

**Third Sunday Of Advent (Year C)**  
**Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday**  
**12 December 2021**

**First reading** **Zephaniah 3:14-18**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
 Israel, shout aloud!  
 Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
 daughter of Jerusalem!  
 The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
 he has driven your enemies away.  
 The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
 you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:  
 Zion, have no fear,  
 do not let your hands fall limp.  
 The Lord your God is in your midst,  
 a victorious warrior.  
 He will exult with joy over you,  
 he will renew you by his love;  
 he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
 as on a day of festival.  
 The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** **Isaiah 12**  
*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Truly, God is my salvation,  
 I trust, I shall not fear.  
 For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
 he became my saviour.  
 With joy you will draw water  
 from the wells of salvation.

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
 Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
 Declare the greatness of his name.

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
 for he has done glorious deeds;  
 make them known to all the earth!  
 People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,  
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

**Second reading** **Philippians 4:4-7**  
 I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.  
 There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much

greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.  
 The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
 he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** **Luke 3:10-18**  
 When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’ he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them, ‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked him in their turn, ‘What about us? What must we do?’ He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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



**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**Preston**

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**Third Sunday Of Advent (Year C)**  
**Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday**  
**12 December 2021**

**Rejoice in the Lord always**

The third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete Sunday” which means “Rejoice Sunday.” This title is taken from today’s Mass entrance antiphon, “Gaudete in Domino semper” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”). We are called to rejoice because we experience the presence of Jesus in our midst as a result of receiving Him into our lives through our repentance, renewal of life, and by doing God’s will. Today we also light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Saviour. We rejoice because we celebrate the first coming of the Lord at Christmas, recognize His daily presence in our midst, and wait for His return in glory at the end of time.

The Scripture readings of this Sunday put emphasis on the importance of joy. In today’s first reading, the prophet Zephaniah encourages Jerusalem and Israel to shout out for the joy of their expected deliverance by the Lord. In today’s Responsorial Psalm (Is 12:6), the prophet Isaiah gives the same instruction, “Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.” St. Paul echoes this message of joy in the second reading, a letter written from imprisonment: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice...” John the Baptist, in today’s Gospel, tells us the secret of Christian joy is our wholehearted commitment to God’s Way by the doing of His will. John challenges his listeners to show generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need. John’s call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. Repentance means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and it is to be reflected in our living in the ways John suggests.

This Sunday’s readings challenge us to examine our lives and ask ourselves: Am I a person of joy? How can I make others rejoice? We often think that power, fame and accumulating wealth can give us joy and happiness. In reality they give us only temporary joy and happiness. Sadly, however, many of us would sacrifice anything to get them even at the expense of our health and family. As Christians, we are constantly reminded that our true joy and happiness comes from God alone and that we can obtain it through our closeness with Him. Moreover, we can be a person of joy by making others happy. We can do these by mending ruptures, easing or relieving frictions, sharing family responsibilities, working honestly, and treating employees and employers justly. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption and, instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus’ coming. We must bear in mind that each one of us plays John the Baptist’s role as Christ’s precursors. Regardless our role as parents or teachers, medical staff, priest, public servants, and so on, we must set a good example of Christian life to others, especially those entrusted to our care. Parents, for instance, are expected to instil in their children a true Christian spirit and an appreciation for Christian values by their own lives and behaviour. Others need to understand their role as God’s instruments to lead those under their care to accept Jesus their Lord, Saviour and Brother.



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

Parish Priest:  
 Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD  
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 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



**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 13 December St Lucy  
 Tuesday 14 December St John of the Cross  
 Thursday 16 December Novena for Christmas begins  
 Friday 17 December Novena for Christmas  
 Saturday 18 December Novena for Christmas

**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**

Sr Glenda Bourke

**We Commemorate**

James Wesley Christoffelsz (9th Anniversary)

Peter Casamento (1st Anniversary)

Bergita Daus (1 month)

Nicola D'Orazio

- Murshed Dah Dah

- Giovanni Scapin

- Rachela Ciavarella

- Renai Di Giusti

- Helen Theresa Casaletto

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.



**Welcome!**

This weekend through Baptism we welcome **Zac Wilson** into our Parish family



**Roster for weekend of 18 & 19 December 2021**

	Readers	Ministers of Communion
Sat 6.00pm	Marlene Vergou Renato Tonini	Peter Bourke
Sun 9am (Italian)	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 10.30am	Jessica Suppiah Judeline Wadhvani	Pauline Veamatahau
Sun 6.00pm	Damian Casamento Marijana Jurjevic	Robert Dullard

**Cleaning Roster:**  
**Saturday 18 December 2021**  
**Volunteers**  
 Thank you for your hard work



**#53 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**  
 Information Updated: 18 November 2021, 5:00pm

As of 11.59pm Thursday 18 November 2021, the following measures will be applied to Masses at Sacred Heart Parish:

**Face masks are still required to be worn at all Masses here at Sacred Heart.** This is to ensure all are kept safe especially our aged parishioners and children under 12 years of age who are currently unvaccinated.

