

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B 12th - 13th December 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord, 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. R. Is 61:10

R/ My soul rejoices in my God

Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

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

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ'. 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No'. So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord'. Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap'. This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord

Saint John the Baptist is a saint of joy because he points always to Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

We also can become people of joy when our lives point to Jesus our Lord.

We don't have to be perfect but we do have to keep pointing to the Lord.

Just as in the life of John the Baptist, the more we decrease, the more the Lord may increase.

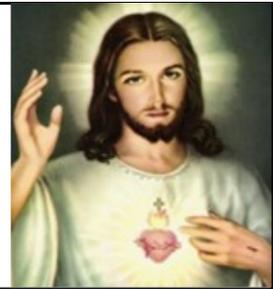
It is a challenge for us to live in such a way that we are always witness to the presence of God and God's love.



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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Third Sunday of Advent, Year B 12th - 13th December 2020

Rejoice Always

by Chris Hannan

For two weeks we've been turning inward trying to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ. In our busy lives it becomes easy to wander out into a desert of our own making. Dry, lifeless times where we're so busy, that thinking about prayer seems like just another job to cross off the list. Times when being so connected by electronics leaves no time for real friends, real people, so we are parched with loneliness even in a crowd of hundreds of 'friends'. A desert is also full of abrasive sands, like the constant flurry of messages that try to convince us that if we accumulate more, or change our looks, we'll be happy. A desert is full of shifting sands, sending us in directions we hadn't thought of going.

Enter John the Baptist, telling us to make straight the way of the Lord. He's the voice you hear in your head and heart when you know you've wandered too far. He's the voice you hear when you're so tired from too many job activities and responsibilities, too many school functions, too many volunteer jobs, too much of anything and everything. He's telling you to come out of the desert, make space and time for the God who loves you more than your wildest imaginings. Make time and space for the gift of love from those God has given you. Make time and space to love in return and more importantly when it's not returned.

Sounds good, but how can we leave this desert? Paul gives some very practical advice. Rejoice always. Pray

without ceasing. Be grateful. Be open to the surprises of the Spirit. Retain what is good, don't do what is evil. Isaiah tells us that with the Spirit of God upon him he can do great things. Isaiah and Paul both remind us of the joy that focusing on a right relationship with God brings. Rejoice!

"But, I'm too busy. I have to do this, that and the other everything." Have to or want to? Could we be hiding out in this desert of our own making? Or is this just another way you and I try to control a world that seems to be spinning out of control? John knew enough to say it's not me. He knew he wasn't in control, he wasn't the Christ. It's really hard and really scary to think about, but do we have the faith of the Baptist to say 'it's not me'. Can we leave the desert? Come, Lord Jesus.



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

First Plenary Council Assembly Mixes in-Person, Online Format

The first assembly of the Plenary Council will take place with a combination of online and face-to-face participation as uncertainty remains over restrictions on travel and gatherings.

The decision to hold the October 2021 assembly in a "multi-modal" format was reached last week based on feedback from a number of groups, including the steering committee for the Council assemblies, the Plenary Council's facilitation team and risk assessors.

Plenary Council president Archbishop Costello SDB said while COVID-19 travel restrictions might be lifted by the time of the first assembly, ongoing social distancing requirements and questions around flight schedules and costs were concerns.

"In announcing earlier this year the postponement of the first assembly for 12 months, we were confident that by October 2021 restrictions in relation to travel and public gatherings would have largely disappeared," he said.

"This now appears much less certain. Among other concerns, the Adelaide venue we had selected was unlikely to be able to host the gathering of more than 300 people due to social distancing requirements."

Archbishop Costello said the bishops, during their biannual meeting last week, wrestled with the decision before conceding that the move to a multi-modal gathering was the only realistic option. Under that format, delegates will gather in local groups – diocesan, inter-diocesan or provincial – and participate in some Council sessions within those groups. Other sessions will take place with those groups engaging in conversation, prayer and discernment with other groups around Australia.

Christmas Mass Bookings

Christmas Mass bookings will be available online via Trybooking from 8pm, Saturday 12th December, 2020.

For bookings, please [Click Here](#) or go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOPD>

For those unable to book online, registrations for Christmas Mass must be made by contacting Fr Jan on 0400469540 or Fr Aloysius on 0428715282.

Registration is not required for infants under 12 months.

Tickets do not need to be printed



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."

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.

Volunteers Needed

Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass



Setting Up School grounds starting at 5pm, Registration Assistants, Ushers and Offertory Collectors

Christmas Eve 10pm Mass and Christmas Day

Registration Assistants and Offertory Collectors
If you can assist, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the church foyer. Thank you

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



Weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:



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

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)

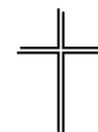
Saturday 26th December

Vigil Mass - 6pm

Sunday 27th December

The Holy Family

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



Wilbow Group & St Patrick's Cathedral present Handel's

Messiah – Part 1 excerpts, Hallelujah Chorus and Christmas Carols

18 Professional Singers directed by Christopher Watson, with Christopher Cook on organ
Thursday 17th December 2020, 7.30pm
Tickets \$40; Children under 15 free.

Enquiries: music@cam.org.au

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BNGKY



WE PRAY FOR:

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



Complimentary Online Videos and Music

Emmaus Productions is offering a complimentary resource of online videos and music:

- [A Light In Darkness](#) - Christmas Resources
- [Restless Heart, Holy Longing](#) - Video Reflections with Ron Rolheiser OMI

These thought-provoking and soul-searching reflections are presented by theologian and award winning author, Fr Ron Rolheiser. Click above to view samples of this video series.

Jesus is Christmas: A Christmas Carols Special



Sunday 20th December, 7pm

Featuring carols by Silvie Paladino, Gary Pinto and more. The carols special will be broadcast on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and streamed online at the Archdiocesan YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/archmelb.

Parish Marriage Resource Centre

[Click here](#) for a showcase of the different resources available to you and your community. May we take this opportunity to wish you a joyous Advent and glorious Christmas season.



What is God asking of me in 2021?



The Full Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola are a practical way of discovering God's unique love and desire for you in your daily life. This one-on-one program involves daily prayer/reflections and weekly face-to-face or online conversations with an experienced Ignatian Spiritual Director - adapted to your individual needs as your journey unfolds.

Anyone is welcome to apply for the program - no prior experience necessary. It can be started anytime from February onwards spanning 30-35 weeks.

Express your interest by 28 February 2021
Phone: 1300 392 636 or Email info@jisa.org.au

Go to <https://bit.ly/3nkvQH2> for more information

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Sunday: 11am

TV Mass - Channel 44 (31)

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

Collections

1st Collection: \$1411.85

2nd Collection: \$771.05

Thank you for your kind generosity!

