

**Fourth Sunday Of Advent (Year C)  
Sunday 19 December 2021**

**First reading** **Micah 5:1-4**  
The Lord says this:  
But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.  
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.  
He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend  
his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.  
The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19**  
*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.  
*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.  
*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

**Second reading** **Hebrews 10:5-10**  
This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:  
*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will be for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.  
The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*  
**Gospel Acclamation:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
**Alleluia!**  
**Gospel** **Luke 1:39-45**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

'The Gospel of the Lord.  
**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**A Christmas Novena**

**Saturday December 18:**  
O Adonai, and Ruler of the house of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai, come to redeem us with an outstretched arm!  
*Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory be.*

**Sunday December 19:**  
O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths, Whom the Gentiles shall seek, come to deliver us, do not tarry.  
*Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory be.*



**Sacred Heart Parish  
Preston**

**322 Bell St, Preston 3072**  
**Parish Contacts:** Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124  
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



**Office Hours:**  
Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

Parish Priest:  
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD  
Ph: 0428 715 282  
Italian Community Chaplain:  
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD  
Ph: 0478 963 248  
Parish Office: Rachel Costa  
School Principal: Mark Tierney  
School Phone: 9487 1001  
Sacrament Co-ordinator: Ylenia Useli  
shpcatechists@gmail.com  
Child Safety Committee:  
Child Safety Officers:  
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958  
Kay Duffy: 0431 376 212  
Committee Members:  
Mary Harb: 0422 891 324  
Teresa Dang : 0434 583 911  
**Pauline O'Day: 0497 935 593**  
Parish Council Members:  
Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay Duffy (secretary), Tony Eley, Ophelia Swai, Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna and Natalie Baran  
Parish Finance Committee:  
Peter Constable (Chair)  
Ph: 0425 779 831  
St. Vincent de Paul Society:  
Stephen Costello (President)  
Ph: 0432 405 417

**Parish Mass Schedule**

**Weekend Masses:**  
**Saturday:** 6:00pm  
**Sunday:** 9:00am (Italian), 10:30 am, 6:00 pm  
**Weekday Masses:**  
**Monday to Friday:** 9.10am  
**Healing Mass:** 1st Thursday of the month at 1.30pm  
Next Healing Mass:  
3 February 2022

**Devotional Practices:**  
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Wednesday after 9.10am Mass  
**Holy Rosary:** Thursday (English)  
**Reconciliation:** Weekdays: 30 minutes before Mass or by appointment  
**Baptisms & Weddings:** By appointment only

**Fourth Sunday Of Advent (Year C)  
Sunday 19 December 2021**

**Making a difference in others' lives**

Recently I read a short story about a little girl and a dying starfish. She was walking along a beach covered with thousands of starfish left dying by the receding tide. Seeking to help, she started picking up the dying starfish and tossing them back into the ocean. A man, who watched her with amusement, said, "Little girl, there are hundreds of starfish on the beach. You cannot make a difference by putting a few of them back into the sea." Discouraged, she began to walk away. Suddenly, she turned around, picked up another starfish, and tossed it into the sea. Turning to the man, she smiled and said, "At least I made a difference to that one!"

The Gospel of Saint Luke tells us about another girl, Mary, who dares to make a difference. She is just a village girl. After receiving the great news from the Angel Gabriel, carrying baby Jesus in her womb, paid a visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was not only old but also six months pregnant. Being pregnant at that age is not easy. Elizabeth's life, I believe, was incredibly difficult. Mary's visit and help was a blessing. She made a difference in the lives of her cousin Elizabeth and of her unborn child, John. When John had grown up, he helped Mary's Son to transform the history of mankind by preparing the way for the Messiah.

The story of the little girl and Mary, Mother of Jesus, are truly inspiring. Both encourage us to make a difference in others' lives. Both convince us that the work we do or service we offer, no matter how unimportant or small, can benefit others. Moreover, both Mary and the little girl, teach us to take the first step. Even when the problem seems hopeless it can be solved by taking the first step.

