mel's. It's been a time like no other, with changes, lockdowns and other variances. This didn't stop both celebrations from having an enthusiastic gathering of parents and sponsors. A particular thankyou to our co Ordinator in Mel Shiels, whose commitment, enthusiasm never wavered. Along with Grace Natalizio for the music side of things and for Chris Summers through St Mel's School, along with Sarah Maloney, Jacquie Avard from St Anne's College, Sr Pam, along with Ainsley and Debbie in the office, you each have made wonderful contributions enhancing these celebrations in enabling these candidates and families having a connection with our parish. Well done to all. Fr Peter

PARISH OWNED PROPERTIES ... Corner of Newlyn St and St Andrew's Rd ... These properties are a great asset to the Parish financially and for on going development. I met with Mr Cameron Fraser (Business Manager for the Diocese last Monday in Bendigo).

Having outlined my hopes it was suggested I form a group of parishioners to help oversee the potential these properties / blocks bring for future development. I am getting this group together comprising of a representative from the finance, the parish council, along with an estate agent. This will be consultative and will carry the considered opinion of the parish.

It is important a master plan is in place carrying the aspirations of the property. This will be a goal of the committee.

I hope to announce the names of this committee next week with a view for having an initial meeting before Christmas. Fr Peter

COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR 2022 - Now available to purchase from the Parish Office \$13.00 each. The Calendars make a lovely Christmas gift.

St Mary's Mooropna

Reconciliation - Thursday 16th December 7.00pm.

This will be preceded by Mass at 6.00pm.



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY - 5th DECEMBER 2021 - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Baruch - 5:1-9

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.



The Word of the Lord

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians - 1:3-6,8-11

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low,

winding ways will be straightened

and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord

Week Day Masses this coming week

6th December - 12th December

Monday 6th December - No Mass

Tuesday 7th December - No Mass

Wednesday 8th December - 9.15am Mass

Thursday 9th December - 9.15am Mass

Friday 10th December - 9.00am Mass

Saturday 11th December - 9.00am Mass

Sunday 12th December - 9.30am Mass and 5.00pm

READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER

SUNDAY 12th December 2021

9.30AM - Chris Summers

Mick Hanlon (L1) Trish Mathisen (L2)

9.30AM - Special Ministers: Pauline Pettigrew &

Jacqui Avar

5.00PM - Tim Kelly (Commentator) Luisa Cassise (L1)

5.00PM - Special Ministers: Dom Poppa & Angie Knez

Recently Deceased: Anne Wright (Mother of Dale)

Anniversaries: Domenica Marino, Ron Tanner,

Kathleen Anderson, Maria & Carmine Nappa,

Giuseppe Primerano, Gerald Laffy,

Patrick McManus