

**First Sunday Of Advent (Year C)
Sunday 28 November 2021**

First reading **Jeremiah 33:14-16**
See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.’
The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and law.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second reading **1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.
The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

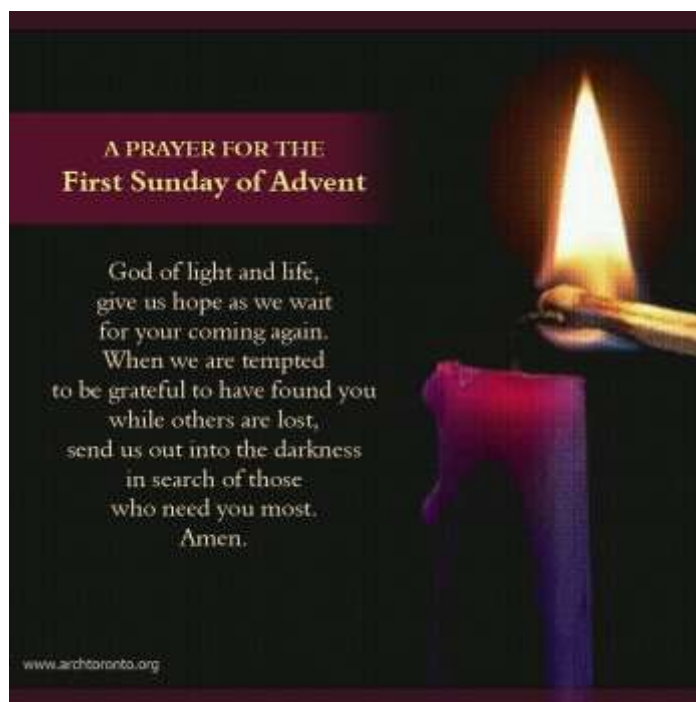
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!
Gospel **Luke 21:25-28,34-36**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

’The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



**Sacred Heart Parish
Preston**

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Parish Contacts: Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124
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Office Hours:
Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

Parish Priest:
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD
Ph: 0428 715 282
Italian Community Chaplain:
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD
Ph: 0478 963 248
Parish Office: Rachel Costa
School Principal: Mark Tierney
School Phone: 9487 1001
Sacrament Co-ordinator: Ylenia Useli
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Child Safety Committee:
Child Safety Officers:
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958
Kay Duffy: 0431 376 212
Committee Members:
Mary Harb: 0422 891 324
Teresa Dang: 0434 583 911
Pauline O'Day: 0497 935 593
Parish Council Members:
Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay Duffy (secretary), Tony Eley, 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
12pm-for not fully vaccinated
Current restrictions allow 50 not fully vaccinated people at the 12pm Mass.

Weekday Masses:
Monday to Friday: 9.10am
Healing Mass: 1st Thursday of the month at 1.30pm
Next Healing Mass: 2 December

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 Sunday Of Advent (Year C)
Sunday 28 November 2021**

Be vigilant at all times!

Today we begin the Advent Season which offers us an opportunity to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ in all ways, from His birth in the past to His Second Coming in the future as the Messiah. For us Catholics, Advent is a meaningful season that reminds us of the reality of Jesus Christ and that He has come and He is present in our world and lives. The birth of Jesus is worth celebrating because it reveals His human side and is therefore an example of how we should live our own lives as his followers here on earth. In the Second Coming, Jesus will appear in His full glory and it will perfect and complete our community and identity as His people. It is during this time that we can finally be united with Him and spend eternity with Him in heaven. Advent acknowledges these two significant events in our lives as Christians. It is a time for us to look back to Christ’s birth and celebrate His second coming. In the period between these two important events, we are to discover and fulfill our God-given purpose.

How do we prepare for Jesus’ coming? There is a beautiful story about an Oklahoma bus driver told by Msgr. Arthur Tonne. In his 23 years of driving buses, the driver had reached an unusual record of over 900,000 miles without a single accident. When asked how he had done it, he gave this simple answer: “Watch the road.”

