



Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

11 December 2022

readings

Next Week

Is 7:10-14
Ps 23:1-6
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

in a nutshell

The blind see again. Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus. Many wondered: 'Are you the one who has come?' Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth this Christmas by being good news for the poor.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Dorothy Heering,
For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

Special Collection this weekend:
Melbourne Overseas Mission

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

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

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (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—6:30pm (EST)
5:00pm (EDST)
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

Child Safety

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

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Karen Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac

Car Parking –Weekend Masses

In the interests of safety please park in the official carparks rather than on the grassy areas around the picnic tables. Keep this area for people to gather and chat after mass.

Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church. Please Leave the front for the truly disabled.

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 Alan Somers 0419 134 300

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday
please: moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, February

Finance Committee	7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding	7:30pm
Parish Council	8:00pm

Parish Notices

Christmas Mass Times – Mount Evelyn

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 5:00pm
Midnight Mass – 12:00am
Christmas Day- 10:30am

N.B. No Sunday evening Mass Christmas Day

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm Yarra Junction
Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

Special Collection this weekend—Melbourne Overseas Mission

St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

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 19th December.

Parish Raffle

Have you bought your tickets yet to win one of the many prizes in our Christmas Raffle? Only \$1.00 a ticket.
Thank you to the parishioners who have donated towards the prizes.

Morning Cuppa—Sunday and Tuesday

Stay after 10:30 Mass, have a cuppa and a chat to fellow parishioners. Also there is a morning tea every first Tuesday of the month after the 9am Mass. .

Piety Stall

The Piety Stall now has in stock the 2023 Columban Art Calendar which includes beautiful artwork, liturgical information and feast days at \$10.00 each. Also in stock Christmas Cards in packs of 8 at \$4.80 or packs of 5 for \$3.00 each.

Stewardship Corner

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

New Thanksgiving/stewardship Envelopes

Envelopes for the next 6 months are now available. Please note that you may have a different number. Due to the reduced number of givers we have ordered fewer envelopes and so have had to issue some people with a new number. It would be best to throw out any old envelopes. Contact the office if your envelopes are missing.

Consider contributing to assist in the upkeep of the Parish through a stewardship pledge. Contact the office to become part of this either by direct debit or envelopes. Only money in envelopes goes towards the support of the parish, loose cash supports the Parish Priest.

The Tap and Go machine is treated as loose cash.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration: To visit the Blessed Sacrament is a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord. (Pope St. Paul VI)

Confession: Be a person of steady and regular prayer; don't allow your relationship to the Lord to fall into disrepair. Avail yourself regularly of the sacrament of Reconciliation; bring your sins before Christ and seek his forgiveness. Following the Christian spiritual tradition, regularly "remember your death". (Bishop Robert Barro, Founder of the Catholic ministerial organisation Word on Fire)

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.

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

When promises are fulfilled, when a long-awaited hope has been met, there is only one reasonable response: joy. When the Magi from the East saw the star above the place where Jesus was, Matthew says, 'they rejoiced with very great joy' before prostrating themselves in worship (2:10). The shepherds likewise 'went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told' (Luke 2:20). The third week of Advent is an opportunity to experience the 'very great joy' of knowing Jesus.

Family Online Resource

CathFamily is an online database of prayers, activities, recipes and articles celebrating Catholic culture. Used extensively by parents, teachers and catechists, it equips them with ideas and resources to assist in passing on the faith to the next generation. www.CathFamily.org See noticeboard for more details

Global Gifts Campaign

If you are looking for ways to support Caritas throughout Advent and the Christmas period, you may be interested in Global Gifts: find more information, here: <https://www.globalgifts.org.au/>

Emergency Appeals

For updated information of our emergency appeals, please visit our website: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/>

We are still actively supporting Ukraine, Indonesia Earthquake, Pakistan Floods, Africa Food Crisis, Bangladesh, Philippines and Afghanistan.

Something to Make You Smile

In fairy tales statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

My neighbour knocked loudly on my door at 2:30am this morning, he was obviously, by his urgency in trouble. Luckily for him, I was still up —playing my Bagpipes.

Readings Reflection

[Here is Your God](#)

John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing "the works of the Messiah," foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2).

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

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

Joy exists because God exists and is with us!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have heard Isaiah's prophesy, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted ... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Is 61:1–2). These words spoken so many centuries ago, ring out, in a very up-to-date way for us too, today, while we are halfway through Advent and already look forward to the great Solemnity of Christmas. These are words that revive hope, that prepare us to welcome the Lord's salvation and announce the inauguration of a season of grace and liberation.

Advent is precisely a time of waiting, of hope and of preparation for the Lord's coming. The figure and preaching of John the Baptist invite us to make this commitment, as we heard in the Gospel that has just been proclaimed (cf. Jn 1:6–8, 19–28). John had withdrawn into the wilderness to live a very austere life and to invite people to conversion, also by the example of his life. He conferred on them a baptism of water, a single rite of penance which distinguished it from the many rites of external purification of the sects of that time.

So who was this man? Who was John the Baptist? The response he himself gave is surprisingly humble. He was not the Messiah, he was not the light. He was neither Elijah come back to the earth nor the great prophet awaited. He was the Forerunner, a simple witness, totally subordinate to the One he proclaimed; a voice in the wilderness, as in our day too, in the wilderness of the great cities of this world, of the great absence of God, we need voices that simply announce to us "God exists. He is always near, even if he seems absent".

John the Baptist was a voice in the wilderness and a witness to the light; and this moves our hearts, for in this world where there are so many shadows, so much darkness, we are all called to be witnesses of light. This is the mission of the Season of Advent itself: to be witnesses of light, and we can only be this if we carry the light within us, if we are not only certain that the light exists, but also that we have seen a ray of light.

In the Church, in God's word, in the celebration of the sacraments, in the Sacrament of Confession with the forgiveness that we receive, in the celebration of the Blessed Eucharist where the Lord gives himself into our hands and hearts, we touch the light and receive this mission: to bear witness today that there is light, and to carry the light in our time.

Dear brothers and sisters, I am very glad to be with you on this beautiful, "Gaudete" Sunday, the Sunday of joy that tells us that "even in the midst of so many doubts and difficulties, joy exists because God exists and is with us!"...

"Brethren.... Rejoice always" (1 Thes 5:16). This invitation to joy which St Paul addressed to the Christians of Thessalonica in that time, also characterizes this Sunday, commonly known as "Gaudete" Sunday. It resonates from the very first words of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is at hand"; St Paul, in prison, wrote these words to the Christians of Philippi (cf. Phil 4:4–5) and also addresses them to us.

Yes, we are glad because the Lord is near us and in a few days, on Christmas night, we shall be celebrating the mystery of his birth. Mary, who was the first to hear the Angel's invitation: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" (Lk 1:28), points out to us the way to reach true joy, which comes from God. St Mary of Grace, Mother of Divine Love, pray for us all. Amen!

From a pastoral visit by Pope Benedict XVI