

# First Sunday of Advent, Year B 28th - 29th November 2020

**First Reading:** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

*Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

**R/** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:** Ps 84:8

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Mark 13:33-37

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**  
**Emmanuel shall come**  
**to you O Israel!**



## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

**Parish Contacts:** Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124  
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



## First Sunday of Advent, Year B 28th - 29th November 2020

### Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

For us Catholics, the first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. This year it is a special 'new beginning' in the postCovid-19 reality. As the restrictions are slowly being lifted, we are again allowed to gather as God's People in our churches to celebrate. This Advent we like to do it not just as a beginning of a new period but as the beginning of a renewed commitment to our faith. The Advent time of worship and prayer aims to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of Jesus Christ who was incarnated and is Emmanuel, God-with-Us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of Advent urges us to an awakening in our Christian life and puts us in a watchful disposition, to open our lives for Our Lord Jesus who is coming. Pope Benedict XVI said in 2006: 'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.'

Let us start our Advent journey with the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to lead us in the His light (cf. Is 2:1-5).

The reading from Isaiah today is particularly relevant. Isaiah ministered during a very tumultuous time, which witnessed the destruction of the Temple and the long exile in Babylon. The people were devastated by these events and their faith was shaken to the core. Isaiah, though, was able to rise to the challenge. Amidst the overwhelming despair and disillusionment, he reminded the people of God's dream to renew and reconcile all things. He would satisfy his people's thirst for justice and hunger for integrity; he would bring about his dream of harmony and peace in place of war, brutality, injustice and division that the people experienced.

Isaiah called the people to faith in spite of their afflictions. He taught them that God's plan for their destiny is being achieved through these traumatic times. He invited them to look beyond their present predicament to the time of renewal and restoration. More importantly, he called them to commit themselves to working afresh for the realisation of God's dream.

Today, in the midst of many situations of seeming hopelessness, it is easy for us to be overwhelmed and numbed. We feel powerless and unable to make a difference to the lives of many suffering people. Yet, Isaiah reminds us that what is needed is the strength of faith and the power of love. When we are on the side of the poor, the vulnerable, the suffering people and when we stand in solidarity with those without hope and act together, we can be channels of hope. In opening our eyes and hearts to the sufferings of our world, hope can be awakened, a hope that allows us to see things from the perspective of God.



**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) Veamatahau,  
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

### Advent: Time of Waiting

Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait'. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in the Letter to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' (Rm 13:11).

*Blessed John Henry Newman*

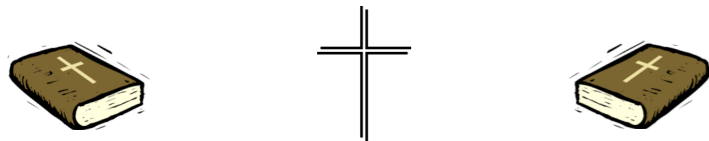
### Welcome back to Sacred Heart Church

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.

As for any activity, please do not attend if you feel at all unwell, and seek a Covid test if you have any symptoms.

Parish Pastoral Council



### 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

### 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.**

### Collections

1st Collection: \$874.85

2nd Collection: \$510.05

*Thank you for your kind generosity!*



Congratulations to Fr Yosef Meda, SVD on his Priestly Ordination on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

Thank You for celebrating your First Mass with our Sacred Heart Community. God's blessings and best wishes for your mission in Ghana.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Celebrating First Reconciliation



Last week, 12 children of our parish celebrated their First Reconciliation. It was a long year of preparation for this important event in their lives. It was first scheduled for the end of March but because of the lockdown it had to be postponed. I would like to thank the teachers who prepared the children, partly in class, partly online. Thank you also to their parents for their part in preparing their child for the Sacrament. These children will receive First Holy Communion in mid-2021. Let us keep them in our prayers.

### Sacred Heart Mass Times

**Saturday**

**6:00pm**

**Sunday**

**9:00am (Italian), 10:30 am, 6:00 pm**

**Monday to Friday**

**9.10am**

### Dates to Remember

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December:** 9am

Fr Ennio Mantovani's Farewell Mass

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December:** 12pm

First Holy Communion (reserved for families only)

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December:**

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



### Weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:

Visit <https://bit.ly/2JdyEXJ>

where you can listen anytime!

### Children's Week Activity:

#### "Just as I have loved you"

As people of faith strive to live by Jesus' message to his disciples: 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.' (John 13:34) Jesus' commandment reminds us that we are each loved by God, who created us in his own image and likeness. We are then invited to show that same love to our neighbours - within our families, our local parish, school communities and the wider community.

#### How to participate

To celebrate Children's Week this year, we are inviting all children and young people (from the ages of 4 years to 17) to participate in an activity. We want you to share with us what the words "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34), mean to you through a drawing or artwork (mixed media).

Download the [activity flyer & submission form](#)

Download [activity colouring sheet](#) (for the little ones!)

Along with your artwork, please include an answer (150 words or less) to the following question: In what ways do you feel part of the parish community and how do you try to make others feel welcome?

Entries should include the completed submission form and can be sent to [psu@cam.org.au](mailto:psu@cam.org.au) before 5pm on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. (Parents are welcome to answer the question on behalf of their child/ren if they are too young to do so.)

For more information please visit: [bit.ly/3nY9Emb](http://bit.ly/3nY9Emb)

It is important to note that this is not a competition, but a reflection and an opportunity for adults to hear the voice of our young ones.

Those who participate will be invited to an online gathering with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli following the activity.

### Safeguarding Committee Update

The Parish Safeguarding Committee must now review the compliance obligations that all Parishes are now required to adhere to. All policies, procedures and practices that influence the life of the Parish must be looked at in line with the 10 National Standards.

We invite new members who may already have some background in Professional Standards, to join the Committee. Anyone interested to serve the Parish on the Safeguarding Committee is most welcome. Please contact Fr Aloysius or Fr Jan.



### Reminder to all

#### Lay 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.

### 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

***Rocco, Domenico & Caterina Pennella, Giovanni & Caterina Tesoriero, Antonio & Giuseppina DeCata and Carmine & Carmela Macari***

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.

### 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