

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR B

The Tidings

29TH NOVEMBER 2020



PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Michael Moody

PHONE: 9743 6515 **FAX:** 9747 8603

EMAIL: melton@cam.org.au

WEBSITE: pol.org.au/melton

PARISH SECRETARY: Margaret Cassar

PARISH OFFICE — 10 Unitt St Melton

(if using Google Maps—20-22 Unitt St, Melton)

Office Hours — 9am—3pm

POSTAL ADDRESS — PO BOX 96, Melton, 3337

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR: Liz Coustley

Safeguarding Coordinator Phone— 0490 885 515

Child Safety Officer Email— cso.melton@gmail.com

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

Please contact the Parish Office.

**PARISH OF MELTON
SERVING THE AREAS OF:**

Melton, Melton West, Aintree, Boonie Brook,
Harkness, Grangefields, Kurunjang, Plumpton,
Rockbank, & Toolern Vale

MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West

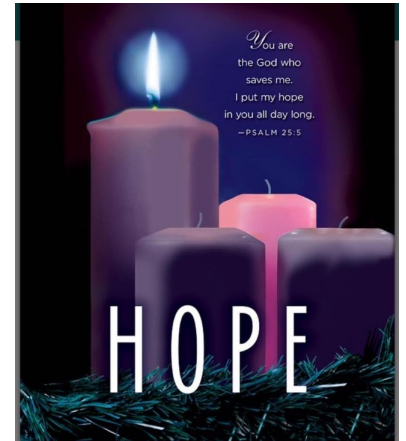
Saturday 6pm

Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm.

St Dominic's Church

Church Street, Melton

Refer to Page 2 of The Tidings



A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

This week I am pleased to announce the return of weekend Masses! The last weekend we were together as a congregation was the Third Sunday in Lent and the reading of the day was the Samaritan lady at the well. At that time we heard Jesus say “If you only knew what God is offering”. Perhaps after many months and many twists and turns, we have had the time and the space to reflect on what God is offering us. This week we start again, this time in Advent where the message of the first candle we light is HOPE. As we enter this new season with our new found perspective we do so with a renewed sense of hope and wisdom. Perhaps we have learnt that we can live without filling each day with noise or activities that clutter the voice of God and our true thirst. Perhaps we have come to value the place our family, friends and work colleagues have in our life. Perhaps we have learnt what we can live with and what we can live without. May we always remember to savor the long drink of love and of hope that God offers us all.

I look forward to seeing faces in the congregation and not just a camera. I have often said during this time that it takes a different skill set to say Mass in front of a camera. There is nothing like Mass with a congregation in front of you—that is what I appreciate most as I prepare myself for this weekend’s Masses. I know that it will be a busy weekend as we celebrate Baptisms, the second round of First Eucharist for our St Luke’s children and our usual four weekend Masses—pray for me!

On another note...this week I received a call from the Vicar General. We will be welcoming a new Permanent Deacon to the Parish. Rev Deacon Christopher (Chris) Creo will be joining us in February and will be available to us during the weekend. I will speak more about the role of the Permanent Deacon and Deacon Chris on the weekend but we enthusiastically welcome him to the Melton Parish

When I commenced these messages as we entered the first lockdown, I did not think that I would still be preparing these as we approach Christmas! As the season of my extended weekly messages come to a close, I look forward to seeing how we can arrange the messages of this “unprecedented time” into something that can be a reflection of this moment. But until then...let me say once more—Keep safe, be kind and see you at the Church.—*Fr Michael Moody*

**Recently
Deceased:**

Carmel Galea

ANNIVERSARIES:

28th November—

30th November

**Stan Lesnianski,
Jeannie Wedekind,
Salvina Muscat,
Kevin Woof,
Emanuel Xuereb,
Sam Micalleff,
Felizarto Ferrer,
Catherine O’Keefe,
Florence Tully,
Shirley & Bob
Brydson, Paul
Joseph Brick, Billy
Airey, Sofronio Sr
Aguitong, Oliver
Hughes-Tobin.**

MASS IN THE PERGOLA—WEEKDAY MASS BOOKINGS

Due to the restrictions in place for religious gatherings we will be holding weekday Mass in the pergola of the presbytery (adjacent to St Dominic's Church). The current restrictions allow for 20 people outside so booking is essential. We will be using Trybooking for bookings. If you have issues booking, please contact the Parish Office. To book for this week's Masses here are the links for each Mass—

Wednesday 25 November - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNGHA>

Friday 27 November - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNGHB>

MASS AT ST CATHERINE OF SIENA —WEEKEND MASS BOOKINGS

Book for next weekend's Masses using the following code—

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNGGY>

HELP WANTED—ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ST VINNIES BREAKFAST CLUB

Volunteers are needed for St Dominic's School Breakfast Club. Wednesday and Fridays at St Dominics. You will be needed to make toast and serve the children toast and milk. Start time at the school 7.30 am and you will be finished by 9am. For more information please contact Maureen 0437463449

COLUMBAN CALANDERS FOR 2021 NOW AVAILABLE

Sick of 2020? Look forward to 2021 with next year's Columban Calendar—only \$10. Available from the Piety stall or by contacting the Parish Office.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Though movement has been limited during lockdown, lots has been happening via zoom meetings. You will note the change of name from Child Safety to Safeguarding and the Safeguarding Coordinator for the Parish of Melton continues to be Liz Coustley (contact details on the front of The Tidings).

