

2nd Sunday of Advent - Year A 7th - 8th December 2019

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2.7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

R/ Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 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: Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heavens is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.

The Gospel of the Lord

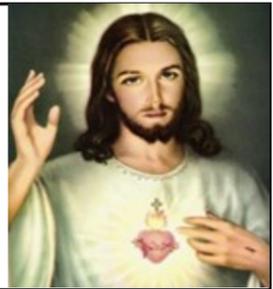


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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 7th - 8th December 2019

Accept one another as Christ accepted You

In order to welcome Jesus, we must remove obstacles that prevent us from welcoming one another.

St Paul puts it plainly: 'Accept one another as Christ accepted you.' John the Baptist expresses it in another way through the words of the prophet: 'prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.'

In the first reading, Isaiah's vision gives expression to the longing of God's people for a ruler of integrity who would restore universal peace and harmony to a world broken by suspicion, discrimination and oppression among peoples. In words that have found their way into the Rite of Confirmation, the one to come would be endowed with the Spirit of the Lord. This servant leader would usher in an era of justice for all, ruling with wisdom and insight, judging not by appearances but as a forthright champion of the poor and oppressed. In his reign, everything would be brought into the harmony of hospitality: "The wolf shall be the guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid: the calf and the young lion browse together, with a little child to guide them." Conflict, after all, can never end by dominance or retaliation, but by reconciliation.

John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus to be the long awaited one who would communicate God's Spirit to humankind. This would be the mission of all the baptised – to live by the Spirit of Jesus and enable the Spirit's gifts to be seen and shared with all - not just an elite few. Such a way of living could never condone violence, hatred or abandonment of another in need.

There was no room for complacency in John's call to repentance, which involved more than admitting one's faults and regretting past wrongs. Repentance involved a radical life change – a turning back to God by opening of one's heart to the mercy of God already bestowed upon us and accepting the challenge to a change of heart, attitudes and behaviour.

John's presence in our Liturgy is a wakeup call. Like it or not we can't ignore his message. If we

ignore John then we might not recognise where Christ is working today. Let us look for Christ in all people, treat one another with dignity and respect, and hold our leaders to high standards by urging them to promote harmony, not separation or discord.

We might take heart from the words of Pope Francis:

"Don't be discouraged... Jesus looks beyond the faults and sees the person. In no case does it halt at appearances but looks to the heart. With this gaze of Jesus, you can help bring about humanity". *Pope Francis to the World's Youth, Krakow, July 2016*



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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Feast Day marks the Immaculate Conception - that is, the conception of the Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

It's often mistakenly thought to mark Mary's conception of Jesus, but actually marks the conception of Mary herself.

Unlike Mary, Saint Anne became pregnant in the usual biological way, Catholics believe, but the conception was 'immaculate' because God intervened, absolving Mary of original sin.

According to Catholic dogma, all humans are born with original sin, which is why babies are baptized shortly after birth to make them worthy of entry to Heaven. But Mary was never tainted by original sin, kept 'immaculate' from the moment of her conception because God knew she would one day give birth to Jesus Christ.

December 8th was first officially declared a holy day by the Vatican in 1854, when Pope Pius IX settled disputes and confirmed that the conception had been immaculate. But the first celebrations of the event happened as early as the seventh century.

Advent Reflection Group

There will be an Advent Reflection Group Meeting on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 7pm, in the Presbytery. Everyone welcome!



Welcome!

This weekend through Baptism we welcome

Julian Jay Sicari and Mae Charli Kelly into our Parish family

Dates to Remember

Monday 9th December: Mass at 9.10am & 7.30pm
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday 12th December: - 7pm
Christmas Carols Night

Sunday 15th December: Children's Liturgy - 10.30am

Monday 16th December: 7pm - Graduation Mass

Wednesday 18th December: - 9.10am

End of Year School Mass

Last Week's Collection: 01/12/19

1st Collection for our Church: \$1079.35

2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$579.15

Thank you for your kind generosity!



You are invited to Sacred Heart Christmas Carols

Thursday 12th December, 7pm at Sacred Heart Church

Everybody is welcome!



