



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.

First Sunday of Advent

27 November 2022

Readings for this week:



Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14a
Matthew 24:37-44

Readings for next Sunday:



Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12



Liturgy Jottings

The Season of Advent

The history of the Season of Advent reveals great variations in its origins, length, meaning, symbols and practice. First arose in the Gallican churches about the fourth century from a sense of piety rather than from the liturgy. It was marked by fasting and penance. The season varied from three weeks to 40 days. When Rome adopted Advent 200 year later Advent varied from one fast day to about a week. Pope Gregory the Great (591-604) set Advent to be four weeks of preparation for the Feasts of Christmas, differentiating it from Lent. The Eastern Churches marked these days as preparation for the mysteries of the incarnation and epiphany and is marked by joy and festivity. The Ambrosian rite has six Sundays of Advent. The Syrian and Syro Malabar Rites have a "Season of Annunciation" of 3-4 weeks with Christmas within or outside the season.

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Looking at the Readings

The Readings today for the first week of Advent could very much fit into the liturgy of last Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King. They proclaim the coming of the eternal kingdom of God and of our necessary readiness. The Response to the Psalm is identical: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Psalm 121, though this week verses 6-9 are added (see below). Isaiah shares his great vision of the coming of the Lord with us. He combines Temple and Mountain as a symbol of the new kingdom and the Lord's presence. We prepare for the Peace of the Kingdom by our action of turning instruments of war to implements of farming. See the image on left: a blacksmith is hammering swords into pruning forks. St Paul adds to the allegory by encouraging his friends to be armed with the light of Christ. Our armour is Christ himself.

After the warnings in the Gospel to stay awake and not knowing the hour of the coming of the Lord, we are encouraged to be calm in our waiting and joyful in our life and faith.

Prayer for the 1st Week of Advent.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!'

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

Quote from Pope Francis

We see that the liturgical year is for us the possibility of growing in our knowledge of the mystery of Christ, immersing our life in the mystery of His Death and Resurrection, awaiting his return in glory. This is a true ongoing formation. Our life is not a random chaotic series of events, one following the other. It is rather a precise itinerary which, from one annual celebration of the His Death and Resurrection to the next, conforms us to Him, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Desiderio Desideravi* (2022) n 64.

On the Lighter Side

Christian Advent calendars start on the first Sunday of Advent and contain daily prayers and good deeds. Whereas the supermarket Advent calendars start on 1st December regardless and supply toys, chocolates, etc. for the consumer. Q: Which dangerous cookie was found in the advent calendar? A Ninja-bread man. Q: How did the elf on the shelf feel when he couldn't get chocolate from the advent calendar? A: Foiled!



St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

Advent 2022 Welcome to this NEW CHURCH YEAR!!!! as the season of Advent brings us to anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ, God's great intervention upon our world and our community in faith here at St. Mel's. It's one thing to see God coming to us, we too make our pilgrimage to God! The gospel reading for today's Mass has Jesus warning the disciples of not being like generations of Noah's day who were immersed in the ordinary and everyday unaware of the flood (evil). As the gospel relates the fields still have to be ploughed, flour ground at the mill, and through these images see the coming of God to us.

The gospel of Matthew (the Sunday Gospel readings in Ordinary Time A) is one relating a readiness of living through the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-12) At the heart of Matthew's Gospel are statements of the Beatitudes forming a vision for us to see our faith through Advent as enlivening our hope. Advent as joyful a season captures a flickering flame calling for our attentiveness and response. So this first week is one we hold in preparation. It is by nature a busy time of year where our thoughts are towards Christmas and getting our households in some kind of order.

The nature of Advent says spend time during these days of slowing down a bit! Our pace of life is being on the go. While levels of commitment take us along, slowing a little can help the focus of the coming weeks to be meaningful. Our Parish rite of reconciliation is one opportunity where we give a priority to forgiveness and where peace can hold us in God's loving embrace. Keep Tuesday 20th December for 7pm free for this communal rite of reconciliation!!!

Enjoy the days of Advent. Allow time to be on your side for positive encounters of God's loving presence.



FROM CATH NEWS "World – first online conference to address crisis facing Oceania". The future of nations and people in the Oceania region will be at the forefront of a world – first global online conference being held later this month, hosted by Australian Catholic University and the Vatican dicastery for the Promoting Integral Human Development, will bring together the Bishops of Oceania with experts from the region for a synodal conference towards the General Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) in February 2023. A preparatory event of the FCBCO from November 28 and 29 will welcome first nations peoples from the Asia Pacific region along with scientists. It is said in the spirit of synodality modelled by Pope Francis an invitation for regional networks to meet in a dialogue regarding the overwhelming crisis facing the oceans in the Pacific region. For further details about this you can visit <https://bit.ly/3TOSwPg-> It's an obvious issue affecting many Pacific island nations and one we here in Australia cannot and should not be negligent to.

