

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

4 December 2022

readings

Next Week

Is 35:1-6, 10
Ps 145:6-10
James 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11

in a nutshell

God's Kingdom is near. John the Baptist urged the people to prepare for the coming of the kingdom by repenting their sins. Their baptism by John in the Jordan River was an important ritual act of sorrow. But they also had to express their sorrow by reforming their lives. The sacrament of reconciliation, and right living, are excellent means through which we can prepare for the feast of Christmas.

we pray for

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

of special note

St Vincent de Paul's Giving Tree is up!

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.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (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—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

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

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

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.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

St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

St Vincent de Paul Society will be having a giving tree this year however due to the ongoing covid virus, while still be assisting people in need rather than giving presents we will be giving them gift vouchers so they can get what they need, as many have still 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 19th December.

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. Next one on Tuesday 6 December.

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

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

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.

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.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration: Your Holy Hour is not only a devotion but a sharing in the work of redemption. (Venerable Fulton Sheen)

Reconciliation: Each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully his or her grave sins at least once a year. (Canon Law 989.) It is recommended, though not required, to confess venial sins; this is often the reason why Catholics will go to confession on a weekly or monthly basis. Confession is a beautiful sacrament of God's mercy and should not be looked at as a requirement, but as an opportunity to receive God's love. It gives us the ability to repair our relationship with God, and opens us up to a shower of God's grace. We should confess because we love God, not because we have to, though the requirements are there to lead us along the path of eternal life.

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.

Second Sunday of Advent: Preparation

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths' (Luke 3:4). As we dwell on these words of St John the Baptist, our sense of anticipation begins to ramp up in the second week of Advent. The promises of God continue, and there's a greater focus of one promise in particular: 'he is coming to save you' (Isaiah 35:4). The message this week is clear: get ready to be saved.

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

Something to Make You Smile

A couple celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in front of friends and relatives at church on a Sunday. After the service the husband asked his wife what she would like for an anniversary present. Without a second thought, the wife said, "I'd like to be six again." Next morning he woke her bright and early and off they went to a local theme park. They rode the Big Dipper, the Tower of Terror and the Cha Cha. Five hours later they staggered from the theme park, having eaten fairy floss, toffee apples and hotdogs. Her stomach was full and her head was reeling. On the way home the husband pulled into a fast food restaurant and ordered hamburgers and chips, washed down by a large chocolate milkshake. Not done yet, the husband drove to the nearest cinema and bought tickets to the latest adventure movie. He bought his wife popcorn, a dairy choc and a soft drink. By eleven o'clock his wife could hardly walk. They stumbled through the front door of their house and she slowly made her way to bed, her husband well pleased with his wife's anniversary present. Her husband soon joined her in bed. Leaning over, he asked, "Well dear, what was it like to be six again? With one eye open and a hand gently caressing her very full stomach, she replied, "I meant my dress size."

Readings Reflection

[Kingdom Come](#)

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today's First Reading and Psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David—a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel—but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God's oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise" (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1–2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5)—children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings—making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

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

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Lk 1:28).

[NOTE: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is Thursday, 8 Dec]

We address the Virgin Mary several times a day with these words of the Archangel Gabriel. Let us repeat them with fervent joy today, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, remembering 8 December 1854 when Blessed Pius IX proclaimed this wonderful Dogma of the Catholic faith in this very same Vatican Basilica.

How great is the mystery of the Immaculate Conception that the Liturgy presents to us today! A mystery that never ceases to invite the contemplation of believers and inspires the reflection of theologians. The theme of the Congress that has just been mentioned: “Mary of Nazareth welcomes the Son of God into history”, has fostered a deep examination of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary as a presupposition for receiving in her virginal womb the Word of God Incarnate, the Saviour of the human race.

“Full of grace”, “κεχαριτωμενη”: in the original Greek of Luke’s Gospel, the Angel greets Mary with this title. It is the name that God, through his messenger, chose to use to describe the Virgin. This is how he had always seen and thought of her, *ab aeterno* (from all eternity).

In the hymn of the Letter to the Ephesians just now proclaimed, the Apostle praises God the Father “who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (1:3). What a special blessing God addressed to Mary from the beginning of time! Mary was truly blessed among women!

The Father chose her in Christ before the creation of the world, so that she might be holy and immaculate before him in love, preordaining her as the first fruits of filial adoption through the work of Jesus Christ.

The predestination of Mary, like that of each one of us, is linked to the predestination of the Son. Christ is that “seed” that was “to bruise the head” of the ancient serpent, according to the Book of Genesis; he is the Lamb “without blemish”, immolated to redeem humanity from sin.

With a view to the saving death of the Son, Mary, his Mother, was preserved free from original sin and from every other sin. The victory of the new Adam also includes that of the new Eve, Mother of the redeemed. The Immaculate Virgin is thus a sign of hope for all the living who have triumphed over Satan by the blood of the Lamb.

Today let us contemplate the humble young girl of Nazareth, holy and blameless before God in love, in that “love” whose original source is God himself, one and triune.

How sublime an act of the Most Holy Trinity is the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of the Redeemer! Pius IX, in the Bull *Ineffabilis Deus*, recalls that the Almighty “by one and the same decree had established the origin of Mary and the Incarnation of divine Wisdom” (*Pii IX Pontificis Maximi Acta, Pars prima*, p. 559).

The Virgin’s “yes” to the announcement of the Angel fits into the reality of our earthly condition, with humble respect for the divine will to save humanity not from history but in history. Indeed, ever preserved free from all taint of original sin, the “new Eve” benefited uniquely from the work of Christ as the most perfect Mediator and Redeemer. The first to be redeemed by her Son, she shares to the full in his holiness; she is already what the entire Church desires and hopes to be. She is the eschatological icon of the Church.

Consequently the Immaculate Virgin, who marks “the very beginning of the Church, Bride of Christ, without spot or wrinkle, shining with beauty” (Preface), always precedes the People of God in the pilgrimage of faith, bound for the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Mary’s Immaculate Conception the Church sees projected and anticipated in her most noble member, the saving grace of Easter.

In the event of the Incarnation the Church encounters Christ and Mary indissolubly united: “he who is the Church’s Lord and Head and she who, uttering the first fiat of the New Covenant, prefigures the Church’s condition as spouse and mother” (*Redemptoris Mater*, n. 1).

To you, Virgin Immaculate, predestined by God above every other creature to be the advocate of grace and model of holiness for his people, today in a special way I renew the entrustment of the whole Church. May you guide your children on their pilgrimage of faith, making them ever more obedient and faithful to the Word of God. May you accompany every Christian on the path of conversion and holiness, in the fight against sin and in the search for true beauty that is always an impression and a reflection of divine Beauty.

May you obtain peace and salvation for all the peoples. May the eternal Father, who desired you to be the immaculate Mother of the Redeemer, also renew in our time through you, the miracles of his merciful love. Amen!

Pope St John Paul II, Homily on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2004