In today’s Gospel Jesus also gives us the same advice in several ways: “Be vigilant at all times,” “Stand erect,” “Raise your heads,” “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy.” I believe this is not only a good spiritual advice for the Advent season but also a safe rule for daily life. We are like football players or students. A good football player or basketball player should always concentrate his attention on the ball and the players. A good student must be alert, awake and attentive, watching the teacher and listening to his or her words. So are Christians. A good Catholic in the Church must be physically and mentally alert, watching the altar and actively



participating in the prayers and songs. Moreover, we must be vigilant and be aware of the presence of Jesus in the people in need, marginalized, isolated, suffering social injustice. It is such people that we need to show our loving care and generosity. Like the Roman god Janus, who had two faces, one looking at the past year and the other looking into future, Christians during the Advent season are to look at the past event of the first coming of Jesus into the world and expectantly look forward to Jesus’ second coming in glory.

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.

Feast Days of the week:

Tuesday 30th November St Andrew, apostle
 Wednesday 1st December (Blessed Charles de Foucauld)
 Friday 3rd December Solemnity of St Francis Xavier
 Saturday 4th December St John Damascene

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Anthony, Peter Bourke, Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph Paige Lapenta, Bronislawa Slobodzian

That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect

Those who have died recently

Donato Rossi (RIP 23/11/2021)

We Commemorate

Mercedes Calleja,
 Recchia & Fiorenti family members
 Lamberti, Totino, Spano, Domine & Doria family members
 McBrien family members
 Bozzella & De Grandis family members
 John, Alfonso, Dino & Natalina Bernardini,
 Isa, Mario, Orfeo & Rino Bergamin,
 Teresina & Valter De Stefani,
 Carlo, Duilio, Livio, Pasqua & Beppi Trentin
 and all deceased members of the
 Ottaviano Bertonecello & Carlo Trentin families

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



Roster for weekend of 4 & 5 December 2021

	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	Mary Harb Marlene Vergou	Charlotte Bainy
Sun 9am (Italian)	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 10.30am	Jessica Suppiah Marilene Fortuna	Tony Eley
Sun 6.00pm	Ylenia Useli Anna Liggieri	Damian Casamento

Cleaning Roster:
Saturday 4 December 2021
Volunteers
 Thank you for your hard work



#53 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
 Information Updated: 18 November 2021, 5:00pm

As of 11.59pm Thursday 18 November 2021, the following measures will be applied to Masses at Sacred Heart Parish:

Face masks are still required to be worn at all Masses here at Sacred Heart. This is to ensure all are kept safe especially our aged parishioners and children under 12 years of age who are currently unvaccinated.

All regular weekday and weekend Masses will have no capacity limits or density limits for those who are **fully vaccinated**. To be eligible to attend Mass you must have your vaccination record loaded in your Service Victoria App, or those without a smartphone please bring your printed vaccination certificate with you to Mass.

An **additional Mass** on Sundays for **50** parishioners (including clergy) who are **not fully vaccinated** will be provided at 12:00pm (Midday).

PLEASE NOTE: at all Masses face masks are still required and you must check-in.

Please do not attend Mass if you are feeling unwell, have tested positive or are waiting for a Covid test result.

THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS



The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and isolation.

ST Vinnies Op Shopping is back!



The Preston shop at 596-598 Plenty Rd, Preston is now opened from Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Donations of goods are welcome but due to a sudden surge, volunteers ask that generous donors phone the shop prior to delivering large amounts of goods. (ph. 9478 6845)
 We are looking for volunteers to assist especially on our new Sunday trading days.
 Contact the shop for more information.

Father's Day Appeal

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and public Masses not being able to be said at Parishes on Father's day, please support the retired Priests of the Archdiocese by placing a donation in the envelopes found in the Church foyer.

