



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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

18 December 2022

Readings for this week:



Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Readings for next Sunday:



Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14
Colossians 3:12-11
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23



Liturgy Jottings Mystery of Advent

Within our celebration of the days of Advent we contemplate the twofold character of the season but also, almost hidden from our sight, are deeper elements of the Advent-Christmas sequence. Three Christian mysteries are present in our liturgies: Incarnation of the Word made flesh, Resurrection of the Lord from the dead and the Redemption of believers to eternal life. The Annunciations of the birth of Jesus are made to Joseph (Matt 1:18-24, Fourth Sunday A) and to Mary (Luke 1:26-38, 20 December). The word of God is made flesh and dwells among us. The liturgies contain several allusions to Easter themes of new light, resurrection, new life, the conquering of sin and death. Finally we are redeemed and called to eternal life. These are evident in the Gospel Acclamations and Prefaces of Advent.

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Looking at the Readings

The fourth Sunday of Advent and the fourth week of Advent focus on the birth of Christ and the leading events. The Gospel of today, in cycle A the year of Matthew, has the Annunciation of the birth of the Lord to Joseph. An unnamed angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The Gospels of Cycle B & C are from Luke with the Annunciation to Mary and the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. This event operates on two levels. The first level nothing changes. Joseph takes his fiancée (betrothed) home and continues to work. There is no disruption in the family or in the village or countryside and people move on as usual.

On the second level all is changed. Mary is with child by the power of the Holy Spirit and her child is Jesus, the one who saves; Emmanuel God-is-with-us. The long wait for the Messiah is over. The lives of Mary and Joseph will be changed forever. Faith and trust are required by both and they respond. The drama unfolds as we have seen in many plays and heard proclaimed in scripture throughout salvation history and our liturgies. God the Son became human fulfilling the Word of the ancient prophets and the Will of the Father (Eucharistic Prayer II).

Quote of the Week

Brothers and sisters, in prayer there is always a question of patience, always, of supporting the wait. Now we are in the time of Advent, a time that is typically of expectation; of expectation of Christmas. We are in waiting. This is clear to see. But all our life is also in waiting. And prayer is always in expectation, because we know that the Lord will answer.”
Pope Francis, 9 Dec 2020

Prayer for the Week

Almighty and all loving God,
Our redemption is drawing near,
the ancient hope of nations is on his way;
the promised resurrection of the dead is at hand,
the glory of your blessed ones already shines forth.
And so, with all the angels we give you glory
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Preface of fifth Sunday of Advent, Ambrosian Rite



On The Lighter Side

I overheard a mother say that she spied her nine year old son's wish list for Christmas. On the top was a tuxedo. Her companions were quick with advice in sourcing the garment but her reason to share the event was: "Why a tuxedo?" Perhaps this adds to the mystery of Christmas.



St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

The fourth Sunday of Advent gets to the heart of God's intervention upon our world of all happening to Joseph, Mary and Jesus. In a dream the messenger of God says to Joseph not to fear what he cannot understand, not to disown the mystery but to enter into it. Joseph wakes and succeeds and where we often fail, he does something about his dream.

It's easy to dismiss this as some kind of pious story yet so many times throughout the scriptures, God speaks to people in their dreams, in their visions and hopes in their imaginations. As we come into this week leading to Christmas is our opportunity to dream with God and God with us. For Joseph it was his ability to enter into the unexpected, to the new to a dream come true.

As we build the Christmas event into our hopes, I'm sure there are thoughts taking us back into past Christmases, to ones in family not present this Christmas, to look back over past memories and where our dreams this Christmas are realized.

As we focus on Joseph we remember Joseph 'with a father's heart'. We ask what sort of experiences do we seek this Christmas. One good way is to give time to the reconciliation liturgy we share this Tuesday evening. By coming into this moment we see ourselves together not just as separate individuals.

This fourth week of Advent is timely in giving us a full week to ponder and reflect upon the dream coming true, God taking human flesh into our lives. We give time for letting Christmas overcome awkward situations especially conflict and confusion. May the humanity of Joseph, Mary and Jesus give us further reason to advance God's cause and place with in us.



