In the passage today from the Prologue of John's Gospel, we have a clear example of the relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus. Jesus is the light and John is a witness to the light. It might be helpful for us to re-read those opening verses of today's Gospel and replace the name of John with our own name. What it says should be just as true of every baptised person as it is of John.

For each one of us, by our baptism and our membership in Christ's family, has been sent not, obviously, to be the original Light but to give witness to the Light. The Sermon on the Mount speaks of us as "the light of the world". We are to be the light in the same way as the moon is in its reflection of the sun.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the coming of God into our lives through Jesus we need also to remind ourselves that we have been called to be the means to bring Jesus into other people's lives.

Light in darkness

At Christmas time our city is bathed in light. But so many have no idea that this light symbolises our Lord Jesus, the Light of the World, born among us at this time. And we may ask ourselves into the lives of how many people this Christmas will we bring the Light of Jesus? How many will experience Jesus being reborn within them through our witnessing?

There are so many people out there who live in darkness. There are so many who are poor in so many ways, even though financially well-off. So many who lack real freedom, the freedom to choose truth and love in all they do and say. So many who are deafened by the consumerist din around them. So many, in the midst of all the superficial jollity, who feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, marginalised. So many broken hearts amid all the party-going. There are people who simply hate Christmas because it only increases their inner pain and deep sadness.

So many out there are waiting. Waiting for us to shine the light of Christ on them and to turn their lives into experiences of joy, of wholeness and integrity. The joy of Jesus, the joy of Christmas can only be ours to the extent that we work with Jesus to bring that joy into the lives of others too.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

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

Presbytery: 1 Landells Road, Pascoe Vale 3044

Telephone: 9354 3015

email: <u>pascoevale@cam.org.au</u> website: https://stolivers.org.au/

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

School:

- 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)

 24^{th} Dec $$ **10.00pm** - Indoor Church $$ $$ Dec $$ **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

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 12/13 DECEMBER 2020

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Alleluia alleluia!

Indeed, the Lord is near.

Response to the Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

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.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: James Moore, Walter Denny

Anniversaries: Maria Truda

Gospel Acclamation:

Those who are ill: Kath Layden, 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: Zachariah Ari Charalambous and Marion Lau Li Ting

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

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. vacuuming, dusting and cleaning altar linen.

Next working bee is on Saturday 19 December.

We need help with mowing and vacuuming, please contact the Parish Office on 93543015 or email pascoevale@cam.org.au if you can attend.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

New Thanksgiving Envelopes can be collected after each Mass this weekend and at the Parish Office on Tues, Wed and Thurs 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. Please collect tags and drop off goods at Parish Office this Tuesday or Wednesday between 9am and 3pm only. All goods need to be in by this Thursday morning

17 December, as we are starting to pack hampers.

COLUMBAN CALANDAR & CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Columban Calendar is available after each Mass this weekend. To order, please contact Parish Office on 9354 3015 or email pascoevale@cam.org.au and leave your name and phone number. Cost: \$10

A limited amount of Christmas Cards are available after each Mass this weekend. Cost: \$5 for eight cards

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link: https://secure.artezpacific.com/registrant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&teamID=116609
We are very grateful for your support at this challenging time.