



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.

Third Sunday of Advent

11 December 2022

Readings for this week:



Isaiah 35:1-6,10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Readings for next Sunday:



Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24



Liturgy Jottings Advent Structure

Week 1: Watch and Pray

Week 2: Prepare the Way

Week 3: The Messianic Age

Week 4: The Annunciation of the Messiah's Coming

The twofold character of Advent is reflected in the readings of the four Sundays of Advent. The expectation of the second coming of the Lord is evident in the first two weeks. The preparation for the incarnation of the Lord is evident in the liturgies of the fourth Sunday of Advent and the days of the "Great Advent (17-24 December)". The third Sunday of Advent is a bridge, which connects the two characters. While we await his second coming we come to realise gradually that he is here already in our midst. Therefore this Sunday we rejoice, our hope is being realised. It is the age of the Messiah, evident in Jesus' miracles and teaching. Now is the time of peace and justice. The Fourth Sunday and week we hear of the Annunciations to Joseph, to Mary and to Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Looking at the Readings

The Entrance Antiphon (see below) and the Collect for this Sunday express the joy of salvation. The subtitle of the third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday – Rejoice! The A cycle of readings this year do not have the character of the Cycles B & C in which St Paul urges his readers to: "Be Happy at all times" (1 Thess 5:16) and "Always be happy in the Lord." (Phil 4:4) The second reading today, however, urges us to "Be patient" (James 5:7) and uses the image of the farmer waiting for the rain and for the harvest and the example of the patience of the prophets. We are waiting for the Lord's coming as the Prophet Isaiah proclaims in the first reading.

John the Baptist, introduced to us last week, is now in prison. Jesus reminds us that he is the prophet heralding the coming of the Messiah, the Messiah who fulfils the words of Isaiah: the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the sick healed, the Good News is proclaimed. John also fulfils the prophets in other ways: he wears the clothes of Elijah, stands firm like Jeremiah, preaches the message of Malachi. Yes, he comes as the greatest and the last of the prophets. The prophets of old and the saints in our time focus not on themselves but on the message of Christ and they point us towards our salvation.

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, let our souls, we beg you, O God, be inflamed by your Spirit so that we may be filled with the divine gift and be brightly shining lamps when your Son comes. *Gelasian Sacramentary of Angoulême, France 800 (Transl 1918)*

Sunday Scripture Snippet

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
Phil 4: 4-5 - Entrance Antiphon

Quote of the Week

There is a perpetual "Advent" of Christ, and this Advent contains John the Baptist. He is present for the final preparation that precedes every great spiritual manifestation or missionary activity, and he is present now.
J Danielou, The Mystery of Advent.

On the Lighter Side

The third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, has the option of wearing rose vestments and adorning the church with rose flowers. A parish had no rose vestments so the Parish Priest bought new red socks and washed them with a white set of vestment – they came out pink!

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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 FROM FR PETER

As I reflect upon this Sunday's Gospel with John the Baptist in his prison isolation, I'm reminded of a religious sister, Mary O'Shannesy SGS who belongs to the religious order of sisters known as the Good Samaritan Sisters. Mary and I have known each since the 1980's when we did a hospital ministry program called Clinical Pastoral Education. I have admired Mary from a distance in this field of work with our Victorian Prison System. From all I have read in her works, Mary companion's our state's prisoners.

Almost two thousand years ago, Matthew in his gospel writing, describes the hard-edged questions that John asks of Jesus through the messengers he has sent to him from Herod's prison. Doubts breed a loneliness and darkness, and they take John away from his confident self whom we met on Jordan's river bank last Sunday. With a desperation of hope, John sends his disciples with the question'Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?'

Women like Mary O'Shannesy are a prophet going into the darkness of another's life so as to restore a confidence easily taken away. Advent as a season fills with many contrasts of situations where the light and darkness of peoples' lives are met. Advent as a season of hope and joy takes one on a path of light and where darkness is put behind. John the Baptist is the great witness. People who witness to faith and light are ones giving our world new direction. The Mary O'Shannesy's of our time in prison chaplaincy give witness to the darkness giving way to flickers of hope and light.

May this week of Advent, the joyful week, enable us being living witness to the light we embrace of God's love and joy, bringing a transformation from within one-self to an openness of living as God's people of light and peace.



I am pleased to announce *APRIL CAMPANELLI* has made a commitment to enter a conversation with me and others to journey to Easter 2023. This takes courage, and April is meeting with me and others on a Tuesday. Two meetings have taken place and another two before Christmas and resuming February in 2023. Please make yourself known to April, her husband Joe and children Coby, Henry, Darcy and Elaina.

A THOUGHT TO PONDER OVER This is an adaptation of an article appearing in THE SWAG a quarterly magazine from the National Council of Priests of Australia.

'Most Catholic people seem reluctant to talk about their faith or prayer life. Pope Francis is clear when he speaks coming from 'spiritual matters'. As a Jesuit priest, Pope Francis on May 6th this year in a general audience said, "Prayer is the breath of faith is the most proper of expression. Like a cry that issues from the heart of those who believe and entrust themselves to God."

