

# Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



## Second Sunday Of Advent

5 December 2021

### readings

#### Next Week

Zeph 3: 14-18

Phil 4: 4-7

Lk 3: 10-18

### in a nutshell

*Prepare a way for the Lord.* The season of Advent is a time in which we prepare for the Lord's coming. We prepare for the feast of Christmas which commemorates his first coming as a child in Bethlehem. And we prepare also for his coming in glory. We do this by heeding John the Baptist's call to repentance, and by striving for 'peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

### 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 will be out soon.

*More information inside*

### Raise Your Voices

#### Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice  
heard in the joy of your heart.

#### Psalm Response

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we  
are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. (R.)

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. (R.)

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. (R.)

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

#### Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his  
paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

#### Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and  
behold the joy which comes to you from God.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### **Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley**

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm Yarra Junction

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

No Saturday Evening Masses

### **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary- 8th Dec**

As Wednesday is the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, there will be a Mass at 11:00 am at St Mary's.

### **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

### **GIVING TREE**

St Vincent de Paul Society will be having a giving tree this year however due to the Covid virus, while we will still be assisting people in need. Instead of presents we will be giving them gift vouchers so they can get what they need, as many have found this year very unpredictable. You are invited to make a donation of a gift voucher or make a cash donation by placing it in an envelope and placing in the box in the foyer by 13th December

### **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.

What you should look to is the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven. Now, is this meant in an ultimate sense? Yes, the second coming signals the end of the world as we know it. But the Son of Man is coming on the clouds of heaven even now in the life of the Church. Think of the clouds of incense that accompany the manifestations of Christ in the high liturgy. Even now the true king, the successor of David, is in our midst. (Bishop Robert Barron)

### **Stewardship Corner**

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (Philippians 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

### **New Stewardship Envelopes**

The next set of envelopes will be prepared this week. As some people have been giving by direct debit please let Janine know via email, phone call or call into the office if you no longer wish to receive a set of physical envelopes.

If you are not part of the Stewardship Envelopes and wish to be, please contact the office this week.

### **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!**

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."

## **Readings Reflection**

### [The Road Home](#)

Today's Psalm paints a dreamlike scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing.

It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare Jeremiah 1:1–4, 11). But John is greater than the prophets (see Luke 7:27). He's preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also Acts 28:28).

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

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

# Prepare a Way for the Lord

## The Season of Advent

Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace, and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

In her concern for our salvation, our loving mother the Church uses this holy season to teach us through hymns, canticles and other forms of expression, of voice or ritual, used by the Holy Spirit. She shows us how grateful we should be for so great a blessing, and how to gain its benefit: our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if he were still to come into this world. The same lesson is given us for our imitation by the words and example of the holy men of the Old Testament.

*From a pastoral letter by St Charles Borromeo, Bishop*

## The preparations for the coming of Christ

**522** The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "First Covenant." He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.

**523** St. John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way. "Prophet of the Most High," John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being "the friend of the bridegroom," whom he points out as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Going before Jesus "in the spirit and power of Elijah," John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

**524** When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

*From the Catechism of the Catholic Church*