

2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C 8th - 9th December 2018

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125

R/ The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

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. 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

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: Luke 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

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

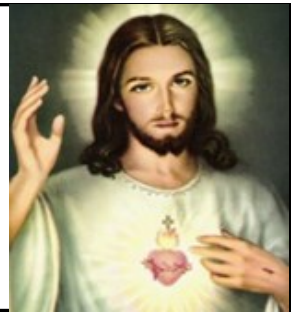
John's message prepared the way for Jesus; we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C 8th - 9th December 2018

“Peace through Integrity”

Three years ago, in this second week of Advent, Pope Francis introduced the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. He called us to look into ourselves and to let go of all that is condemnatory, harsh or cruel towards others. Instead, we must learn to look with God's eyes upon creation in order to be instruments of God's mercy and peace, towards our troubled planet and to its inhabitants. Pope Francis, like Luke, the writer of today's gospel, recognised that the message of the gospel is for the whole world and not just for a few and it must not be just a matter of words; it must be lived. Luke located Jesus' life and mission in world history. His essential message was that God's kingdom was already breaking in on the world and being offered to all.

The message of salvation was not dwelling on past enslavements and wrongs to be condemned. It was “Gospel”- Good News - about setting people free. It was about bringing hope to those under various forms of oppression and instilling a new understanding about God, humanity and creation – that all are interconnected and share a common Dignity. This would demand that we must be ready to change ideas that undervalued other human beings, who like ourselves, in God's eyes, are all His beloved children.

In the first reading, the prophet uses highly poetic emotional images to express the boldness of God's promises to restore a people returned from long years of exile. This was a people faced with rebuilding a desolate homeland from virtually nothing. The message is infused with a sense of ultimate triumph and awareness of the love of God for all people. In the midst of uncertainty, hope would triumph over distress and open them to the peace of God's presence among them. This meant they must live what they longed for, “Peace through Integrity”.

For us also the message is similar; not to succumb to the persuasions of injustice, greed or violence in our world. Rather, we are to be prophets of God's mercy by word and action in our families, neighbourhoods and beyond – especially to those who have lost heart. Ours can be voices of hope in their wilderness of despair.

This Advent, our prayer and practical action might be to listen and learn more about the plights, fears and needs of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression, including those who seek asylum, those who have sought asylum yet still wait resettlement; parents and children who have been forced to flee their homes due to domestic violence and those who have lost the struggle to keep a roof over their head. St Paul has this prayer for us:

“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 you can always recognise what is best”

Philippians 1:6



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.

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.

Sacred Heart - A Giving Tree 2018

The last weekend to bring gifts for the giving Tree is next week on the 15th and 16th December, allowing us to fill and deliver hampers in time for Christmas. Don't forget, to help us fill hampers, please:
 *Take a token (as many as you like) from the tree.
 *Buy the item/s listed on the token.
 *Place it in or near the large box in the foyer on or before Sunday 16th December - no need to wrap the item/s.
 *Place envelopes containing cash donations or gift cards into the small sealed box.
 Your assistance will be deeply appreciated by the families we visit.
 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.



WE PRAY FOR:

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



Those recommended to our prayers
Giuseppe Cicutto & Antonio Domingo

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

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

Thursday 13th December: 7.00pm

Sacred Heart Christmas Carols

Wednesday 19th December: 7.00pm

Reconciliation Service



YOU ARE INVITED TO SACRED HEART SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROLS

THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER

AT 7.00PM

AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

Christmas Play

Children are invited to take part in the Christmas play at the 7.00 pm Christmas Eve Mass on 24th December. If your children would like to be involved in the play, please see Fr. Jan after Mass.

First practice will take place next Sunday 16th December, after the 10.30 Mass.



Welcome!

This weekend through Baptism we welcome: **Azalia Preto, Max Pintimalli, Ethan Patolot, Valentino Tiberius Frisina, Adam Roimata Daghistani, T.J. Daghistani, Amina Rosella Piriangaoa Daghistani & Maeva Alattin Henry** into our Parish family

Last Week's Collection: 02/12/18

1st Collection for our Church: \$1411.80
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$752.40
 Thank you for your kind generosity!



Welcome to SVD Vocation Director

This weekend we welcome to our parish, Mr Manny Bautista, the Divine Word Missionaries' (SVD) Vocation Director. He will address us at every Mass on the important topic of vocation.



Bible Study: Gospel of Mark, The Person of Jesus

When: 13th Nov - 11th Dec

(Tuesdays for 6 weeks)

Where: Sacred Heart Church, Preston

Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm

By: Fr. Phuong Vu, SVD



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!



Melbourne Overseas Mission (MOM) Appeal

Archbishop Peter Comensoli writes: For over four decades, the MOM Annual Appeal has enabled Missionaries across the world to hear the cry of the poor and to respond through the development of programs in healthcare, education and the development of essential community infrastructure. I thank you for your generous support of the MOM Appeal. Please also continue to pray for those who work in solidarity with the world's poor through works associated with MOM.

Donation envelopes are distributed. You may put your donation to the offertory baskets or to a box provided in the foyer.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday 12th December, 7pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, corner Gisborne Street and Cathedral Place, East Melbourne

A Christmas Concert in the glorious setting of St Patrick's Cathedral. Featuring Anthony Halliday (organ) and Joel Brennan (trumpet). Works by Handel, Bach, Corelli, Daquin and Halliday.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/ZEUH>



Cleaning Roster: Saturday 15th December 2018



Rebecca/Belinda

Thank you for your help!

Roster for weekend of 15th - 16th December

	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	Rohan Lemos Terry Murphy	Mary Harb Charlotte Bainy
Sun 9.00am (Italian)	Mancini L. Bozzella C.	Roda G. Santini G.
Sun 10.30am	Sonya Bading Catherine Zanatta	Teresa Bernardini Alan Castles
Sun 6.00pm	Abigail Roberts Cameron Dunn	Margaret Bannon