

3rd Sunday of Advent - Year C

15th - 16th December 2018



First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

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 The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.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

Responsorial Psalm: Isa 12:2-6 R. v.6

R/ Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

The Lord is near.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Isa 61:1

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

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do, then?' 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

Each of us is being called to stand in the crowd that listened to John the Baptist and hear the "good news" of his call to repentance. We should examine our lives, asking from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring not from our fear of coming wrath, but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.



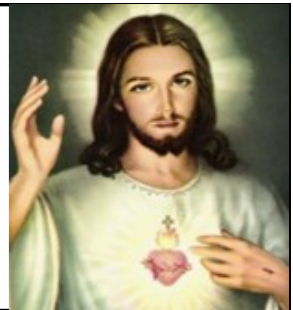
Sacred Heart Parish

Preston

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3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

15th - 16th December 2018

What Must We Do?

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday (be joyful). The invitation to be joyful is particularly reflected in the first two readings. 'God is in our midst. 'Renewing us by his love' (Zephania): 'there is no need to worry, the Lord is near!' (Philippians)

It is also in the Gospel reading – though not as obvious at first. But gradually, a sense of expectancy grows amongst the people as John the Baptist's recognition of injustices in their society and admonition to people to change their ways of living moves towards his announcement of the 'Good News' of the holy one of God who is soon to come. Messages of hope and promise to people living under the conquerors' yoke would awaken new fervor amongst the hearers – leading to questions like, "What must we do" to be part of this new way of being? For John, 'Do' was the operative word.

The Baptist was very clear: salvation was about responding to the ways of God by removing the obstacles from one's own life that prevented one from living justly and in right relationship with ones fellow human beings – thus treating others with the same respect and compassion that would be expected for oneself. The justice of God would be evident where those who had more, shared with those who had nothing; where people were treated fairly by those in positions of authority or power - no extortion, intimidation or violence. John was inviting his hearers to form a new society by making the pathways straight towards achieving it.

The people began to assume that John was the messiah. But he was adamant one more powerful than he was yet to come. In Jesus' case, (and 'Jesus' means God saves) his power was not of an earthly conqueror but the Mercy of God offered to all people. Jesus in His teaching and ministry encouraged people to overcome narrowness of mind, old prejudices and protocols: to accept not condemn differences: to honour and respect our common human-ness as children of one merciful and loving God. Jesus called all not to be blinded by suspicion, self or group interests but to be welcomers and bearers of God's Mercy.

The feast of Christmas will soon be here. Today's celebration gives us the opportunity to look beyond the hectic demands that December makes of us. It invites us to find a deeper source of joy than that offered by all our end of the year activities. This sure joy is truly the gift of God.

Let's ask ourselves: What must we do to channel this on to others - and particularly to those socially isolated or for whom life is a day to day struggle?

"May the peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, guard your hearts and your thoughts" (Paul)



Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Priests in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

Fr Phuong Vu SVD, La Trobe

University Chaplain

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9484 3514

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Judeline Wadhvani

Child Safety Officer:

Judeline Wadhvani

M: 0490660787

judeline.wadhvani@gmail.com

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Gerard

Grant, Ophelia Swai, Anisasio

(Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark

Tierney, Timothy Nolan,

Fr Jan Szweda SVD

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O'Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

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) & Friday (Italian) after

9.10am Mass

Legion of Mary: Thursday

7.30pm, in the Presbytery

Reconciliation:

Weekdays: 30 minutes before

Mass or by appointment

Baptisms & Weddings:

By appointment only

Sacred Heart Parish, Preston, Child Safety Policy

The Professional Standards Unit of the Archdiocese of Melbourne is currently reviewing and rewriting all diocesan child safety policies. New policies will be launched in 2019. The policies will reflect recent legislative changes and importantly reflect our vision to create a strong culture of excellence in safeguarding children and young people. Our Parish Child Safety Policy will be reviewed in the light of the new Archdiocesan documents by August 2019. Until the launch of the new policies, please continue to use existing documents. If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact the Professional Standards Unit on (03) 9926 5621 or (03) 9926 5630.

2018 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wednesday 19th December:

- Reconciliation Service - 7.00pm

Monday 24th December:

- Christmas Eve: Family Mass - 7.00pm
- Carols Singing: 9.30pm
- Night Mass: 10.00pm

Tuesday 25th December - Christmas Day:

9.00am (Italian), 10.30am & 6.00pm (English)



Dates to Remember

Wednesday 19th December: 7.00pm

Reconciliation Service

Penitential Service

In preparation for Christmas, everyone is invited to attend the Penitential Service on Wednesday night 19th December at 7pm. During the Service there will be opportunity for individual confessions.

Welcome!

This weekend through Baptism we welcome: **Jude Levi McLoughlin** into our Parish family

Last Week's Collection: 09/12/18

1st Collection for our Church: \$991.95
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$679.90

Thank you for your kind generosity!



