

# The Tidings

6TH DECEMBER 2020



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**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 Contact** – 0490 885 515 |  
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**

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## SIGNING IN FOR COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING USING A QR CODE ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, MELTON WEST

This weekend we launch a new method of signing in for COVID-19 Contact Tracing using a special QR Code.

### HOW TO USE THE QR CODE

1. Open the Camera App on your phone
2. Focus on the QR Code and a message will appear.
3. Select the message and you will be directed to the Archdiocese contact tracing website.
4. Enter your name and phone number and select SUBMIT. If you have more than 1 person to record, separate each name with a comma.

*Example: Joseph, Mary, Jesus*



### SAFEGUARDING NEWS

The Parish's **Safeguarding Assessment Tool** for the Archdiocese of Melbourne covering the ten National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, has been uploaded to the Professional Standards Unit. While we met many of the indicators in some standards, there are still further policies and procedures to implement throughout 2021 and into the future.

Our new **Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy** has been uploaded to the Parish website together with our new Commitment Statement, Code of Conduct and other policies and information sheets.

As Covid-19 restrictions further ease and we 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 has not expired**. If your card is no longer current, you are unable to assist in the parish until you renew your card (online) and a new copy of your card is in our register at the Parish Office.

Work has continued over 2020 via zoom meetings in regards to Safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Please note the change of name from Child Safety to Safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Coordinator for the Parish

Recently Deceased  
Evelyn Armeni, Ross  
Morrison, Terry Barnett

ANNIVERSARIES  
5th—11th December  
Margaret Mc Guire,  
Conor Stewart John  
Baldacchino, Terry  
Treadwell, Mark Clarke,  
Joseph Caffrey, John  
Ciantar, Teopisto Saldana,  
Kathleen Hishon, Joseph  
Vella, Fr John Williams,  
Trixie Rayner, Peter  
Donnelly, Attilio De  
Nardin, Julie Anne Smith,  
Antonius Bambang,  
Karina Benjamin, Nesta  
Muthukrishna, Clarence  
DeBeaufort, Myra  
O'Leary, Albert Muscat,  
Katherine Spillman,  
Phillip Galea, Phil Wright,  
Yan Nowicki, Eileen  
Waller, Antonio Biviano,  
Lawrence Brown, Louis  
Sundanum, Jason Frigo.

## MASS IN THE PERGOLA—WEEKDAY MASS BOOKINGS

Due to the restrictions in place for religious gatherings and the preservation of the “school bubbles” 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 9 December- <https://www.trybooking.com/BNKWE>

Friday 11 December - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNKWF>

## MASS AT ST CATHERINE OF SIENA —WEEKEND MASS BOOKINGS

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

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

## 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 Dominic’s. 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.

## GETTING TO KNOW REV DEACON CHRIS CREO



Chris is from a family with deep religious devotion. He first heard about the permanent diaconate from his Parish Priest in the Philippines. After coming to Australia in 2004 he happened upon a little booklet about the permanent diaconate at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo and his interest was again rekindled. His wife “warmed up” to the idea and helped him get in touch with the Archdiocese to get information on this new role. Chris opened himself in prayer with God to his fate to the diaconate. In 2009 he commenced his theological studies at the Catholic Theological College–University of Divinity in Melbourne.

What is a permanent Deacon? Deacons serve the bishop in his duty to bring the Good News to all. The deacon is called to:

- Bring forth God’s word.
- Assist at the Eucharistic table, proclaim the Gospel and preach at Mass (where required).
- Preside over public prayer, marriages and to baptise.
- Give viaticum to the dying and to lead the rites of the funeral service and burial.
- Perform acts of charity in the name of the bishop.
- Celebrate faithfully the liturgy of hours for the Church and the whole world.

We look forward to welcoming Rev Deacon Chris’ positive and energetic nature to our active parish!

## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

LEARN MALTESE

FOR PLEASURE, WORK OR TRAVEL.

JOIN OUR

BEGINNER ADULT CLASSES.

