



First Sunday Of Advent

28 November 2021

readings

Next Week

Baruch 5: 1-9
Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11
Lk 3: 1-6

in a nutshell

Your liberation is near! The early Christians expected the Lord's return in glory to be very soon. St Paul explained to them that the Lord was delaying in coming for a good purpose, to give them the opportunity to grow in love and make progress in the kind of life they were meant to live. May we also make good use of the present time to deepen our love for one another that we may be ready on the day Christ comes to set us free.

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

Priests Retirement Fund
Leaving Collection this weekend

More information inside

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Psalm Response

(R.) 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. (R.)

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. (R.)

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere
him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth
shall yield its increase.

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—8:00am-8:45am

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

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

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm Yarra Junction

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

November Masses

Names of deceased loved ones can be written in the Prayer Book which will be placed on the Sanctuary for the month of November. Names can be added throughout the month. Masses throughout November will be offered for the repose of their souls. Envelopes are available if you wish to make an offering.

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.

PRF Leaving Collection this weekend

As the restrictions imposed by the Government due to COVID-19, Sunday Masses were not able to be celebrated on the first Sunday of September. Traditionally the "Father's Day" collection would have been taken up on that Sunday to support the retired Priests of the Archdiocese. Parishes have been asked to hold a collection in support of the Priest's Retirement Fund. This will be done as a leaving collection next weekend.

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.

Let us kneel down before Him in adoring awe, while our Mother teaches us His beauty, His sweetness, His goodness, and His nearness. When we think we know Him we shall not know the half, and when we speak of Him we will stammer as children do, and when our hearts are hot for love of Him, they will be cold in comparison to His great love for us. *From "The Blessed Sacrament" by Fr. Fredrick William Faber*

Stewardship Corner

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” (Luke 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

Re-Imagining our Local Church as Mission Communities

The Way of the Gospel—the path of missionary discipleship—has always been adapted by every generation to fit the local circumstances. How this is arranged has varied according to time and place. How might our local communities of faith continue to address the missionary call of the Gospel into the future? How might we invite people into the fullness of the Gospel of life, and do so with a sense of vibrancy and vitality? For more information on Take The Way of the Gospel, visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/about/take-the-way-of-the-gospel>

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>

Pastoral Care Vacancy

Mercy Health will soon be advertising for suitably qualified people to work as pastoral carers at their aged care homes, Mercy Place Montrose and Mercy Place Boronia. These are permanent, part-time positions.

If you enjoy sharing the lives of older people by helping to nurture their emotional and spiritual wellbeing – this role may be for you. You will work closely with the local Catholic parishes and other faith communities.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about this role, please call Michael Taylor on 0417 208 616.

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/>

Readings Reflection

[Heads Up](#)

Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfillment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a “just shoot,” a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see 2 Samuel 7:16; Jeremiah 33:17; Psalm 89:4–5; 27–38).

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: “Guide me in your truth and teach me. For you are God my savior and for you I will wait all day.”

We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the “just shoot,” the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting.

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens (see Isaiah 13:11, 13; Ezekiel 32:7–8; Joel 2:10); roaring seas (see Isaiah 5:30; 17:12); distress among the nations (see Isaiah 8:22; 14:25) and terrified people (see Isaiah 13:6–11).

He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a “theophany,” a manifestation of God (see Daniel 7:13–14).

Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end-times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our “redemption is at hand,” that “the kingdom of God is near” (see Luke 21:31).

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

Advent: A Presence Begun

Confronted with the externalism and distortion to which Advent and the Christmas season are increasingly subject, the Church has experienced the awakening of a lively desire for an authentic Advent based on faith. The unsatisfactory nature of all mere moods, of all mere feelings, however exquisite, has become evident, and we yearn again for the heart of the matter, for that strong solid nourishment for the spirit of which only a glimmer is left for us now in the pious, exalted sentiments we have during the “blessed and joyous Christmas season”. What, then, is the real heart of the Advent experience?

We may start with the word itself. “Advent” does not, for example, mean “expectation”, as some may think. It is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*, which means “presence” or, more accurately, “arrival”, that is, the beginning of a presence. In antiquity the word was a technical term for the presence of a king or ruler and also of the god being worshipped, who bestows upon his devotees the time of his *parousia*. “Advent”, then, means the presence begun—the presence of God himself.

Advent reminds us, therefore, of two things: first, that God’s presence in the world has already begun, that he is present, albeit in a hidden manner; second, that his presence has only begun and is not yet full and complete, that it is in a state of development, of becoming, and maturing toward its full form. His presence has already begun, and we, the faithful, are the ones through whom he wishes to be present in the world. Through our faith, hope, and love, he wants his light to shine over and over again into the night of the world.

The lamps we light on the dark nights of this winter season are both a comfort and a warning. They are a comforting assurance that “the Light of the world” has already begun to shine in the dark night of Bethlehem and that the unholy night of man’s sin has been transformed into the holy night of God’s forgiveness. They are also a warning: this Light wants to keep shining and will do so only if it shines in those who as Christians carry on Christ’s work through the ages. Christ seeks to illumine the night of the world with his light by having us be lights in our turn. His initial presence is to grow through us.

Therefore, during the holy night of Christmas, when we hear again and again the words resound: “*Hodie Christus natus est*”: Today Christ is born, it should remind us that what was begun at Bethlehem is meant to increase through our constant new beginnings and that the holy night truly can be, and is, “today” whenever man allows the light of goodness within him to shine through his self-centeredness and egoism. That night is “today” whenever the “Word” again becomes “flesh”, the reality of deeds. “The Christ Child comes” in a real sense whenever men act out of authentic love for the Lord and do not settle for a mere exchange of “gifts”.

Advent means the arrival of the Lord that has already begun but has only just begun. This also means that the Christian looks not only to the past and what has been but also to what is coming. Amid all the catastrophes of this world, he has a transcendent certainty that the seed of the Light is growing in secret, until one day the good will achieve a definitive victory and all else will be made subject to it. On that day, Christ will come again. The Christian knows that the presence of God that has now only begun will someday be a full and complete presence. This knowledge sets him free and gives him an ultimate security...

The world is not a futile commotion of drudgery and pain, for all the world’s distress is supported in the arms of merciful love; it is caught up and surpassed by the forgiving and saving graciousness of our God. The person who celebrates Advent in this spirit will legitimately be able to speak of “the joyous, blessed, and grace-filled season of Christmas”. He will know that there is much more truth to these words than is believable or imaginable to those people for whom Christmas is just a time for picturesque sentimentality or merely a sort of simplified carnival celebration.