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36 Assembly Dr, Tullamarine VIC 3043

# Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

88 South Circular Road, Gladstone Park PO Box 2400 (03) 9338 2840  
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## CONTACT DETAILS

**Parish Priest:** Fr Dishan Candappa  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr An Le  
**Deacon:** Rev Poukese Vaka'uta  
 0423 659 605 (*Tongan Chaplain*)

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
 Tuesday - 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:principal@mqhgvale.catholic.edu.au)

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**  
**Monday – Friday:**  
 9:15 AM - Good Shepherd Church

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES:**  
**Saturday:** 9:15 AM – Good Shepherd  
 6:00 PM - Good Shepherd  
**Sunday:** 9:00 AM - St Carlo Borromeo  
 11:00 AM - Good Shepherd  
 5:00 PM - Good Shepherd

**ADORATION & BENEDICTION**  
 The first Friday of the month after the morning Mass at Good Shepherd Church.

**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**  
 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B



The voice of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness and gathering great crowds invites us into the Second Sunday of Advent. Pieter Brueghel the Younger's *St. John the Baptist Preaching* captures this moment as he presents a wooded wilderness embracing a colourful crowd. Left of centre is John the Baptist, clad in camelhair, though we have to search the scene to find him. Instead of standing as a dominating figure, John is one of the crowd, one of the people who serves his peers with prophetic passion.

For Brueghel, the crowd itself seems to be the dominant figure. It fully saturates the landscape as one body that reveals its diversity only upon closer inspection. A chief way Brueghel shows that diversity is through hats, hoods, and headdresses—each signifying a different culture, vocation, or profession. Brueghel shows not only the mix of people that might have been present in the region, but the great diversity of all of humankind as the intended recipients of the Good News that John is heralding. John prepares the way of the Lord to go beyond boundaries, starting with the colourful cavalcade of people who come to hear the prophetic message.

The body of the crowd becomes vertical, as people all around the perimeter climb the trees to get a better view. Sitting on branches, they foreshadow the story of Zacchaeus the Tax Collector, a figure of conversion and repentance from the Gospel of Luke. Thus, the tree climbers also underscore the message of conversion that John is preaching. Ascending the trees also foreshadows the cross itself as the ultimate place of reconciliation.

In the background, we see a clearing in the woods that presents a vista of a river, a walled castle, and misty mountains. This is an invitation to see beyond the immediate message to the possibilities of God's ultimate home for us. The river, evocative of Baptism, is especially important as it winds like a road into the mysterious beyond. We too are called to look beyond and see ourselves as part of a body of people who are gathered by the Good News. Like John, we are also sent to share the Good News so as to help open the horizon of possibilities that lead us all into God's eternal love.

10/12/23

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