Given Christmas is approaching rather quickly, it's a good thing we can ask ourselves how does my prayer and life in God bring effect to my life? It's been said to open oneself to the impact prayer has on our lives is to be "preachy" or "churchy"! Prayer is more than going to Mass on Sunday's! While the Eucharist grounds us in the source and summit of faith it's our capacities to see prayer as something personal even bringing a contemplation of God who hears us... If anyone would like a fuller version please contact me. Fr Peter

PREPARATION & CONSULTATION MEETING FOR THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL (CATCH UP SESSIONS)

Dr Chris Cotter (Sandhurst Director of Mission and Pastoral Life) and Ruth Lawlor (Sandhurst Youth Ministry Coordinator) will be conducting a Preparation & Consultation Catch Up Meeting via Zoom for those that have been unable to attend through their parish/organisation. The meeting will run for no more than 90 minutes, there will be two sessions available, the sign in details are below. All are welcome!

13 DEC 2022 9:00AM Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4180840629?pwd=R1BxU2FtQktTVjlvR21kWXZ5WGZxdz09>

Meeting ID: 418 084 0629 Passcode: 1530

13 DEC 2022 7:00PM Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4180840629?pwd=R1BxU2FtQktTVjlvR21kWXZ5WGZxdz09>

Meeting ID: 418 084 0629 Passcode: 1530

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

COMING TO THE END OF THIS YEAR..... Is an opportunity of expressing thankyou's and appreciation for this year we have shared and give value for our life in faith here at St. Mel's

To our office staff here at St. Mel's Ainsley and Mel who give a great warmth and welcome to all who enter, for the works they carry out, and for the humour shared, both bring a positive nature to their works and enable our Parish to be the life giving community we give from the office to you. Ainsley and Mel bring a thoroughness of organization, commitment, in meeting the demands for us. Thankyou for all you have contributed this year, along with Grace who from time to time involves herself with our funeral preparations and other capacities in support of Ainsley and Mel.

Sr Pam Barlow RSM I for one have a great appreciation all Sr Pam does in the wide coverage of ministry she brings to so many across St. Mel's. Sr Pam's generous ways with her humour, love for the Gospel message brings a loving contribution in meeting those who are home bound along with a loving outreach to many, Pam your efforts this year have given a joy we can only fully appreciate.

Our School Principals Chris Summers at St Mel's and Sue Carroll at St. Anne's College. Both Chris and Sue bring a profound sense of School and community leadership across our Parish and Church life. Having a close and regular contact with them I am grateful for their professionalism, their capacities to engage with our wider communities and for their positive and life giving nature of faith they give to their staffs, and school communities. Both Chris and Sue are active in their support of myself through our Parish, Mission and Pastoral Council and indeed we are so grateful we have School leaders we can take heart and example from.

To our Parish, Mission and Pastoral Council members. Your efforts this year have brought a great strength as we strive to build the Kingdom Jesus intends us being here at St. Mel's. We have sought a way of being missionary in our reaching out to the Parish. With the Plenary Council this year we have discerned the workings of the Spirit. Our discussions and reflections have been passionate and we believe as a group we have a common goal in all we want to be for our Parish.

To our Parish Finance and Management Committee. This year has seen this group be restructured quite deliberately. Given the nature of development with our Parish owned blocks and property, we have needed to be quite strategic in planning and discerning the best of conversation and outcomes for the ongoing financial and supportive ways we see for our Parish.

To all who take a volunteer role across our Parish and Church life our St. Vincent de Paul Society, (St Mel's conference) Many of you avail yourselves to support our Church and liturgy, music and musicians, counting the weekend monies, and other support roles, please know your efforts are valued by the time and preparation you give.

As our Advent season climaxes towards Christmas, allow these days to remind us of the many roles and ministries people give of themselves through the year and for the life and faith shared here at St. Mel's.

Sincerely,

Fr. Peter Taylor

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 18th 2022

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?'

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week December 12th to December 18th 2022

Monday December 12th - No Mass

Tuesday December 13th - 9:15am

Wednesday December 14th - 9:15am

Thursday December 15th - 9:15am

Friday December 16th - 9:15am

Saturday December 17th - 9:00am

Sunday December 18th - 9:30am & 5:00pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday, December 18th 2022

9:30am - Sev Cortese (Commentator) Zoe Hamilton (L1)

Melissa Hamilton (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Pauline Pettigrew &

Trish Mathisen

5:00pm - Volunteer (Commentator) Sr Pam Barlow (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Erin Tanner & Angie Knez

Recently deceased: Rosina Rotella (Italy, sister to Angela Gagliardi)

Anniversaries: Carmelina Demasi, Larry Dalla Costa, Andrew Lagana, Grazia Cardillo, Theresa & Saverio Lagana, Salvatore Gagliardi, Vincenzina, Bruno & Antonio Condina