Registrations are now open for

Maltese Language Classes

Semester 1, 2021

Embrace the Maltese Culture through the Maltese language

*Until further notice Classes are currently planned to held live online due to social distancing .*

Beginners: MONDAY, 6.30 pm

or

THURSDAY, 6.00 pm

Advanced: WEDNESDAY, 6.00 pm

Intermediate: THURSDAY 6.30 pm

Tel: 03 9387 8922 or 0466 079 814 AH

<https://mccv.org.au/services/language/>

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*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 Isaiah*

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

## Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

## Second Reading

*A reading from the second letter of St Peter*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

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, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. 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.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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## SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

The scripture readings for this Second Sunday of Advent (as also those of next week too) focus upon John the Baptist and his summons to repentance in view of the coming of the Lord. John, of course, is mentioned only in the Gospel but the Lectionary provides the context for his preaching by choosing as **First Reading** the passage from Isaiah (40:1-5, 9-11) which the Gospel writers employ in order to indicate his role in the history of salvation. John is the 'voice that cries in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for the Lord".'

The First Reading comes from the beginning of the section of the Book of Isaiah (chapters 40-55) attributed to the great prophet of Israel's return from Exile in Babylon. This 'Second Isaiah' sees the return from Exile as a 'New Exodus'. The prophet's role is to 'tell the good news' of Israel's coming liberation and to describe the wonders that will attend the return of the captives across the desert to their own land. Because they are God's liberated people and because God will be at their head, leading them home like a shepherd, nature will transform itself to ease their path. A 'way' is being prepared, not just for Israel, but for God, whose 'glory' will be made manifest to all humankind. (The detail about 'Jerusalem' [= the people] having received 'double punishment for all her sins' simply underlines the sense of completion ['more than enough!']; the sufferings of the people are interpreted, in conventional mode, as punishment, but this aspect is not the main point.)

The **Gospel**, Mark 1:1-8, takes us to the beginning of Mark's Gospel, which, omitting any account of Jesus' earlier life, begins the story of Jesus simply with the ministry of John the Baptist. For Mark – and for the early Christian tradition generally – the appearance and proclamation of John follows the 'script' indicated by the passage of Isaiah quoted as the First Reading. There is a slight difference in that, whereas (Second) Isaiah had a voice crying, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord', in Mark (as already in the Greek translation of Isaiah [LXX]) 'the voice' (John) cries out in the wilderness: that is, the wilderness is the location, rather than the object, of the cry. Nonetheless, John's appearance and his voice indicate the fulfilment of what Isaiah had foretold: the 'good news' ('gospel') of the coming of the Lord, for whom 'a way' has to be prepared.

'The Lord' is, of course, Jesus himself, Messiah and Son of God (1:1) and the 'way' that has to be prepared for him is no longer a path through the desert but a way constructed in human hearts. The 'way' is the conversion from sin called for in John's message, enacted in the water baptism that he celebrates for the crowds. John's appearance – his clothing and his diet – portray him in the guise of Elijah, the great prophet traditionally expected, on the basis of Mal 3:1; 4:5-6, to return to earth to preach repentance before the coming of the Lord.

But, beyond the summons to repentance, John has a christological confession to make. He points to the One who is to follow him as One of far greater rank. In Jewish rabbinic tradition students carried the sandals of their teachers as a mark of respect but John is not worthy even to untie the sandals of the One who is to come. Unlike John, who baptises with water, this coming stronger One will 'baptise' with the Holy Spirit. He will bind up the 'strong man' (Satan; see 3:22-27), who currently holds human beings captive alienating them from God and from their own true humanity. Empowered by the Spirit (1:10-11), Jesus will reclaim human lives from all the captivities (sin, ignorance, disease, etc) that hold them bound and draw them into his own life-giving intimacy with God. This is the meaning of 'baptising with the Spirit'.

Thus the 'good tidings' of 'home-coming' (from Exile) that (Second) Isaiah proclaimed with respect to Israel has become the 'Gospel' of humanity's return to its true home within the 'family' of God. Each Advent invites us to revisit a longing for that 'home-coming' existing in the depths of our souls.

The **Second Reading**, from 2 Peter 3:8-14, features typical Jewish apocalyptic imagery of the 'Day of the Lord'. It provides a symbolic portrayal of the Christian sense that Christ's personal victory over sin and death will take time to be fully worked in the world as a whole. Believers must not lose heart, nor allow themselves to be simply absorbed in the present shape of the world, which is destined to give way to 'a new heaven and a new earth'. There they and their faithful pattern of life ('righteousness') will truly be 'at home'.

### STEWARDSHIP: FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2020

Weekly Pledged:

\$7,745.23

Weekly Amount Given:

\$5,979.96

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