2019 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday 24th December:

Christmas Eve

Family Mass - 7.00pm

Carols Singing: 9.30pm

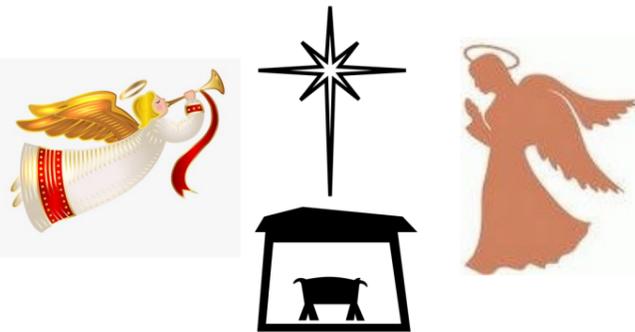
Night Mass: 10.00pm

Wednesday 25th December:

Christmas Day

9.00am (Italian)

10.30am & 6.00pm (English)



Bambinelli Sunday December 15th



Bring the Baby Jesus statues from your Nativity sets for a special blessing at the 10:30am Mass. This tradition was started by Pope

St John Paul II and is celebrated on Gaudete Sunday, third Sunday of Advent.

This weekend - Special collection for the:

Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal

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.

Sacred Heart - A Giving Tree 2019

Thank you to all who have already taken tokens from the Giving Tree to help fill the Christmas hampers.

What a generous response we have had! There are still two more weeks to go and a reminder that the last day to return food items, cash envelopes or gift cards will be Sunday 15th December.

A box and container for items will be found by the tree.

Volunteers to accompany St. Vincent de Paul members prepare and deliver the hampers are welcome to complete the sign up sheet on the table near the tree.

Christmas cards are still on sale this weekend.



Vocation News

2nd Advent Sunday - 8th December:
"Prepare a Way for the Lord"

"Prepare a Way for the Lord" John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. How do we prepare the way for Jesus in the lives of our young people? Do we pray for them? Encourage and support them? Invite them to serve, and thank them? How can we be like John the Baptist to those people who do not know Jesus?



Roster for weekend of 14 th - 15 th December 2019		
	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	Celia Lemos Renato Tonini	Peter Bourke Terry Murphy
Sun 9.00am (Italian)	Ilardi L.	Gugliotti A. Recchia I.
Sun 10.30am	Moira O'Brien Marilene Fortuna	Alan Castles Tony Eley
Sun 6.00pm	John Plum Neschelle Castillo	Damian Casamento Margaret Bannon

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Charmaine Nuqui

Those who have died recently

Claudio Michael Berton,

Rosina Coluccio

and Maureen McLeod

We Commemorate

Antonio Domingo, Corrado & Elvira Lelli,

Alessandro, Delia & Luigi Santori,

Gabrielle Tamburrini and

Gino & Giuseppina Zanellati

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.



Australian Nativity Scene

Monday 9th December to Friday 10th January
St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Baker Rd, Dandenong North

Wilson Fernandez has been creating the Australian Nativity Scene (ANS) for sixteen years. This intricate display is now regarded as one of Australia's best nativity scenes. Wilson creates the village and township of Christ's birth with handmade huts, stables, buildings, bridges, palaces, houses and temples surrounded by mountains, rocks, lakes and rivers to convey the story of Christmas. It features scenes like Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay and finding only a stable free, the birth of Jesus, visits from the shepherds, the three kings and ends with the holy family fleeing to Egypt. This event is free and open to everyone. Children are to be accompanied by a guardian. Melway Ref: 81A8.

<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianNativityScene/>

Viewing time: After Mass and any other time by appointment only.

Details: Wilson on 0428 927 110 or 9795 6217

Free online Advent Resource

St Columban Mission Society has produced an Advent resource 'Lead kindly light' for the four Sundays in November/December (Year A). The resource was inspired by the hymn 'Lead kindly light' by John Henry Cardinal Newman who wrote it after a life seeking on-going conversion. The resource can be found at:

<https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-resources/advent-catholic-resource-lead-kindly-light-year-a>

Cleaning Roster:

Saturday 14th December 2019

Anna O'Neill/Volunteer

Thank you for your help!