Plenary Council Advent Prayer

Be still
Be still and know
Be still and know that I am
Be still and know that I am your God.
God of this Advent time as we watch, wait, long and hope,
Awaken our hearts to your presence
Encourage us in our efforts to listen humbly to each other
Inspire in us the words to speak boldly with each other
Create within us a spirit of discernment
Give us hopeful hearts as we continue our journey to the Plenary Council.
We ask this in the name of Emmanuel - God-with-us. Amen.

Christmas Masses

Please note that this year we will have Masses at 7pm and 10pm on Christmas Eve. **No midnight Mass.** On Christmas Day, Masses are at 9am (Italian), 10.30am and 6pm.
If someone wishes to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at a later time, there will be Mass at 11pm at St Raphael's in West Preston and midnight Mass at St Paul's, Coburg.

Christmas Play

Children are invited to take part in the Christmas play at the 7.00 pm Christmas Eve Mass on 24th December. Those who would like to take part in the play, please remain in the church after 10.30am Mass today for a short rehearsal.



Morning Melodies: Chris Doheny's Aussie Christmas Show Special Lunch for Parishioners, Relatives and Friends

You are invited to join us for a pre-Christmas luncheon at the Darebin RSL on 21st December. Seniors' menu offers a broad choice of main course and desserts with hints of Christmas for \$18. A great chance for old friends and new to catch up and maybe look ahead to resuming more activities and outings next year. Please pass the message on. Contact Pauline O'Day on 9484 2445 or Eileen Stevens on 0402 448 652, by Wednesday 19th December if you would like to attend!

Sacred Heart - A Giving Tree 2018

A reminder that gifts and donations for the tree are to be handed in this weekend, allowing us to fill and deliver hampers in time for Christmas. Anyone who has some time to help sort and pack hampers on Wednesday 19th December or deliver hampers late Friday afternoon, 21st December, please contact Pauline O'Day (President) on 9484 2445.



Working Bee



The week before Christmas is a very busy time for everyone. However, if you can spare some free time, please come for a working bee on Saturday 22nd December, from 9am to 10am, to help to clean up the lawns and surrounding areas of our church. After work there will be a sausage sizzle brunch.

Australian Nativity Scene at St. Elizabeth Parish

Monday 10th December 2018 to Friday 11th January 2019
St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Bakers Road, Dandenong North (Melway 81A8)
Australian Nativity Scene (ANS) welcomes you to view the traditional and stunning nativity scene at St Elizabeth's, with this festive season's display marking fifteen years. This event is free and open to everyone—children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Viewing time after mass or by appointment.
Enquiries: Wilson on 0428 927 110 or 9795 6217 (parish office)
Website: <http://www.australiannativityscene.org/>,
<http://www.facebook.com/AustralianNativityScene/>
or https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_scene#In_Australia

Summer School of Evangelisation: World Youth Day @ Home

Sunday 20th to Sunday 27th January 2019
PGL Campaspe Downs, 1302 Trentham Road, Kyneton
In 2019, the Melbourne Summer School of Evangelisation in partnership with the Archdiocesan Office for Youth will be offering a special WYD-themed Summer School! The Summer School will include many of WYD features such as Catechesis with bishops, a Stations of the Cross, an expo and a final Mass. Join Bishop Mark Edwards and participants from around Australia for a week of faith and fellowship. Open to young people aged 16-35.

Registrations close December 20th 2018.
To register visit: www.cam.org.au/wyd/wydhom

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
John Bernardini, Margaret Doyle, Luis Gandarillas, Irene Navascues, Dale O'Keefe, Veronica Parkes, Rosie Poter & Yvonne Tierney



Our loved one who died recently
Rosa Commenzuli

Those recommended to our prayers
Leonardo Bertucci, Rosaria Bertucci, John Bourke (5th month), James W. Christoffelsz (6th Anni.), Domenico Galace, Rafaele Galace, Annunziata Giuseppa, Maria Giuseppa, Joanne Muscat (Daughter of Barbara Fitzgerald - 9th Anni.) & Marianna Nardi
O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Recommended Reading

If you are interested in keeping up with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and Parish News, please visit the following sites:

- <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Portals/0/ParishUpdate.pdf>
- <http://melbournecatholic.org.au/events>
- <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/>

To Readers and Communion Ministers

We invite Readers and Communion Ministers to sign up for serving at Christmas and the following weekend Masses. If you can be on duty these days, please sign a roster that is placed in the foyer of the church. Thank you for your dedicated service to our Church Community.

Cleaning Roster: Saturday 22nd December 2018



Anna/Volunteer

Thank you for your help!

Roster for weekend of 22nd - 23rd December

	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	Renato Tonini Mary Harb	Peter Bourke Terry Murphy
Sun 9.00am (Italian)	Mancini M. Ilardi L.	Pavan M. Bozzella C.
Sun 10.30am	Moir O'Brien Anne Stuart	George Mc Brien Tony Eley
Sun 6.00pm	Ylenia Useli Anna Liggeri	Sharon Kotz