

## 3rd Sunday of Advent - Year A 14th - 15th December 2019

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

R/ Lord, come and save us.

**Second Reading:** James 5:7-10

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgment yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:** Isa 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:** Matthew 11:2-11

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.

The Gospel of the Lord

**We all have the ability, whether it be the giving of our time, talent or treasure,  
to put God's love into action this season and when this is done, we feel God's  
presence as we live our faith, strengthening the belief in the answer to the  
question that John the Baptist posed, that yes, Jesus is the one who has come.**

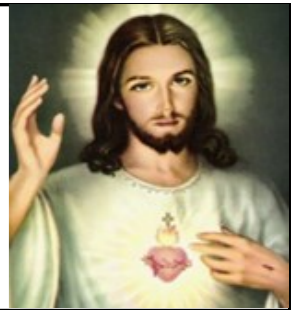


## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



### 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 14th - 15th December 2019

#### Courage, do not be afraid, Your God is coming!

The joy and hope that is such a distinctive feature of the Advent season comes to the fore this week. This will be symbolised in the additional rose candle we light before our liturgies. Joy is certainly manifest in this week's readings of the Sunday. Isaiah's vision of a new creation is echoed in Jesus' response to the disciples of John the Baptist, who ask, 'Are you the one who is to come?' Jesus replies, 'tell John the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear; the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor.'

Isaiah's vision was first proclaimed to a people in exile long before the birth of Jesus. The people had virtually lost their identity - everything that reminded them of God's faithful love for them as his chosen people - a homeland, temple and king. In the midst of their dispossession and desolation, the prophet's mission was to rekindle their hope and joy that God who would redeem and restore them

as a people.

The Gospel tells the story of John, under arrest, sending disciples to Jesus asking if he is the 'promised one' for who all have been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the instances of his ministry that enact the signs of salvation



proclaimed by the prophet. We can understand why John sent messengers to Jesus. When Jesus came preaching the kingdom, his vision went beyond John's words of condemnation of oppressors and call to repentance. Jesus offered unconditional forgiveness and healing for all who would receive it and befriended the lowly, the outcast and repentant as brothers and sisters. In his mission Jesus was making Isaiah's vision of a new world a reality.

This passage is a reminder that God's kingdom is already in our midst, as manifest in the life of Jesus and in a church which truly makes the mission of Jesus its mission when it embodies his justice, by extending compassion to the bruised, abused and light to those in darkness of alienation and despair.

To each of us - as disciples of the Good news - the Advent message of John: "Repent, for the kingdom is at hand", is an invitation to a change of heart and mind so that we may become bearers of joy, hope and healing to the broken, the exiled and the vulnerable in our midst.

**Office Hours:**

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

**Priest in Residence:**

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

**Parish Office:** Cristina Agius

**School Principal:** Mark Tierney

**School Phone:** 9487 1001

**Sacrament Co-ordinator:**

Judeline Wadhvani

**Child Safety Officer:**

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212

**Child Safety Committee:**

Teresa Dang, Kay Dufty, Robert Dullard (Chair), Mary Harb, Sharron Kotz, Pauline O'Day, Fr Jan Szweda

**Parish Council Members:**

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson), Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley, Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai, Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solomon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

**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 (Eng) & 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

**Gaudete Sunday**

Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is:

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first Latin word of the antiphon is gaudete means "rejoice".

What significance does this have?

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season.

Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: "The Lord is near."

**Welcome to Fr Long**

We welcome into our parish, Fr Joseph Nguyen Xuan Long, who will be with us during the Christmas and New Year period. He comes from the South of Vietnam and was born in a family of 5. His eldest sister is a nun. Long joined the SVD while studying engineering at university.



After taking his first religious vow in 2010, he studied philosophy and theology in Vietnam. He took his final vows in 2017 and was ordained a priest in 2018.

He was assigned to Australia and arrived in Melbourne on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. Long has just completed his English Language course at Deakin University.

We cordially welcome Fr Long to Sacred Heart!



**Welcome!**

This weekend through Baptism we welcome

**Lucia Johnson**  
into our Parish family

**Dates to Remember**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** 7pm - Graduation Mass

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** - 9.10am  
End of Year School Mass

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December:** Children's Liturgy - 10.30am

**Last Week's Collection: 08/12/19**

1st Collection for our Church: \$1046.00  
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$886.80  
Melbourne Overseas Mission: \$291.00  
*Thank you for your kind generosity!*



**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.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

You are invited to the opportunities for Confession before Christmas at the following times:

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December:** 5pm – 6 pm  
**Weekdays - Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:** 8.30am – 9 am  
or by appointment



**Bambinelli Sunday  
December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Blessing of Statues of the Infant Jesus**

The blessing of baby Jesus figurines (Bambinelli Sunday) is an event that takes place at the Vatican each year. After the blessing you can place the statue of the Infant Jesus under your Christmas tree, waiting for Christmas Eve when the baby Jesus can be placed in the manger to mark the birth of the Baby Jesus.

