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Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

50TH ANNIVERSARY

1975 - 2025

88 South Circular Road, Gladstone Park PO Box 2400 (03) 9338 2840
gladstonepark@cam.org.au

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
 1975 - 2025

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Dishan Candappa
 Assistant Priest: Fr Samuel Pearson
 Deacon: Rev Poukesi Vaka'uta

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday: 10:00 – 1pm
 Friday: 10:00 AM – 2PM

PARISH SCHOOLS

School of the Good Shepherd
 PO Box 2400
 88 South Circular Road
 Gladstone Park Vic 3043
 Principal: Carmela D'Amato
 Tel: 9338 7686 Fax: 9335 2586
 E: principal@sogsgpark.catholic.edu.au

St Carlo Borromeo
 5 – 9 Drummond Street
 Greenvale Vic 3059
 Principal: Kevin Gleeson
 Tel: 9333 2572 Fax: 9333 2187
 E: principal@scgreenvale.catholic.edu.au

Mary Queen of Heaven
 75 French Road
 Greenvale Vic 3059
 Principal: Renae Gentile
 Tel: 7379 5600
 E: principal@mqhgvale.catholic.edu.au

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Monday – Saturday:
 9:15 AM - Good Shepherd

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 6:00 PM - Good Shepherd
 Sunday: 9:00 AM - St Carlo Borromeo
 11:00 AM - Good Shepherd
 5:00 PM - Good Shepherd

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

At Good Shepherd Church on the first Friday of the month after morning Mass & Wednesday at 6pm.

MARIAN NOVENA

Wednesday at 6:30 PM preceded by Adoration/Confession at 6:00 PM

CONFESSION & RECONCILIATION

Wed-Fri: 8:40 AM - 9:00 AM
 Wed: 6:00 PM – 6:20 PM
 Saturday: 9:45 AM & 5:30 PM, or by appointment.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

2ND & 4TH Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 PM. Bookings essential.

WEDDING PREPARATION

Bookings to be made 6 months prior to wedding date. Bookings made through Parish Office.

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

07/12/25
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