ADVENT IN THE MIND OF POPE FRANCIS Recently Pope Francis, through Cath News, has said the season of Advent is a time for people to be surprised by God's mercy and compassion. Advent, then, is a time for overturning our perspectives.

'A time' says Pope Francis, 'to learn again who our Lord is, who he is, a time for using words and gestures of consolation for those who are wounded, as Jesus did with the blind, deaf and lamed.'

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL Melbourne 2024. This festival is on its way back after a hiatus due to COVID – 19, the premier gathering of young Catholics in Australia will return in December 2024, with the Archdiocese of Melbourne being named host. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference- last week supported the proposal for the 2024 Festival while recognizing a looking forward to its return. Details of the Festival will be released early in the new year.

FR JAMES MARTIN SJ A renowned editor in Catholic communicational matters says today's Catholic communicators need to focus always on the person of Jesus and endeavour to reach others where they are in life using the best media languages possible.

In Rome recently visiting the Dicastery for Communications, alongside Pope Francis, encouraged media professionals to seek the truth, combat hate speech, and give voice to those who have no voice. Pope Francis taking this further commented, "to go forward, to journey, to take risks, with conviction that I am sharing my life with my Christian and human values". Fr Martin said, "It's meeting people where they are", just as Jesus did in His public ministry.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

to be celebrated at St Mel's Christ the King Church

Advent Rite of Reconciliation - Tuesday, December 20th at 7pm

Christmas Eve Family Mass - Saturday, December 24th at 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - Saturday, December 24th at 9pm

Christmas Day Mass - Sunday, December 25th at 9:30am

There will be NO SUNDAY 5PM MASS ON DECEMBER 25TH

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ST MEL'S CONFERENCE Very pleased to say our collection last week raised just over \$850.00. This is quite an extraordinary response of our generous ways here at St Mel's. Thankyou on behalf of our conference here at St Mel's.



FROM BISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY Has informed Parishes of his intention to allow local Parish Priests to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2023, given his personal schedule with trips away next year.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT ST ANNE'S COLLEGE There are several employment positions available at St Anne's College for 2023. Please see the notice boards for details.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICER An exceptional opportunity exists to become an integral member of the Diocesan Finance Team.

For more information, a copy of the position description and how to apply go to the Employment Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst website <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/positions-vacant/finance-administration-officer-2023>

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5:00 p.m. 23rd January 2023.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS To our school communities of St Mel's Primary and St Anne's College. It has been wonderful to see the many achievements and special events over the past year. What would have felt like a long year, the first full year back since the pandemic, has been very successful. To the staff, students and families, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Enjoy your break. School returns on February 1st, 2023.



COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS AND MAJELLAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

There is still plenty of stock for purchase in the Narthex at the piety stall. The calendars make a great Christmas present!

VOLUNTEERS GATHERING A gathering to say thank you to all those who have given their time and expertise to our Parish and community throughout the year, undertaking various volunteer roles, will be held in the Gathering Room of the Parish House on **Thursday, December 22nd at 5pm**. Please join us for refreshments and light nibbles. We ask that you please RSVP with your intention to attend for numbers to cater.



REMINDER The Parish office will close on Friday, December 23rd, 2022 until Tuesday, January 17th, 2023.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 25th 2022

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week December 19th to December 25th 2022

Monday December 19th - No Mass

Tuesday December 20th - 9:15am

7pm Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday December 21st - 9:15am

Thursday December 22nd - 9:15am

Friday December 26th - 9:15am

Saturday December 24th - No Mass @ 9am

6:30pm Family Mass & 9pm Vigil

Sunday December 25th - 9:30am (only)

No Mass @ 5pm

READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Saturday, December 24th & Sunday, December 25th 2022

**24th 9pm - Sr Pam Barlow (Commentator) Paul Bertoli (L1)
Mick Hanlon (L2)**

24th 9pm - Special Ministers: Rosana Legalo & Sr Pam Barlow

**9:30am - Maureen Munro (Commentator) Sev Cortese (L1)
Mary Calandro (L2)**

9:30am - Special Ministers: Lucy Ciancio & Maree McKenna

5:00pm - NO MASS

Recently Deceased: Salvatore Sciacca

Anniversaries: Lucia Villani, Marco Poppa,

Gerald Laffy, Patrick & James McManus, Guiseppina Rullo