**2019 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December:**

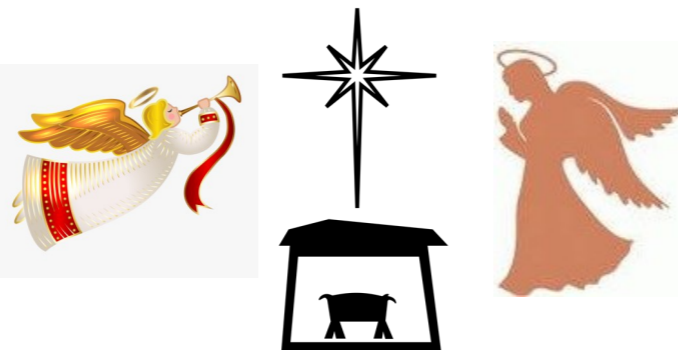
**Christmas Eve**

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

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December:**

**Christmas Day**

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



**A Thank You Letter**

I am most grateful to you for your ongoing prayerful and financial support that promotes the missionary outreach of the Church through the work of Catholic Mission.

The focus to our World Mission Day Appeal this year was to highlight the work of Catholic Mission in Nagaland, India. The amount received from your parish for World Mission Day (\$485) helps us to work in partnership with local Churches in places of need around the world. The generosity of Catholics in Melbourne each year is remarkable and your role in promoting the Catholic Mission appeal is a key part of that success. The October World Mission Sunday appeal is important so that we can honour our commitment to sister churches in developing countries, but also to provide much needed funds for our Home Mission Fund.

Wishing you every blessing for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Kind regards, Kevin Meese, Diocesan Director

**Sacred Heart - A Giving Tree 2019**

Thanks to all who have given so generously to our Giving tree appeal.

This Sunday is the last weekend for return of items and donations as this week we will be assembling the hampers (Wednesday)

and delivering (Friday). Thanks also to those who have volunteered to help with the preparations.

You will be contacted in the next two days with details.



**Vocation News**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December: "The Lord is Near"*

"The Lord is Near" Today the Church bids us rejoice, the Lord is near, indeed He is with us. Let us rejoice today for those who have said 'yes' to the call of Jesus. Pray for our priests and religious. Pray for the fifty men in formation to the priesthood at our seminary in Carlton, Corpus Christi College.



**Roster for weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**

	Readers	Ministers
<b>Sat 6.00pm</b>	Rohan Lemos Mary Harb	Barbara Fitzgerald Marlene Vergou
<b>Sun 9.00am (Italian)</b>	Paiano T.	Mendolicchio A. Ilardi L.
<b>Sun 10.30am</b>	Alan Castles Judeline Wadhvani	Eileen Stevens George Mc Brien
<b>Sun 6.00pm</b>	Peter Constable Tim Rankin	Sharron Kotz Margaret Rankin

**WE PRAY FOR:**

The elderly and the sick

*Charmaine Nuqui*

Those who have died recently

*Ines Malavisi*

We Commemorate

*John Borowicki, Michael Bradshaw, James Wesley Christoffelsz (7<sup>th</sup> Anni.), Giuseppe Cicutto (7<sup>th</sup> Anni.), Settimo Crocco Giuseppe Rizzo, Raffaella Scarcella (1<sup>st</sup> month), and all deceased members of the Crocco, Gelain, Loffo, Loria, Paiano & Rizzo families.*

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



**Free online Advent Resource**

St Columbans Mission Society has produced an Advent resource 'Lead kindly light' for the four Sundays in November/December (Year A). The resource can be found at: <https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-resources/advent-catholic-resource-lead-kindly-light-year-a>

The early bird rate for **Serving Communities with Courage and Compassion**, our national Catholic social services conference, in Melbourne from 26-28 February 2020, closes next **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Register now** to make big savings, and to secure your spot! And don't forget our **2-for-1 deal for young professionals** working in Catholic social services.

Details at the website: <https://www.css.org.au/Serving-Communities>



**Catholic Theological College**

**2020 Study Options Now Available!**

Two courses are offered next year: 1/The Parish and Pastoral Ministry in a New Environment, and 2/ Church History. If interested, please contact the Academic Records Office for all study options and further information. Phone: 9412 3309 or Email: [AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au](mailto:AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au) 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne Email: [ctc@ctc.edu.au](mailto:ctc@ctc.edu.au)

**Cleaning Roster:  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

*Cory/Michael*

*Thank you for your help!*

