

WE CONTINUE OUR PREPARATIONS for the coming of Jesus. That is, we are preparing to celebrate his coming among us as a new-born baby in Bethlehem. Therefore, it is a special time for us to remember with deep gratitude God's great love for us. "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son..." "And the Word was made flesh, [i.e. took on our weak and fragile human nature] and came to live among us."

Today's Gospel tells us to prepare for that coming, that remembering, that celebrating. It does so by speaking about John the Baptist preparing people to welcome the coming of Jesus as he begins his public life, his mission.

John had already becoming a famous person in his own right. That is clear from the number of people who came out to see him and that he attracted the attention of King Herod and of the religious leaders in Jerusalem.

John was clearly a man of God and the people admired and trusted him as a person of holiness and integrity. He taught them, bluntly made them aware of their sinfulness and called on them to "Repent". "Repent" here does not mean just being sorry for the past. It is a call for them to do much more than that, to change their ways. To "repent" in the Gospel involves a radical transformation in our way of living. It means a conversion, a real turning around, a re-directing of one's whole life.

Peter, in today's 2nd Reading, tells us that a "day" with the Lord can be a 1,000 years. This is probably directed at those who thought (and perhaps feared) that the Lord was coming soon. "The Lord is not being slow in carrying out his promises [to come again], as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody be brought to change their ways." In other words, if the end of the world seems so slow in coming, it is to give people time to mend their ways, to redirect their lives.

At the same time, he also warns that the coming can be very sudden, as we all know is very true. We all know people who have been taken away from us very suddenly, without warning.

"Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come... So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace."

Notice he prays "that he will find you at peace". The coming of the Lord does not fill his friends with fear and anxiety but rather with a kind of joyful anticipation of one friend to another. The fruit of every day living the Way of Jesus is a real interior peace that makes us ready to meet him at any time.

Let us reflect then at this time on what changes we should make in our own lives, not just now but in the year that is to come. What kind of person would I like to be? What kind of person should I be? What kind of person could I be? What kind of person do I think God would like me to be?

Sacred Space

O L I V E R I A N

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

ADMINISTRATOR Fr Michael Kong
Pastoral Associate Marthese Temming
School Principal Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: Landells Road, PO Box 668, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 3015
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School: Landells Road, PO Box 688, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5411

Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Three Sunday masses are now available: Saturday (vigil) 6pm and Sunday 8.45am and 10.30am. You can register through TRYBOOKING <https://www.trybooking.com/BNDXX> or you can contact our parish email pascoevale@cam.org.au or **phone** on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday when the office is attended (or leave a message) on (03) 9354 3015 with the following:

- Name
- Contact number
- Preferred mass time
- Names of other family members attending

At the moment we are able to accommodate 80 people for weekend Mass. For those who have attended previously your attendance is registered as we have your contact details assigned to the Mass you previously attended.

For newcomers you can contact us by email, phone or TRYBOOKING. Mass registrations re-open every Monday for the following weekend.

Bookings for Christmas open on Monday 7th of December 2020.

LIVE STREAMED AND TELEVISED MASS FROM ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 11AM: Live Streamed and C31 Televised (Channel 44 on Digital TV)

6AM: Channel 10 - "Mass for You at Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1PM : Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

SATURDAY 8.00AM: Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and

<https://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb>

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 5/6 DECEMBER 2020

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.

Response to the Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

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.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Giuseppina (Jessie) Haas

Anniversaries: Mary Joyce Taylor, Mercy & Leslie Taylor,
Lillian & Robert Anderson

Those who are ill: Monica Wickerson, Joe Grech, Pasquale Buonomo,
Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy, Eileen Squires,
Lamberto Cruz, Vicenta Santos

We welcome and pray for our newly baptised members at St Olivers:
Matheus Jaasiel Pacis and Ayla Yeoh

Act of Spiritual Communion

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

(St Alphonsus Liguori)

At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-friendly environment. Privacy: In 2001 the Commonwealth and Victorian governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, store and disclose information, including health information collected from individuals. This Parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.

COVID19 INSTRUCTIONS

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings are open with a density quotient of 1 per 4sq.m. St Oliver's can hold 80 people at the moment.

Contact recording is required. All participants must wear a face covering in church at all times, unless under 12 years of age or have a lawful reason not to. Please come 10 to 15 minutes before Mass. Doors will close when Mass starts.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to help us to maintain the garden i.e. mowing, pruning or weeding. We are also hoping to give the church a thorough clean before Christmas i.e. vaccuming, dusting and cleaning altar linen.

A big thankyou to all who participated in the working bee last weekend.

Next working bee is on Saturday 19 December.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact the Parish Office on 93543015 or email pascoevale@cam.org.au.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

New Thanksgiving Envelopes can be collected after each Mass from this weekend and at the Parish Office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9am and 3pm.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Please help St Vincent de Paul provide Christmas Hampers by taking a tag from the Giving Tree when attending Mass. We will provide tags at the Parish Office for those who want to contribute. Please collect tags and drop off goods at Parish Office on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9am and 3pm only.

COLUMBAN CALANDAR

The Columban Calandar is now available. To order, please contact Parish Office on 9354 3015 or email pascoevale@cam.org.au and leave your name and phone number. We will inform you of pickup details. Cost: \$10

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link:

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&teamID=116609>

We are very grateful for your support at this challenging time.