



Third Sunday of Advent

12 December 2021

readings

Next Week

Micah 5: 1-4
Heb: 10: 5-10
Lk 1: 39-44

in a nutshell

Rejoice in the Lord! A theme of joy always runs through the liturgy for the Third Sunday of Advent. The joy of this day springs from our anticipation and excitement that the Lord's coming is near. We ask the Lord to remove any sadness from our hearts that may hinder us from embracing peace and hope which his presence will bestow on us this Christmas.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially, Maureen O'Kane, Kaye Law, Fay Grant, Bernie Reed.

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

New Stewardship envelopes are now available in the foyer.

More information inside

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

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

Psalm Response

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
(R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours
Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass
Saturday—5:00pm
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—9:00am
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am

Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition

Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

Parish Notices

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's Conference 0427 874 374 or John Bird 0407 848 192

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday please

mountevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Christmas Mass Times – Mount Evelyn

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 5:00pm

Midnight Mass – 12:00am

Christmas Day- 10:30am

No Saturday Evening Masses

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm Yarra Junction

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

No Saturday Evening Masses

GIVING TREE—Last Weekend for Donations.

Last weekend to make a donation of a gift voucher or cash towards the Vinnies Giving Tree. Many thanks to those who have already donated.

Godstart Volunteers Wanted

Many parents bring their children to St. Mary's for Baptism but lose ongoing connection with the Church. Godstart is a program which seeks to bridge that gap by sending birthday cards every year (up to 5yrs) to those baptised at our Parish. We are putting together a team of volunteers who will meet once a month to write and post these birthday cards. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Rachael O'Shea on 0437122802.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Friday mornings 8:00am. Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Mary recognised her absolute nothingness without God that God may be everything to her. With Mary we humbly adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament by acknowledging our absolute dependency on Him. The Eucharist is the living Source of all light, life and love. (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

Stewardship Corner

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

New Stewardship Envelopes

The new set of Stewardship Envelopes, running from Dec 12 2021 to June 12 2022, are now available. As you would understand both the stewardship and presbytery donations suffered during the last two years causing a significant decrease in income for both the church and the presbytery. The Parish appreciates the ongoing support by those parishioners who are formally engaged in the Stewardship Program either using the envelopes or via direct debit. It's not too late to decide to become a regular contributor to the finances of the Parish. Please notify the office if you would like to be part of the Stewardship. A reminder that the Thanksgiving Offering side of the envelope contributes to the running of the parish: paying utilities, purchasing mass requisites, the secretarial wages etc. The Presbytery Envelope plus any loose cash goes towards the support of the Parish Priest with a percentage going to the Archdiocese and Priest's Remuneration Fund.

Vinnies News

Saint Vincent de Paul Piety Stall is now selling the 2022 Columban Art Calendar which includes beautiful artwork, liturgical information and feast days at \$10.00 each.

We also have a stock of Christmas Cards in packs of 8 at \$4.80 or packs of 5 for \$3.00 each

Aid to the Church in Need Australia

This month can you provide Transport for Pastoral Care in Malawi? Your support will help priests and religious to visit their people and aid their ministry to administer the sacraments and to keep the Faith alive. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject.

Covid Safe Environment

It is expected that Covid regulations are followed by each person therefore make sure you are signed in (preferably using QR code), sanitize, maintain socially distancing, and follow Covid guidelines as directed by the CHO.

New Website Address

In the coming weeks we will have a new website address. <http://pol.org.au/mountevelyn/Home.aspx>

Harvest Journeys Catholic Road Trips 2022

Faith, Fun, Fellowship on Pilgrimage

Introducing an inspirational series of local Catholic Pilgrimage Journeys in Australia and New Zealand as we take to the road and celebrate the beauty of the places, faces and graces that make up our wonderful backyard. Choose from a selection of iconic touring experiences as we combine faith, fun and fellowship together, while celebrating memorable daily masses with our fellow Catholic communities encountered along the way. <https://www.harvestjourneys.com/catholic-roadtrips/>

Something to make you Smile!

An elderly man in Melbourne calls his son in Perth and says, "I hate to ruin your day son, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are getting a divorce; 45 years of marriage... and that much misery is enough!" "Dad, what are you talking about?" the son yells. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old dad explained. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Hong Kong and tell her!" Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this." She calls her elderly father immediately, and screams at him, "You are not getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, you hear me?" she yelled as she hung up the phone. The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay", he says, "it's all set. They're both coming for Christmas and paying their own air-fare."

Readings Reflection

[What Do We Do?](#)

The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?"

The messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see Luke 3:3; 5:32; 24:47).

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, *metanoia* (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a twofold "turning"—away from sin (see Ezekiel 3:19; 18:30) and toward God (see Sirach 17:20–21; Hosea 6:1).

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see Luke 3:8). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers, and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty, and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, asking from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring not from our fear of coming wrath (see Luke 3:7–9) but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare Luke 1:28–31). Mary is the Daughter Zion—the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Savior."

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming."

[Dr. Scott Hahn](http://Dr.ScottHahn.com)
stpaulcenter.com

Rejoice in the Lord Always

[Gaudete “Rejoice” Sunday]

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel for this Sunday of Advent presents once again the figure of John the Baptist, and it depicts him while he is speaking to the people who come to him at the River Jordan to be baptized. Since John, with incisive words, urges them all to prepare themselves for the Messiah’s coming, some ask him, “What then shall we do?” (Lk 3:10, 12, 14). These exchanges are very interesting and prove to be of great timeliness.

The first answer is addressed to the crowd in general. The Baptist says, “He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise” (v. 11). Here we can see a criterion of justice, motivated by charity. Justice requires that the imbalance between the one who has more than enough and the one who lacks the necessary be overcome; charity prompts us to be attentive to others and to meet their needs, instead of seeking justification to defend one’s own interests. Justice and charity are not in opposition, but are both necessary and complete each other. “Love—caritas—will always prove necessary, even in the most just society”, because “There will always be situations of material need where help in the form of concrete love of neighbour is indispensable” (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, n. 28).

Then we see the second answer, which is directed at some “publicans”, that is, tax-collectors on behalf of the Romans. The publicans were already despised for this, and also because they often made the most of their position to steal. The Baptist does not ask them to change their profession, but to exact no more than what has been established (cf. v. 13). The prophet, in the name of God, does not demand exceptional acts, but first and foremost the just fulfilment of one’s duty. The first step towards eternal life is always the observance of the Commandments; in this case, the seventh one: You shall not steal (cf Ex. 20:15).

The third reply concerns the soldiers, another class that enjoyed a certain authority, and was thus tempted to abuse it. John says to the soldiers: “Rob no one by violence, and be content with your wages” (v. 14). Here too the conversation begins with honesty and with respect for others: an instruction that applies to everyone, especially for those with greater responsibility.

On considering this dialogue as a whole, we are struck by the great concreteness of John’s words: since God will judge us according to our works, it is there, in our behaviour, that we must show that we are doing his will. For this very reason, the Baptist’s instructions are ever timely: even in our very complex world, things would go much better if each person observed these rules of conduct. Therefore let us pray to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that he may help us to prepare ourselves for Christmas, bearing the good fruits of repentance (cf. Lk 3:8).

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 16 December 2012