We are in the process of filling out a Safeguarding Assessment Tool for the Archdiocese which is to be uploaded by December 7. This covers the ten National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. We will continue to implement these standards next year - Covid-19 permitting!

Our new Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy will be uploaded to the Parish website shortly together with our new Commitment Statement, Code of Conduct and other information sheets.

As Covid-19 restrictions begin to ease and we are able to gather again, it is important to remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every volunteer needs a Working With Children Check (regardless of what capacity you assist in our Parish) and please ensure that your card is current. If your card has expired, you are unable to assist in the parish until you renew your card (online) and a new copy of your card is in our register at the Parish Office

The Parish of Melton is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults



First Aid is located in the Lay-Sacristy. The Defibrillator is located in the foyer of St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading

A reading from the book of Ezekiel

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

Advent is the time when the Church longs for the coming of the Lord. In this longing the Church looks in two directions, so to speak. Backward to the Lord's first coming as a child born to Mary in Bethlehem; forward to his second coming at the end of time.

What makes the Church focus upon the second coming of the Lord is the keen sense – arising out of the condition of our world – that the longed-for messianic salvation is far from complete. In the saving events of Christ's death and resurrection we have indeed been reconciled to God. In this renewed relationship we already enjoy the essentials of salvation. But as far as the outward conditions of present existence go we still have much to long for. The world in which we live is still a world captive to forces hostile to God and to the achievement of a decent human existence for the majority of human beings alive today.

So, despite our belief that the Messiah has come and our awareness of all the gifts we enjoy as a result, we can identify with the people of the Old Testament who longed for the coming of a saviour. We long for the (second) coming of the Saviour as they longed for the first. In the words of the prophets and the psalms we can find an expression of our own longing that the work of salvation be made complete.

Not that we take the New Testament allusions to the future coming of Jesus in a literal sense—as though Jesus were suddenly one day to appear on a cloud, summoning the world, with trumpet blast, to judgment. We leave that understanding to fundamentalist sects. What the statements about the Lord's coming, in all their richness of imagery and symbol, communicate is the truth that our lives and indeed the whole of history stand under the eventual judgment of God and that the Crucified One, now risen Lord, remains the criterion of what truly human existence should be. His grace and his power continually knock at the door of our lives, seeking to move us along his way. It is this sense of the Lord's coming that the Advent season proclaims and celebrates.

The readings for the First Sunday of Advent this year begin with a passage from the final part of the Book of Isaiah, **Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8**. The passage expresses very strongly a longing for salvation yet to be achieved. The return of Israel from Exile in Babylon had been far from the expectations aroused by prophecies found earlier in the Book (chapters 40-55). At the beginning and also at the end, the text calls upon God as 'Father', an address to God unusual in the Old Testament. The sense is primarily that of God as responsible for Israel's very being – hence the concluding image: as the potter can refashion the clay, so God can refashion Israel's fortunes (cf. Jer 18:1-6).

Halfway through the passage (64:1) we hear a strong Advent plea: 'O, that you would tear open the heavens and come down.' The Synoptic accounts of Jesus' baptism offer a clear response to this plea. As he emerges from the water, 'the heavens' are 'torn apart' (Mark 1:10) and the Spirit descends in the form of a dove, and he hears the Father's voice, 'You are my Son, the Beloved' (v. 11). The longed-for salvation has begun to 'come down'.

The **Second Reading**, from the beginning of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, 1:3-9, gives perfect expression to Christian hope for the second coming of the Lord. We should not miss the 'trinitarian' cast to this expectation. During the time of 'waiting' the experience of the Spirit assures believers of God's love (Rom 5:5). The Spirit is also active in a variety of gifts that serve to build up the community and equip it for mission (1 Corinthians 12-14). Despite his physical absence, believers enjoy 'communion' with the risen Lord. ('Communion' more accurately expresses the sense of the Greek word *koinōnia* than the weaker term 'fellowship'.) This *koinōnia* presently involves sharing Christ's sufferings. Through the faithfulness of God the Father it will eventually become a sharing of his glory (cf. Rom 8:17).

The **Gospel**, Mark 13:33-37, features a brief parable – really simply an extended image – from the end of the long discourse on the future that Jesus gives to his disciples just before his Passion. The householder who goes on his travels gives instructions to all his servants but the focus of the parable lies upon the one charged to watch the door. The master expects to be welcomed when he returns. Everyone else may sleep but this servant must stay awake at night, always on the lookout for the master's coming. Believers are like that servant: 'gatekeepers' for the coming of the Lord. The rest of the world may 'sleep' but we are 'children of light and of the day' (1 Thess 5:5), our lives bathed in the dawning light of the risen Lord and enriched by the hope of his final coming.

STEWARDSHIP: FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2020

Weekly Pledged:

\$7,745.23

Weekly Amount Given:

\$5,979.96

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