

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Fourth Sunday of Advent

19 December 2021

readings

Next Week

1 Sam 1: 20-22, 24-28
1 Jn 3: 1-2, 21-24
Lk 2: 41-52

in a nutshell

Blessed is she who believed. From Bethlehem, the least of the clans of Judah, and from a peasant girl, Mary, one of the least of the Jewish people, God prepared a body for Jesus, the saviour of the world. As we rejoice in the saviour who has come to visit us, we also join Elizabeth in praising Mary for her faith, her love and her obedience.

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

Christmas Mass times listed inside.
No Mass on Saturday night.

More information inside

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a
Saviour.

Psalm Response

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
(R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: <http://pol.org.au/mountevelyn/Home.aspx>

Email: moutevelyn@cam.org.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

moutevelyn@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

New Year's Day — 11:00am

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm Yarra Junction

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

No Saturday Evening Masses

January—Holidays

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 24 Dec until Wednesday 12 January inclusive. Fr Michel will be taking holidays from Jan 10—Jan 21. Please note he will be saying the regular weekend masses but there will be no midweek events or masses.

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

Jesus chose the name "Emmanuel" (God is with us), because of His infinite desire to dwell with us always in this most Blessed Sacrament, as absolute proof of His everlasting love and constant affection for each of us. *From "Come to Me in the Blessed Sacrament" by Fr. Vincent Lucia.*

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.

Stewardship Corner

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

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

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!

A young mum was making a Christmas ham the family's traditional way, just as her mum and her grandmother had done for generations. Her teenage daughter, eager to understand the family traditions, watched as her mother sliced off the ends of the ham before placing it in the roasting pan.

"Mum," asked the girl, "why are you doing that?"

Her mother paused for a moment and then said, "You know, I'm not sure. But this is the way I always saw my mother make a ham. Let's call grandma and ask her."

So, she phoned her mother and asked why they always slice the ends of the ham off before baking it.

The grandmother pondered for a moment and then said, "You know, I'm not sure why but this is how my mother always made it."

Now everyone was very curious. So off they all went to visit great-grandmother in the nursing home.

They asked her, "Grandma, you know when we make a Christmas ham, we always slice off the ends before baking it. Why is that?"

Curiously, the old woman said, "I don't know why you do it, but I never had a pan that was large enough."

Readings Reflection

[A Mother's Greeting](#)

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer:

He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler . . . whose origin is from . . . ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king (see Ruth 4:11-17; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:1; Matthew 2:6).

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever (see 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11-12).

Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom (see Isaiah 9:5-6; Ezekiel 34:23-25, 30; 37:35). He is "the shepherd of Israel" sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us."

Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh" (see also Psalm 2:7). He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Psalm 110:4; Genesis 14:18-20).

All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle (see Psalm 2:7). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading—"she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

Bethlehem, A Symbol of Peace

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Lord's Birth is at hand. With the words of the Prophet Micah, the Liturgy invites us to look at Bethlehem, the little town in Judea that witnessed the great event: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, / too small to be among the clans of Judah, / From you shall come forth for me / one who is to be ruler in Israel; / Whose origin is from of old, / from ancient times" (Mic 5:1). One thousand years before Christ Bethlehem had given birth to the great King David, with whose presentation as an ancestor of the Messiah the Scriptures agree. The Gospel according to Luke tells that Jesus was born in Bethlehem because Joseph, Mary's husband, being "of the house and lineage of David", was obliged to go to that town for the census, and in those very days Mary gave birth to Jesus (cf. Lk 2:1-7). In fact, Micah's prophecy continues precisely by mentioning the mysterious birth: "Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time / when she who is to give birth has borne, / And the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel" (Mic 5:2). Thus there is a divine plan that apprehends and explains the times and places of the coming into the world of the Son of God. It is a plan of peace, as the Prophet announces further, speaking of the Messiah: "He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, / in the majestic name of the Lord, his God; / And they shall remain, for now his greatness / shall reach to the ends of the earth; / he shall be peace" (Mic 5:3).

Precisely this aspect of the prophecy, that of messianic peace, leads us naturally to emphasize that the city of Bethlehem is also a symbol of peace, in the Holy Land and in the world. Unfortunately, in our day, it does not represent an attained and stable peace, but rather a peace sought with effort and hope. Yet God is never resigned to this state of affairs, so that this year too, in Bethlehem and throughout the world, the mystery of Christmas will be renewed in the Church. A prophecy of peace for every person which obliges Christians to immerse themselves in the closures, tragedies, that are often unknown and hidden, and in the conflicts of the context in which they live, with the sentiments of Jesus so that they may become everywhere instruments and messengers of peace, to sow love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury, joy where there is sadness and truth where there is error, according to the beautiful words of a well-known Franciscan prayer.

Today, as in the times of Jesus, Christmas is not a fairy-tale for children but God's response to the drama of humanity in search of true peace. "He shall be peace", says the Prophet referring to the Messiah. It is up to us to open, to fling open wide the doors to welcome him. Let us learn from Mary and Joseph: let us place ourselves with faith at the service of God's plan. Even if we do not understand it fully, let us entrust ourselves to his wisdom and goodness. Let us seek first of all the Kingdom of God, and Providence will help us. A Happy Christmas to you all!

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 20 December 2009