

The First Reading from the Second Book of Samuel speaks of God asking David to make him a dwelling place worthy of him. David the king was concerned that he lived in a palace of fine cedar wood while God only had a tent, the tent where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Eventually a magnificent temple would be built, not by David but by his son Solomon. It would be rebuilt even more magnificently by Herod the Great and, in fact, the construction was not yet finished in the lifetime of Jesus. However, the house that David was being asked to build was a different kind of house – it was the house of David, consisting of all his descendants and their subjects. “The Lord will make you a House. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be stabled forever.”

The implication of this passage for us in today’s Mass is that Mary, who, with Joseph, was of the house of David is the new temple where God lives. A fitting place, a place of perfection without any trace of sin or evil. And, indeed, one of the titles we give to Mary in the Litany of Our Lady is “Ark of the Covenant”.

Later on, Paul will remind Christians that each one of them is now a temple of God, of the Spirit of Jesus. In the New Covenant there is no longer any temple building but – in the words of Paul – “you are God’s temple”, a temple of which each one is a constitutive part. The House of David continues in the Church, the Body of Christ.

True to her word

In a great leap of faith and trust in the angel’s message, Mary gives an unequivocal, an unconditional ‘Yes’. “Behold, I am the slave girl of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” She had yet to learn what that ‘Yes’ would involve but it was made unconditionally and it was never withdrawn.

Through a life of trials and tribulations, of which we know surely only a fraction, right up to those terrible moments as she stood beneath the Cross and saw her only Son die in agony and shame as a public criminal, she never once withdrew that ‘Yes’.

There is clearly a message there for us. We too have been called in our own special way to give birth to Jesus in our lives and in our environment. We too have been called to say ‘Yes’, an unconditional ‘Yes’ to following Jesus. Now, as we approach the celebration of Christmas, is the time for us to renew that pledge with Mary’s help and example.

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: 1 Landells Road, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 3015
 email: pascoevale@cam.org.au
 website: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

School: Landells Road, PO Box 667, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5411
 Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Three Sunday Masses available: Saturday (vigil) 6pm, 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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

TRYBOOKING OPEN FOR CHRISTMAS MASS

24th Dec **6.00pm** - Outdoor Mass in carpark
 (further details for 6pm Mass to come)
 24th Dec **10.00pm** - Indoor Church
 25th Dec **8.45am** - Indoor Church
 25th Dec **10.30am** - Indoor Church

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>

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 19/20 DECEMBER 2020

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Response to the Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Connie Sheaves

Anniversaries: Antonio & Rosa Vita, Salvatore & Salvatrice Scodella, Teresa Koh, Stephen Chia and Jerome Chia

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:

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

People must carry a face covering at all times. If a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained, either indoors or outdoors, then face coverings must be worn (unless they are people that live with each other, or have a lawful reason, or are children under 12 years of age).

Please come 10 to 15 minutes before Mass. Doors will close when Mass starts.

Please visit our website for the newest update from the Archdiocese regarding liturgical guidelines: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

VOLUNTEERS

THANKYOU to all the volunteers who helped clean the church and garden in preparation for our Christmas Liturgies. Your generous time is very much appreciated by all.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

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

ADVENT GIVING TREE

A big heartfelt thankyou to all who contributed towards the Advent Giving Tree. The hampers have been delivered to those in need. Thankyou to those who prepared the hampers and those who delivered them to the families.

COLUMBAN CALANDAR & CHRISTMAS CARDS

Last chance to purchase the Columban Calendar which is available after each Mass this weekend. You can also purchase at Parish Office next Tue 22 Dec and Wed 23 Dec between 9am and 3pm.
Cost: \$10
A limited amount of Christmas Cards are also available.
Cost: \$5 for eight cards

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale>
We are very grateful for your support at this challenging time.