



SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2025.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the First Reading: "the desert shall rejoice and bloom ..." (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's Gospel passage is full of questions. John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed.

He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kingdom is greater than John. John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission.

As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will

have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong.

The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or God's Anointed One. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading).

In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges. The Christ, the Anointed of God, lives on in the community and the community is called to bring the saving power of God, the joy of the Gospel, to a troubled world.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Fr. Michael Shadbolt** who died recently and for **Emmanuel Muscat, Assunta Muscat, Christine Hall, Elisa Franze, Joseph Lu Van Nghinh and Barnabas Do Rat** whose anniversaries occur at this time.
May they rest in peace.

ADVENT MEDITATION SHEETS

The 3rd week of Advent meditation sheets are available for Parishioners to take home for use individually or as a family group.

ADVENT WREATH

THIRD CANDLE ----THE CANDLE OF JOY

We light the pink and two purple candles



Today, as we gather on the third Sunday of Advent, we light the third of the candles, remembering how God's love was made manifest through the ministry and preaching of John the Baptist.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isaiah 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

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

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will

prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.
(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 25:4

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - GIVING TREE

Thank you for the wonderful support from parishioners. You can still bring your donations to church and place them under the tree this weekend 13th & 14th December. The hampers will be prepared on 17th December. We are very grateful for your support.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH YARRAVILLE

Saturday 20th December 2025

Starting 6pm (following 5pm Mass)

Keep the date free

Please bring a plate for supper afterwards

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

For three straight days 6,000 pilgrims filled Melbourne's Convention and Exhibition Centre for prayer, workshops, worship and the Eucharist. The World Youth Day Cross and Icon were flown into Melbourne especially for the Festival and pilgrim groups carried the cross and icon from the Cathedral to the MCEC. We have received a thank you letter from Ngan Truong on behalf of the young people of Yarraville and Kingsville Parishes who attended the Festival.

"Thank you so much to everyone who donated and supported us in getting to ACYF. Your generosity made it possible for us to have an unforgettable and deeply spiritually nourishing experience. It was such a joy to meet and connect with young Catholics from all over Australia, to pray together, and to grow in our faith as we continue our journey as pilgrims of hope."

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Advent is a time that the church encourages us to prepare our hearts and ourselves for the coming of Christ.

At St. Augustine's we will celebrate

- **The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
on Thursday 18th December at 7.30pm**
- **The 1st Rite of Reconciliation
on Saturday 20th December
at Corpus Christi at 10.00am
at St. Augustine's at 4.00pm**

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Copies of the 2026 Columban Art Calendar are available for sale at \$10 each, at the back of the church after Mass. By buying a calendar from Columbans, you help to support their missionary work and it can help you keep track of important feast days in the church year.

WELCOME

We welcome Bishop Martin Ashe who will be celebrating the 5pm Mass this weekend in the absence of Fr Werner who is attending the Ordination of Anthony Vassallo as a Permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLES

Copies of the Christmas Timetable of Masses are at the back of the churches.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

LITURGY TIMES**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS

THE FIRST COLLECTION supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTON (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S YARRAVILLE

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

CORPUS CHRISTI KINGSVILLE &**ANNUNCIATION BROOKLYN**

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

QR Codes for one off donations.

This QR code is unique to the Parish of St. Augustine's and gives you access to giving a donation via Credit card.



This QR code is unique to the Parish of Corpus Christi Kingsville

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate at Mass or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL**VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK(13th & 14th December)**3rd Sunday of Advent Year A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Nic Fusca

9.30am Agnes Hopmans

Sam Polzella

COUNTING.....Krystyna Biront**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00amCass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Maree Ryan

9.30am.....Pina Guzzardi

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Hong Nguyen

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK(20th & 21st December)**4th Sunday of Advent Year A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Greg Buhagiar

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Anna Messina

COUNTING.....Val Taylor**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00amJoe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Frank Galea

9.30am.....Phillip Marques

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Khanh Nguyen

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

Mary Mackillop Spirituality Centre

St. Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown

16 Esplanade Williamstown. 3016

(03) 9397 6012. mmsm.org.au