

Message for the Third Sunday of Advent

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Gaudete in Domino semper - "Rejoice in the Lord always....The Lord is at hand" (Phil 4: 4-5).

We begin Mass with these words this weekend, and therefore this Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday. It is a time of joyful pause as we prepare in a more intentional way for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

We make this invitation our own in Mentone-Parkdale, coming together in joy that we can now return to worship in our two churches. There is no need to book; simply come along and some basic details will be recorded upon arrival.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an excellent spiritual preparation during Advent, and therefore more confession times have been made available in the lead-up to Christmas (see attached sheet).

For Christmas itself, numbers in the church will be capped according to government density requirements. With so many wanting to come to church, we will need to book to come to Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, making use of the **TryBooking** system. (Details will be announced within a couple of days.)

I wish you many blessings as we prepare for the coming of the Lord this Christmas, and look forward to meeting you in church.

Fr Cameron Forbes
Parish Priest