**All regular** weekday and weekend Masses will have no capacity limits or density limits for those who are **fully vaccinated.** To be eligible to attend Mass you must have your vaccination record loaded in your Service Victoria App, or those without a smartphone please bring your printed vaccination certificate with you to Mass.

**PLEASE NOTE: Today, Sunday 12 December will be the last 12pm Mass for unknown vaccination status. Please watch Mass online or attend a weekday Mass.**

PLEASE NOTE: at all Masses face masks are still required and you must check-in.

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

**THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS**



*In this Season of Advent, let us ask the Lord, through the fatherly intercession of Saint Joseph, to remain always like sentinels in the night, attentive to see the light of Christ in our poorest brothers and sisters.*

**St Vinnies Op Shopping is back!**

The Preston shop at 596-598 Plenty Rd, Preston is now opened from Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm. Donations of goods are welcome but due to a sudden surge, volunteers ask that generous donors phone the shop prior to delivering large amounts of goods. (ph. 9478 6845) We are looking for volunteers to assist especially on our new Sunday trading days. Contact the shop for more information.



**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: 5/12/21**

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,242  
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$550  
 Thank you for your kind generosity



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



As we continue the season of Advent, we are invited to hear the Scriptures in the light of the signs of our times. The question "What should we do?" is repeated three times in the Gospel reading today. It is a question we might ask ourselves every day in the face of a changing world order. What should we do? Perhaps a better phrasing of the question is "How do we live the Gospel today?" We bring Good News to all Creation when we share our goods, treat others with dignity, justice and forgiveness, by living simply and responding to the cry of the earth.

**LAUDATO SI' ADVENT CALENDAR**

This week we light the third candle of Advent – JOY. In the foyer we have on display a **Laudato Si Advent Calendar** that helps remind us to experience the gifts that God has given to us in Creation: the sound of the waves, gravity, the clouds that give us shade and rain, the scent of plants, sand, bees, chocolate, and so many other things that we enjoy day by day and rarely value as they deserve.

*God of our waiting, We light this candle to remind us that Mary accepted your invitation to be the mother of God. We pray that you may deepen our spirit of joy so that we may carry the light of hope into the dark places of our world that need our care and healing .Amen.*

**Sacred Heart Giving Tree**

For the next three weeks of Advent, the Giving tree will once again be in the Church foyer representing our parish/school appeal for Preston families and individuals who the St Vincent de Paul team have visited throughout the year and who struggle every day to make ends meet . We are once again asking for donations of Gift cards - \$10 or more from Coles or Woolworths for individuals, couples or families to be able to purchase their food or essential items to celebrate Christmas in their families. Or alternatively you may prefer to donate a Kmart or other Gift card for a parent or carer to purchase a gift for another.

If attending Mass in person you are invited to:

- Take a token from the tree, purchase a gift card or place cash in the token envelope.
- Return it to the church by the fourth Sunday of Advent 19<sup>th</sup> December or –
- Place a donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas Gift Appeal" with your contact details and either place it in the 2nd collection basket, deliver your gift to the presbytery or alternatively contact Stephen Costello 0432 405 417 or Pauline O'Day 9484 2445 if you require us to collect your donation.

*Advent hope, peace and joy to all*



**2021 Christmas Mass times**

Friday 24 December  
Christmas Eve

7:00pm Family 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 Mass for unknown vaccination status- maximum 50 people - Nativity (Not Sunday vigil)

Sunday 26 December

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

**Volunteers Needed**

**Readers and Ministers of Communion 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)  
 Thank you

**Ministers' Roster**

The next Roster for Readers and Ministers of Communion for all weekend Masses has been prepared. For those requiring a paper copy (i.e. not receiving an email copy), a copy has been placed (in an envelope) in the church foyer for you to collect. Thank you all for your faithful service to our Eucharistic Celebrations.

**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

**PLEASE TAKE THE BULLETIN HOME**

**Joke Corner**

A man woke up after surgery at the local Catholic hospital. His wife was sitting by his side. Drowsy from the anaesthetic, his eyes slowly fluttered open and he said, "You're beautiful." With those few words he then fell asleep again. Not having heard her husband utter such charming words his wife was delighted so she stayed by his side and held his hand. A few minutes later his eyes fluttered open again and he said, "You're cute." Disappointed, the wife asked, "What happened to beautiful?" The man replied, "The drugs are wearing off."