Some statistics:

- Priests generally retire at 75 years of age.
- 96 Melbourne priests are currently retired: - 6 are in their 90's, 53 are in their 80's and 37 are aged between 75-80.
- There will be an average of 7 retirements per year.
- Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Please give generously

Last Week's Collection: 21/11/21

1st Collection for our Church: \$968
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$618
 Thank you for your kind generosity



LAUDATO SI: ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



Introducing Natalie Baran, the guiding light of our Sacred Heart Laudato Si' Circle. Natalie, a born environmentalist and lover of nature has been instrumental in leading us towards becoming a Laudato Si' Parish in response to Pope Francis' call to undergo an ecological conversion to care for our common home.

Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast day of Christ the King of the Universe to end the liturgical year. As a faith community we are entering the preparation time of Advent when we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The Advent candles remind us to have faith, hope, joy, and peace in Jesus who became one with us to teach us how to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

We pray that during Advent our minds and hearts will turn with joy towards Jesus, born in a stable, announced by a star and surrounded by animals that were the first witnesses to His birth.

SACRED HEART Gardening Group

A Gardening Group will meet once a month to help keep our church grounds neat and beautiful. We welcome new volunteers as many hands make light work!



The next working bee is on:
Saturday 4 December
 10am - 12pm
Meet at the Presbytery



BYO: Gardening gloves and tools for weeding and pruning. One or two whipper snipper/edge trimmer owners are most welcome!!

Morning tea provided.

Please note: Volunteers must be fully vaccinated

Sacred Heart Giving Tree



Both our Sacred Heart Community and School are continuing our Christmas appeal to support families and individuals who members of our St Vincent de Paul team have visited throughout the year and who continue to struggle with basic living costs.

As for last year we are once again asking for donations of Gift cards - \$10 or more from Coles or Woolworths etc for individuals, couples or families to be able to purchase their own food or other items to celebrate Christmas with their families.

Thanks to the easing of COVID restrictions, The Giving Tree will once again be in the Church foyer for the first 3 weeks of advent.

If attending Mass you are invited to:

- * Take a token from the tree,
 - * Purchase a Gift card or place cash in the token envelope OR
 - * Place a donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas Appeal Gift" with your contact details and
 - * Return the Gift card/envelope by Sunday 19 December.
 - * Either deliver your gift to the presbytery or alternatively contact Stephen Costello 0432 405 417 or Pauline O'Day 9484 2445 if you require us to collect your donation.
- With thanks
 Stephen Costello.
 St Vincent de Paul Conference



Advent 2021 with Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy

You are invited to 'Expect the Unexpected' this Advent.

Join me each day for a short, free Advent Daily Devotional Video that will guide you on a life-changing journey.

Starting 28 November you'll receive short inspirational videos each day from Bruce Downes, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be!

Register now or for more information:

<https://brucedownes.org/registerforadvent/>

Email: info@brucedownes.org

This is a free program and open to anyone.



Congratulations Deacon Hai on your Priestly Ordination

His ordination Mass was livestreamed and can be viewed via Facebook and YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/FW5EvL0cwEK>

<https://www.facebook.com/100029825526688/posts/627300058274173/?d=n>



There is a collection box in the foyer for Deacon Hai for those who would like to contribute to a money gift which will be given to him when he returns for his Thanksgiving Mass.

Deacon Hai's Thanksgiving Mass will be on : Sunday 5 December at 10:30am here at Sacred Heart Church. We hope you can join us .

The Love of Christ urges us" - 2 Corinthians 5:14

Joke Corner

Christmas was but a month away and young Tom asked his mum if he could have a new bike. She told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Tom, having just played Joseph in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. His mum told him that would be fine.

Tom went to his room and wrote, "Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas." But he wasn't very happy when he read over his letter so he decided to try again.

This time he wrote, "Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would dearly like a bike for Christmas." He read it back and wasn't happy with that letter either. He attempted a third version.

"Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike." However, after another read he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go for a walk while he pondered a better approach. He soon passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He had an idea. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under his bed.

Then he wrote, "Dear Jesus, if you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike."