



Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

17th December, 2023

Parish Priest Fr Vincent Nguyen
66 Aitken Street, Gisborne Vic 3437
Ph: 5428 2591

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Ph: 5428 2591

CHILD PROTECTION - is everyone's responsibility

Check the Parish Website for:
Child Safety & Code of Conduct Policy
Parish Privacy Act / Professional Standards
A parent must accompany any child leaving the church during Mass.

Parish Email gisborne@cam.org.au
Parish Website <http://pol.org.au/gisborne/Home.aspx>
Secretary Hours Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm

CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for those who are in ill health:
*Eileen S, Corrine V, Megan B, Glenys O, Anthony S,
Ryan F, Cheryl L, Fran S, Terry R,
Helen K, Shane R & Eliza J.*
We pray for the recently deceased, especially *John Ewels*
and for those who have an anniversary at this time,
especially *Desmond Dunne, Jim Bodsworth Julia
Chicarelli, E.K. Danister, John de Lai &
Norrie Gardiner.*

May they rest in peace ☩

Please email Tam if you would like an Anniversary included.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

- Sun 17 Dec** - 5.30pm - **Parish Hall** - *Christmas Carols*
- Wed 20 Dec** - 7pm - **St. Brigid's Church** -
Communal Service of Forgiveness (followed by
individual reconciliation for those who choose it)
- Sat 23 Dec** 6pm - **St. Brigid's Church** –
4th Sunday of Advent Mass
- Sun 24 Dec** - 11am - **St. Brigid's Church** -
4th Sunday of Advent Mass
- Sun 24 Dec** - 7pm - **St. Brigid's Church** -
Family Christmas Vigil Mass
Note change of location due to infrastructure works.
- Sun 24 Dec** - 9pm - **St. Patrick's Church** –
Christmas Vigil Mass (Christmas Carols from 8.15pm)
- Sun 24 Dec** - 11pm - **St. Brigid's Church** - *Christmas
Eve Night Mass (Christmas Carols from 10.30pm)*
- Mon 25 Dec** - 9am - **St. Ambrose's Church** –
Christmas Day Mass
- Mon 25 Dec** - 10.30am - **St. Brigid's Church** -
Christmas Day Mass
- Mon 1 Jan** - 10am - **St. Brigid's Church** - *Feast of
Mary, Mother of God*

Weekday Mass has returned

Tuesday – 5pm Wednesday 9:15am
Thursday 9:15am Friday 9:15am

For those who may like a time of quiet prayer prior to
Mass, the church will be open at 9am each Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday to do so.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

mtate@bigpond.com

St Brigid's Parish Carols

Sunday the 17th of December from 5:30pm
St Brigid's Parish Hall, Gisborne

The carols service will include an open mic section where people are welcome to participate.

(bookings are preferred to participate in open mic)

BYO food and drink to share

Volunteers are needed to help setup:

To participate in this family friendly event:

Info: www.facebook.com/ThatVideoGuyAUS

Email thatvideoguyaus@outlook.com or call 5426 1354

Whether you come to simply listen to the carols and open mic, or come along and participate, St Brigid's Parish Gisborne look forward to seeing you at the carols.

This event is proudly supported by That Video Guy.



Rosters & Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year B

23rd & 24th December, 2023

6:00pm Mass St. Brigid's
Reader: T. Wilson & F. Murone
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: N. Spiers

11:00am Mass St. Brigid's
Reader: T. Wilson & F. Murone
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: N. Spiers

Flowers:
M. Clifford & W. Kays

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses & Volunteers

7pm Gisborne - Family Mass – Volunteers from teaching staff to be arranged on the night.

9pm Macedon - Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil – Available volunteers please.

11pm Gisborne - Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight – Available volunteers please.

Christmas Day Masses

9am Riddells Creek - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day – as per roster if available.

10:30am Gisborne - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day – as per roster if available.



Volunteers – if you see a need either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day – please make yourself available thank you.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation

By appointment only

Please see Fr. Vincent after Mass to arrange a suitable time or contact the office on 5428 2591.

THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving Program, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Church Account NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6742 95773

Please use your surname and TG number as the reference.

