

**Second Sunday Of Advent (Year C)
Sunday 5 December 2021**

First reading **Baruch 5:1-9**
Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.
The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second reading **Philippians 1:4-6,8-11**
Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.
The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!
Gospel **Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
'The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



**Sacred Heart Parish
Preston**

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

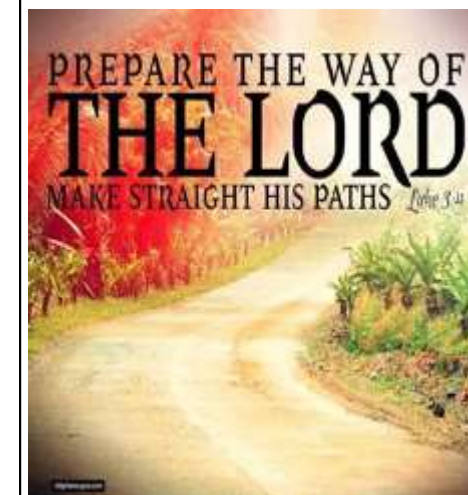
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Preparing the Way for the Lord

Like other personages, the Pope's official visit is announced ahead of time. The purpose is to give people more time to prepare for the visit and make themselves ready for it. For instance, the visit of Pope Benedict XVI during World Youth Day in Sydney back in 2008. It took the Dioceses in Australia more than two years in preparation for the visit. We also make necessary preparations when we invite an important guest or even a friend coming over for dinner, such as cleaning and decorating our home, buying drinks, cooking a nice meal, and so on. Such preparation is needed to make the visit go well and for our guest or friend to feel at home, and not disappointed by a lukewarm reception.
The readings of the Second Sunday of Advent tell us exactly the same thing. The Gospel of Luke reveals to us that John the Baptist is Christ's precursor and his role is to announce Christ's coming and get people ready to welcome Christ. John the Baptist plays a central role in the Advent liturgy. Advent, for us, is a season in which we recall the first coming of Jesus and make ourselves ready to welcome his spiritual coming this Christmas. Moreover, we also look forward to his second coming at the end of the world. John the Baptist helps us to consider not only what we should do to welcome Jesus but also to have a clear understanding of why we should prepare to welcome him.
What should we do to welcome Jesus? Quoting Prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist instructs to "prepare the way of the Lord" by filling in valleys, levelling hills, straightening crooked roads, and smoothing out rough paths. This is one of the most beautiful advice for Advent. This is an invitation to examine our lives on a regular basis, especially during the Advent Season. We need to take some time to get away from our busy life. We need to examine our hearts to see if selfishness, laziness and self-indulgence have blocked from building a good relationship with God and with other people. We need to fill in some spiritual potholes and clear away some unwanted debris, so that God's graces may flow unhindered into our hearts. Our heart is God's way to come into and transform our lives. But it is up to us to do the necessary repairs to allow that to happen. One of the best ways of repairing God's way into our life is through the Sacrament of reconciliation.
How to take our preparation seriously? The answer is simple: why do we need Jesus? Isaiah writes: "all mankind shall see the salvation of God." This reminds us of our fallen state and that we live in a fallen world. We are sinners living in the darkness of sin. Our dire need is salvation as we long to be with God. As Saint Augustine said: "My heart is restless until I rest in you." We believe that Jesus Christ alone has power to elevate us from disgrace into amazing grace. He is our Saviour who gives meaning and fulfilment to our life. Hence, Advent season and Christmas celebration without Jesus would be meaningless. We don't need them. Probably we don't need Christian faith as well. But the fact is that we do. We believe that only Jesus alone can restore our fallen human nature and world. In fact, He continues to come into our lives with His saving grace, like He did at His first coming over two thousand years ago. He never wants us to be parted from God. His only desire is to see us rest in God's loving care, the fullness of life that we long for. But He won't force His way in as He respects our freedom. That's why we need to collaborate with Him by preparing our hearts to welcome Him which enables His grace to transform our lives.



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
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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
12pm-for not fully vaccinated
Current restrictions allow 50 not fully vaccinated people at the 12pm Mass.
Weekday Masses:
Monday to Friday: 9.10am
Healing Mass: 1st Thursday of the month at 1.30pm
Next Healing Mass: 2 December
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 6 December St Nicholas, Bishop
 Tuesday 7 December St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor
 Wednesday 8 December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Thursday 9 December Optional St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
 Friday 10 December Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto
 Saturday 11 December Optional St Damasus I, Pope

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

Donato Rossi (RIP 23/11/2021)

We Commemorate

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



PLEASE TAKE THE BULLETIN HOME



Welcome!

This weekend through Baptism we welcome **Isabel Pintimali and Arthur & Diana Medcraft** into our Parish family

Roster for weekend of 11 & 12 December 2021

| | Readers | Ministers |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sat 6.00pm | Rohan Lemos Teresa Dang | Mary Harb |
| Sun 9am (Italian) | Volunteers | Volunteers |
| Sun 10.30am | Jessy Thambiraj Catherine Zanatta | George McBrien |
| Sun 6.00pm | Damian Casamento Tim Rankin | Margaret Rankin |

Cleaning Roster:
Saturday 11 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.

An **additional Mass** on Sundays for **50** parishioners (including clergy) who are **not fully vaccinated** will be provided at 12:00pm (Midday).

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



The way of peace, which reconciles conflicts and regenerates fraternity, is marked by dialogue. We ought to help one another to believe in the patient and unassuming power of dialogue. I is not an easy road, but there is no other way to achieve reconciliation.

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.



Last Week's Collection: 28/11/21

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,123
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$900
 Thank you for your kind generosity



LAUDATO SI: ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



The cry of John the Baptist in today's Gospel reading can be heard across the Judean desert and over the millennia, to this moment, right now. His voice is as loud and insistent and as relevant as 2,000+ years ago. It is the call to stop what we are doing and experience God's loving presence! To be still and know that we are beloved and to know God is well pleased with us. This wild man of the desert dreamt of a new era where our partnership with God would create a new earth in which love, peace and justice reigned. It would require a change of heart and a new set of values but it was entirely possible. It was at hand and within reach, should we accept the invitation. Today, Pope Francis continues the Baptist's work by calling all people of goodwill to stop and examine our relationship with the world around us. As Christians, we are being called to become protectors of God's handiwork and to be God's hands, hearts, and minds, to heal the world. Pope Francis calls this spirit of generous care and tenderness for the earth and each other, **an ecological conversion**, as did St Pope John Paul II before him.

LAUDATO SI' ADVENT CALENDAR

We continue this most beautiful liturgical season of the year by lighting the second candle of Advent – **Peace**. 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 John the Baptist calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus into our lives. We pray that you may deepen our compassion so that our hearts will be open to serve you in caring for Creation. 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 19th December or –
- Place a donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas Gift Appeal" with your contact details and either 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



Advent 2021 with Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy

You are invited to 'Expect the Unexpected' this Advent.

Join me each day for a short, free Advent Daily Devotional Video that will guide you on a life-changing journey.

Starting 28 November you'll receive short inspirational videos each day from Bruce Downes, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be!

Register now or for more information:

<https://brucedownes.org/registerforadvent/>

Email: info@brucedownes.org

This is a free program and open to anyone.



Congratulations Father Hai on your Priestly Ordination

Fr Hai's ordination Mass was livestreamed and can be viewed via Facebook and YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/FW5EvLcWcEK>

<https://www.facebook.com/100029825526688/posts/627300058274173/?d=n>

"The Love of Christ urges us" - 2

Corinthians 5:14



Joke Corner

Three lawyers and three engineers are at a train station on their way to a conference. The lawyers line up and buy three tickets, but the engineers only buy one ticket between the three of them. The lawyers are confused, and ask how the engineers plan on taking the train with only one ticket. The engineers tell them to wait and see. So, they all board the train. The lawyers each take a seat, but the engineers all crowd into a bathroom. The train starts moving and the conductor comes around punching tickets. He punches each of the lawyers' tickets, and then **knocks on the bathroom door and says "Ticket please!"** The engineers slide out the one ticket through a partly opened door, which the conductor punches and then slides back through the door. The lawyers think this is pretty clever, so on the return trip, they buy one ticket for the three of them, but then the engineers don't buy any tickets at all. The lawyers ask how the engineers plan on taking the train without any tickets, and the engineers tell them to wait and see. Once again they all board the train. The three lawyers crowd into one bathroom, and the three engineers crowd into another bathroom. Once the train starts moving, one of the engineers exits the bathroom, **knocks on the door of the lawyers' bathroom, and says "Ticket please!"**