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

On 27 April 2022 Bishop Shane Mackinlay announced a year of Preparation and Consultation for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC). 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. At the meeting you will, find out about the SMPC, participate in a 'Listening and Dialogue' process (as used in the first phase of the Plenary Council) and provide feedback and ask questions which will contribute to the establishment of a structure that will support synodality in our diocese. All are welcome!

The dates, times and links to join are indicated below:

13 DEC 2022 9:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting Click link below and enter - Meeting ID: 418 084 0629 Passcode: 1530

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

13 DEC 2022 7:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting Click link below and enter - Meeting ID: 418 084 0629 Passcode: 1530

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

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.

A SINCERE THANK YOU to all involved in last Sunday's Parish event celebrating Christ the King. It was a day that will linger in the hearts of those who came. Grateful thanks to Xavier Tanner, and Maureen ably assisted by Mel and her daughter Maddi, from the Parish office and on the day did so much coordinating of food and other essentials, making the day so enjoyable. Many others stepped in on the day and your support was most valuable and for all who came along... Congratulations to all.



Fr Peter



CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM Our congratulations and welcome to Sadie Torrance, child of David and Stacey, baptised into our Church here last Saturday.

Fr Peter

PARISH FINANCE AND COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT Our final meeting for 2022 will be held on Thursday, December 1st at 7pm in the Gathering Room at Parish House. In anticipation of the meeting, I thank this group who have met regularly this year in support of me and all in our parish.

Fr Peter

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL meets on Wednesday, December 14th for our final meeting this year. Thankyou to each who has contributed so effectively and passionately for the building up of our Parish this year. It's been a unique year with the Plenary Council and initiatives around this.

Fr Peter

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

These are available for you to collect from the Narthex. Thank you.

ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY As we approach a busy time of year, then take time away to be with our families, we are planning ahead. Please, if you wish for loved ones names to be included in the bulletin during December or January, could you send these through to the office as soon as possible. Your cooperation with this is much appreciated.

ST MEL'S CONFERENCE OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL The second collection taken at both masses on Sunday, December 11th will be donated to St Vincent de Paul who support many across our community.



L'ARCHE RAFFLE \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5. Drawn 4pm December 16th at 8 Duncan Court. Tickets available at both St Mel's Masses **TODAY**.
1st prize - \$600 petrol voucher, 2nd prize - \$350 jewellery pendant
3rd prize - \$155 home appliance package, 4th prize - Christmas basket,
5th prize - Toy basket, 6th prize - Pampering basket
7th prize - Garden basket, 8th prize - Toy basket
9th prize - Baby basket, 10th prize - Wellbeing basket

YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICER (2 POSITIONS) This is an exciting full-time opportunity exist for two suitably qualified, passionate, and vibrant individuals to join the Youth Ministry 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/youth>
APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5 December 2022.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS AND UPCOMING CLOSURE DATES The parish office hours will remain Tuesday to Thursday 9:30am - 2:30pm and Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm through to the end of this year. From Friday, December 23rd the office will be closed until Tuesday, January 17th while we take a break to spend time with our families.

ADVENT LITURGIES celebrated at St Mel's Christ the King Church
Masses with Anointing - Sunday, December 11th at 9:30am and 5pm
Advent Rite of Reconciliation - Tuesday, December 20th at 7pm
In advance... **CHRISTMAS MASSES at ST MEL'S**
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**.



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 4th 2022

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message:

'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.....

.....I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week
November 28th to December 4th 2022

Monday November 28th - No Mass
Tuesday November 29th - No Mass
Wednesday November 30th - 9:15am
Thursday December 1st - 9:15am
Friday December 2nd - 9:15am
Saturday December 3rd - 9:00am
Sunday December 4th - 9:30am & 5:00pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER
Sunday, December 4th 2022

9:30am - Xavier Tanner (Commentator) Mary Calandro (L1)
Jacqui Avard (L2)
9:30am - Special Ministers: Sev Cortese & Gita Kelleher
5:00pm - Paul Bertoli (Commentator) Helen May (Lector)
5:00pm - Special Ministers: Lin Waite & Rosana Legalo

Recently deceased: Grace Pati (one month mind)

Anniversaries: Vincenzo Campi