

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B 5th - 6th December 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way of the Lord

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God'. Here is the Lord the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

R/ Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 3:4-6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord

As God's faithful people, we, like John the Baptist, must find our own voices to speak words of comfort and healing and hope to anyone who feels separated or abandoned by God. God will come. God will enter the experience of all who wait. God will bring them peace. And God will bring US peace.



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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Second Sunday of Advent, Year B 5th - 6th December 2020

Advent and Christmas like no other

We have been living through a difficult and anxious time. But as we move into our second week of Advent we can use it to help us live this season in a deeper, more meaningful way. Advent, a time of waiting, of preparation, invites us to live through this situation with patience, with hope, and a sense of expectation, so that we can look forward with joy in our hearts to the coming of the Child Jesus. As Christians we can make this Advent a journey of conversion; stepping aside, to find our own desert place like John the Baptist, and open our minds and hearts to really hear what God is asking of us during this time; praying that the Advent readings will lead us to a deeper understanding of the great mystery of the Incarnation - the One who came "that we might have life and have it to the full".

In Is 40:1-5, 9-11, we read of God saying to the prophet "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God, speak tenderly to Jerusalem..." God's chosen people were beginning to get restless waiting for the promised Messiah; there were divisions among themselves; some going their own way; others listening to the prophets and trying to trust their promises, a bit like us at this time. Those words picture a God of tenderness and compassion; this is the same God who is journeying with us at this difficult time of Covid, the God who chose to be born a helpless child in a simple stable in Bethlehem.

The Gospel for today, Mark 1:1-8, opens with these beautiful words: "The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God". As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah "I am sending my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way." John the Baptist was the one sent to prepare the people for the



coming of the Lord. "Repent and be baptised, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" That same message is as relevant today as it was then. So as we open ourselves to God's healing power, and the challenges of the Advent readings, let us also remember in a special way, during our times of prayer, all who are suffering the consequences of the pandemic, remembering that Advent is a time of hope, and that God will hear our prayers. So as we make this Advent journey, with gratitude in our hearts for a God who is always ready to forgive, reaching out to us with compassion and love, may we be inspired by Mary who co-operated so generously in bringing to fulfilment God's promise to send His Son, who himself told us "that I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light and life". (John 8:12) As we come to celebrate the birth of the Christ child on Christmas day, may we be able to say with deep joy and thanksgiving in our hearts that: "this has been an Advent and a Christmas like no other".

Sr. Anna Beirne ssc

Office Hours:
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD
Assistant Priest:
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD
Italian Community Chaplain:
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD
Ph: 0478 963 248

Parish Office: Cristina Agius
School Principal: Mark Tierney
School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:
Ylenia Useli
shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:
Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:
Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),
Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony
Eley, Gerard Grant, Ophelia
Swai, Anisasio (Pauline) Veama-
tahau, 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

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



Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On the 8th of December the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation in the United States.

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." — Catechism of the Catholic Church

Welcome back to Sacred Heart Church

As restrictions are easing and we are returning to activities within a Covid normal environment, we would like to invite you back to attending Mass at Sacred Heart church. Safety measures are in place to keep each individual safe, including social distancing, masks and cleaning between services. Welcome back, and, in smaller numbers, share again in our celebration of the Eucharist. Please do not attend if you feel at all unwell, and seek a Covid test if you have any symptoms.

Parish Pastoral Council

Christmas Planning

With up to 150 people now able to attend Mass in person at churches throughout Victoria, we plan to celebrate the 7 pm Christmas Family Mass outdoors on the Sacred Heart School playing ground where up to 300 persons can gather. A working group will be looking at the logistics behind this and making it COVID-safe. The remaining Christmas Masses will be offered in the church, but the numbers will be restricted according to the COVID guidelines.

Due to the limited numbers, booking in will be essential and like many other parishes we will be using Trybooking to manage attendance safely.

ATTENTION PLEASE!!

Please do not put envelopes containing money or important messages into the 322 Bell Street mailbox. A number of times mail has been stolen. Recently the padlock on the box was cut and the mail taken. Please place any mail in the letter slot on the side of the Presbytery front door. Thank you



Collections

1st Collection: \$874.85
Direct Debit for November: \$710.00
2nd Collection: \$510.05

Thank you for your kind generosity!



Website dedicated to "Fratelli Tutti" Encyclical

The Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development announced a new, intuitive website dedicated to Pope Francis' Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti". It can be accessed either from the homepage of the Dicastery www.humandevlopment.va or directly from the www.fratellitutti.va.

The site aims to "spread the message about the fraternity and social friendship of the Encyclical in a capillary way, deepening and making known all the aspects proper to the text and the magisterium of the Holy Father in this sense.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation that had been planned earlier this year and was postponed because of the lockdown will be celebrated on Sunday, 28 February, 2021, at 10.30 am. There will be a meeting of children and their parent/s or guardian/s on Saturday 12th December, 2020, at Sacred Heart church at 10.00 am. Those who have registered for this Sacrament and are able and willing to follow the preparation program during the holiday period and February, please respond to the email received from Ylenia, the Sacrament Program Coordinator, or contact Fr Jan asap.



Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

We will celebrate a Reconciliation Service with individual confessions on Thursday, 17 December, at 7.30 pm. During this year there were not many opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Therefore, you are cordially invited to take this opportunity to ask God's forgiveness for our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. With many preparations for Christmas celebrations, it is most important to prepare our hearts to welcome the newborn Child Jesus.



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.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 8th December:
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reminder to all Lav Ministers and Volunteers



As we resume with celebrating public masses, please make sure you have a valid Working With Children Check Card. Should you need any help in renewing your Card or have to apply for a new one, please see or call Fr Jan on 0400469540.

Find Hope in the Birth of Jesus amid the Covid-19 Crisis

In his 2020 [Christmas message](#), World Council of Churches (WCC) interim general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca has invited Christians and all people on earth to look up in hope, even if "there are many reasons to be afraid and to live in despair" today, reminding that "in the most difficult days of history", Christians have, time and time again, found consolation "in the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ that begins with the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem".

Sacred Heart Mass Times

Saturday: 6:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am (Italian), 10:30 am, 6:00 pm
Monday to Friday: 9.10am



2020 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve

Family Mass - 7pm (outdoors)
Night Mass: 10pm (in the church)

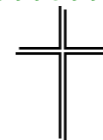
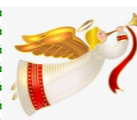
Friday 25th December Christmas Day

9am (Italian),
10.30am & 6pm (English)

Saturday 26th December Vigil Mass - 6pm

Sunday 27th December The Holy Family

9am (Italian), 10.30am & 6pm (English)



"Melbourne Overseas Missions Annual Appeal - 12th & 13th December 2020"

Thank you for your support which has, over the years, made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has been provided in clean water, health, education and improved living stands to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMOM> to donate

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
*Dhea Abenir, Anthony, Peter Bourke,
Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph,
Ray Mc Veigh, John Plum &
Bronislawa Slobodzian*



We Commemorate

*Francis & Mary Micallef, Domenico Chiodo (15th
Anni.) & Rosetta Chiodo, Maria Gracia & Santo
Constanzo & Francesco Bonarrigo (1 month Anni.)*

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

Sacred Heart Christmas Gift Appeal 2020



Due to this year's COVID restrictions, we have needed to adopt a different approach to our appeal from previous years, to support individuals and families assisted by our St Vincent de Paul team over the year and who struggle each day to meet basic living costs. You are invited to choose from the following:

- Donate a Gift Card of \$10 or more (Coles or Woolworths) for a family to purchase Christmas food items or a Kmart, Toys "R" Us or other Card as a gift for a family member
- Give a Cash donation. Place the Card or donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas Gift Appeal" with your contact details if you require a receipt. Deliver your donation to the Presbytery or contact: Moira on 0439 619 623 or Pauline on 9484 2445 to arrange collection of your donation.
- Should you wish to make a direct bank transfer the details are as follows:

BSB: 063-003 Account: 1008-1787 Ref: Agent 940.

Contact Kevin Finch on 0429 873 483 with details - your name, amount and address, who will forward a receipt once the donation has been credited to the Preston account. (Agent 940) With Thanks.

Columban Calendars 2021

Orders for the 2021 Columban Calendars are now being taken; the cost is now \$9 not \$10.50 as previously stated. If you wish to order a calendar for yourself or as a Christmas gift for a family member or friend, please ring Pauline O'Day on 9484 2445 or Stephen Costello on 0432 405 417.



Weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:

Visit <https://bit.ly/2JdyEXJ>
where you can listen anytime!

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

TV Mass - Channel 44 (31)

Live from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am