PRIEST & PRESBYTERY BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Priest & Presbytery expenses, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Presbytery Account NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6672 72303

Please use your surname as the reference.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Thursday's 10am

Enquiries: Bernie 0414 890 377

St. VINCENT de PAUL Christmas Cards

Packets of 5 cards for \$5 are now available in each church.

COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE

Sadly, we didn't have any winners from St. Brigids Parish but lots of happy people listed below took home some wonderful prizes. Better luck next year!

1 st Prize	Kai Picanto	M. Flynn
2 nd Prize	\$5000 Coles/Myer voucher	A. McGeary
3 rd Prize	\$3000 Coles/Myer voucher	L. Gill
4 th Prize	\$1000 Coles/Myer voucher	D. Swlleksz
5 th Prize	\$1000 Coles/Myer voucher	M. Kovac
6 th Prize	\$500 Coles/Myer voucher	P. Agardy
7 th Prize	\$500 Coles/Myer voucher	Losefo

Change to Weekday Mass

Please note due to the huge Christmas Mass schedule there will be **no weekday Mass on Tuesday 26 December or Wednesday 27 December.**

Thursday 28/12 at 9:15am and Friday 29/12 at 9:15am
will run as scheduled.

GIVING TREE 2023

This year St. Brigid's Parish Giving Tree is once again supporting the Gisborne branch of St. Vincent de Paul. They are asking for donations of Food Gift Cards, which can be purchased from Foodworks, IGA & Coles in Gisborne and to any value. We will include a "Pennies from Heaven" option for cash donations and these monies will be used to purchase Gift Cards. The Gift Cards will be used to support families in need over the Christmas period.

The Giving Tree program is now underway. Could donations please be returned no later than Sunday 17th December, so the Gift Cards can be distributed to Families for Christmas. Gift cards can be returned at any Mass or the Parish Office.

Weekly Social Cards Night

The Tuesday night card group would like to thank the people who have donated raffle prizes throughout theyear. It is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Thanksgiving Sunday – 10 December, 2023

Total Amount received	\$	947	(envelopes)
Total Amount received	\$	40	(credit cards)
Total Amount received	\$	185	(direct debit)
Presbytery Collection	\$	443	(cash, c/c & d/d combined)

Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.

May the Lord bless you all

Introduction: This third Sunday of Advent again gives us the ministry of John the Baptist. Today we hear St. John's Gospel and how he portrays the mission of the Baptist.

Lighting of Advent Candle. Let us exult for joy in the Lord.
Response: **The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.**

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2; 10-11

We hear the well known text of Isaiah that portrays the fulfilment of God's promise when the spirit of the Lord has anointed the Messiah, the Chosen One.

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

We hear the encouragement of St. Paul to rejoice in the Lord and not to suppress the Spirit which has been given to us in baptism.

Gospel: John 1:6-8; 19-28

We hear parts of St. John's text about the mission of John the Baptist. This ministry is of the voice that cries in the wilderness.

Prayer of Intercession: St. Paul tells us to "pray without ceasing." In our prayers of petition, we come before God who does great things for us, and whose mercy is from age to age.

1. We pray for the Pope and the College of Bishops, that their witness for the light be also a model of "prayer without ceasing".

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

2. We pray for the Church, that its witness and living the light bring forth the fruits of the Spirit that will proclaim the kingdom of heaven amongst us.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

3. We pray for our local community, that this spirit of the season encourage us that we must decrease that Christ's grace increase in us. May many take advantage of the reconciliation in confession offered at this time.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

4. We pray for Lawrence & Victoria who will be Baptised in our parish this weekend. As you begin your faith journey, know that we are here to help and support you.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

5. We pray for those who are sick – especially those on our parish prayer list - and for all who care for them. For the faithful departed: those who have died recently, especially *John Ewels* and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially *Desmond Dunne, Jim Bodsworth, Julia Chicarelli, E.K. Danister, John de Lai and Norrie Gardiner*, that the promise of life beyond life and life in death will be the reward of their good and faithful

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, as we rejoice in your goodness, receive our prayers for the poor, the broken-hearted and all who continue to place their trust in your Holy name. We ask this through Christ the Lord. *Amen.*

Next weeks readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ,
Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world; receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*all bow*)
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried; "he descended into hell";
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

17 December 2023

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Isaiah 61:10

(R.) *My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 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

John 1:6-8.19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked, ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not,’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.’ Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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