As we are approaching the Christmas celebration let us focus not only on ourselves but also open our eyes to see the need of people around us. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, for instance, which has devastated the lives of many in the past two years, and other problems, many are like Elizabeth and dying starfish. Like Elizabeth, mother of John, they need our love, care, and also financial and material help to be able to experience the joy of Christmas. Many are going through life like dying starfish. The receding tide of life has thrown their lives (like refugees), marriages, family, health, and so on, out of the ocean of joy. Let us keep in mind that you and I are like Mary and the little girl called to help the least fortunate, marginalized, sick, isolated brothers and sisters to show them how much God loves and cares for them. Let us all be the real presence of the One born in Betlehem to others.





**Sacred Heart Parish Prayer**

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Feast Days of the week:**

Monday 21 December (Commemoration of St Peter Canisius)  
 Saturday 25 December Christmas Day  
 Sunday 26 December The Holy family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
 St Stephen, the First Christian Martyr

**WE PRAY FOR:**

**The elderly and the sick**

Anthony, Peter Bourke, Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph Paige Lapenta, Bronislawa Slobodzian

That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect

**Those who have died recently**

Morris Hutchinson (RIP 7/12)

Johnny Pimentel

Kau Benjamin Henry (RIP - Cook Islands)

**We Commemorate**

George Abiyounes (40 days)

Micallef family members

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



**Volunteers' Christmas Gathering**

Fr Aloysius is inviting parish volunteers to a Christmas Gathering next Tuesday 21 December.

Please pass this invite on to other parish volunteers in your circle.

Date: Tuesday 21 December 2021

Time: 6:30pm

Place: Presbytery Meeting Rooms

BYO: your favourite BBQ food to grill and a sharing plate (e.g. salad, cheeses, fruits, sweets)

Please note that guests must be fully vaccinated to attend this event under the current guidelines.

Please contact the parish if you are attending by 2pm Monday 20/12 9480 3398 or preston@cam.org.au

**Roster for weekend of 25 & 26 December 2021**

	Readers	Ministers of Communion
Sat 6.00pm	John Kmaid Terry Murphy	Mary Harb
Sun 9am (Italian)	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 10.30am	Eileen Stevens Marilene Fortuna	George McBrien
Sun 6.00pm	Anna Liggieri Ylenia Useli	Margaret Bannan

**Cleaning Roster:  
Saturday 1 January 2022**

**Volunteers**  
Thank you for your hard work



**#54 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melb**  
 Information Updated: 15 December 2021, 5:00pm

As of 11.59pm Wednesday 15 December 2021, the following measures will be applied to Masses at Sacred Heart Parish:

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. We also look forward to the time when all people can join together in various locations, and for the many activities that truly unite us fully as communities.

**Face masks** It is recommended that face coverings be worn if you are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 especially our aged parishioners and children under 12 years of age who are currently unvaccinated.

All Catholics in Melbourne **continue to be dispensed** from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

**Please do not attend Mass** if you are feeling unwell, have tested positive or are waiting for a Covid test result.

**Check in is still required.** Thank you.

**Ministers' Roster**

Readers and Ministers of Communion attending the **Saturday 6pm evening Mass**, if you have previously been provided with a hard copy of the roster, please check out the envelopes in the foyer and collect yours.

Thank you all for your faithful service to our Eucharistic Celebrations.

**1st Eucharist congratulations**

We Congratulate

**Mia Montagnese & Franco Santos**

On receiving their First Eucharist at the Sunday 10:30am Mass

*May the blessings of Christ be upon you always*

**How to watch the Jesus is Christmas Carols Special**



To celebrate the Season of Advent and Christmas, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is hosting its second annual carols special, **Jesus is Christmas**, airing on Monday 20 December at 7:30pm on Community TV Channel 31 and the Archdiocesan YouTube channel. ([www.youtube.com/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/archmelb)).

**Thanksgiving Envelopes**

The next batch of thanksgiving envelopes are in the foyer ready for collection. Please collect yours.

Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

**Last Week's Collection: 12/12/21**

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,178  
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$621  
 Thank you for your kind generosity



**LAUDATO SI': ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

**Advent 2021:** This year we have again learned that the future of the planet depends on our actions. **Pope Francis has invited us** to move towards "an eco-sustainable lifestyle," but how can we live a more sustainable Christmas?

"Let us honour the goodness of all your gifts in the natural world. In a season too often marked by overconsumption and excess, let us give thanks for all the good things throughout nature. Each day, let us ponder their goodness as signs of your love. Let us be in solidarity with those in poverty and nurture a spirit of true generosity. May the light of Advent grow daily together with our love for your creation, redeemed by your Son whose coming we will celebrate at Christmas".



Each day, offer thanks for the gift of creation:

*"Loving God, Creator of all, we bless you and we thank you for the gifts of nature. We ponder your love shown to us through these gifts and we praise you for your glory revealed throughout creation. Loving God may these gifts of creation ever remind us of your love, as we honour the holy season of Advent. In Jesus' name, Amen."* (Laudato Si' Movement.)

**THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS**



Life is a time for making decisive, eternal choices. Trivial choices lead to a trivial life; great choices to a life of greatness. In fact, we become what we choose. If we choose God, we grow daily in his love, and if we choose to love others, we find true happiness.

**Thank you for your generous donation to Father Hai's Ordination gift**



Sacred Heart Parishioners generously donated \$640 towards a perfect gift for a newly ordained priest – a leather-bound travelling Mass kit and cash.

Fr Hai is delighted with this gift and sends his heartfelt thanks for all the amazing support and encouragement from Sacred Heart parish!

**Let us pray for Fr Hai's priestly ministry**  
 For the love of Christ urges us – 2 Cor 5:14

**Sacred Heart Giving Tree**

Our deepest gratitude to all in our parish and school who have generously responded to the Giving Tree Appeal.

This Weekend 19<sup>th</sup> December is the final date for returning your donations. Please place donations in their envelopes in the second collection basket at Mass or contact Stephen 0432 405 417 or Pauline 9484 2445 if you require us to arrange a collection from you.

On Monday, thanks to your generosity, the St Vincent de Paul team will be preparing to deliver gifts to many of our neighbours for whom life continues to be an everyday battle.

*May the peace, joy and hope of Christmas be ever with you and your families.*



**2021 Christmas Mass times**

Friday 24 December  
Christmas Eve

7:00pm Family Mass  
 9:30pm Carols before 10pm Mass  
 10:00pm (in lieu of midnight) Mass

Saturday 25 December  
Christmas Day

9:00am Italian Mass - Nativity  
 10:30am Parish Mass - Nativity  
 6:00pm (Sunday vigil)

Sunday 26 December

9:00am Italian Mass  
 10:30am Parish Mass  
 6:00pm Mass

**Volunteers Needed**



**Readers, Ministers of Communion, Overhead Projectionists, singers, collectors, welcomers & QR Marshals are needed for all Christmas Masses.**

If you can assist, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the church foyer or email Rachel at:

[preston@cam.org.au](mailto:preston@cam.org.au) by 2pm Monday 20/12

Thank you

**Christmas Eve Family Mass 7.00pm 24<sup>th</sup> December.**

Families are very welcome to participate at this Mass.

Children to come dressed as a gospel Nativity Character or to participate in some small ways.

Please contact Pauline O'Day on 9484 2445 for information on how we will involve the children this year.

**Piety Stall**

With the help of generous volunteers the Piety Stall will again be open after each of the weekend Masses.

Religious items including Christmas cards and Columban calendars are available at very reasonable prices.

Volunteers are sought for the Saturday evening and Sunday 10.30 and 6pm Mass. Please contact Rachel on 9480 3398 for more details. You are required to have a current WWCC and be fully vaccinated

**Joke Corner**

A young mum was making a Christmas ham the family's traditional way, just as her mum and her grandmother had done for generations. Her teenage daughter, eager to understand the family traditions, watched as her mother sliced off the ends of the ham before placing it in the roasting pan.

"Mum," asked the girl, "why are you doing that?" Her mother paused for a moment and then said, "You know, I'm not sure. But this is the way I always saw my mother make a ham. Let's call grandma and ask her."

So, she phoned her mother and asked why they always slice the ends of the ham off before baking it.

The grandmother pondered for a moment and then said, "You know, I'm not sure why but this is how my mother always made it."

Now everyone was very curious. So off they all went to visit great-grandmother in the nursing home.

They asked her, "Grandma, you know when we make a Christmas ham, we always slice off the ends before baking it. Why is that?"

Curiously, the old woman said, "I don't know why you do it, but I never had a pan that was large enough."