

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF MENTONE - PARKDALE

SAINT PATRICK - SAINT JOHN VIANNEY



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A) : 22nd December 2019



FATHER MICHAEL'S MESSAGE

Mary Stommes reflects on the circumstances surrounding the birth of her first child. In our own time, this couple's experience sheds light on the arrival in Bethlehem of Mary with Joseph, and on the call of the infant Jesus to us who call him 'Lord'. She is editor of *Give Us This Day*.

"Our first child was due to be born on March 1st.

'Babies come when they're ready, not when you are,' Mom reminded me. In other words, don't get your hopes up for a February birth day.

But in early February, our family practitioner said that would likely be the case. By mid-February, he said I need not schedule another office visit. He expected to see me at the hospital within the week. It was Lent, but it felt like Advent: 'Soon and very soon we were going to have a baby.'

I was back in the clinic the following week. And the following, on my due date. Convinced before this appointment that I was in labor and would be sent directly to the hospital a few blocks away, I brought my husband and my overnight bag. I left my overnight bag in the car, and my husband in the reception area with a mostly geriatric crowd. He'd make fast friends, and I didn't need another set of ears to hear, 'Get to the hospital and quick!' Or not. Because babies come when they're ready, not when we are.

Make way for the baby elephant on her way back to the waiting room . . . where by this time my 'never-met-a-stranger' husband was on a first-name basis with the elders in his company. Catching sight of me - easy to do - he asked with

exaggerated excitement, 'Well, what did the doctor say? . . . Are you pregnant?'

Very funny. Even for the baby elephant who wanted nothing more than to be a mother. It was Lent, but I so wanted Christmas: 'Dear baby, haste! Come, come to us and show your face.'

A week later to the day, 'Joy to the world, our son had come.' It was Lent, but we were deep into Christmas.

Months later, when Advent arrived, the season felt different. Weightier the waiting. Christmas was different too. The 'Baby's First Christmas' tree ornament hearkened back to the first Christmas, now far less distant. The Christ Child, a vulnerable baby dependent on others for his every need. 'What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?' I knew that Child. 'Raise, raise a song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby.' I knew his Mother.

And I want to know them more and more - to love like the adult Jesus who never met a stranger and is in the face of every stranger. Who depends on us to give birth to Love in our sin-sick world. This Advent more than ever, I come back to that waiting-room question: 'What does the world say? Are we, as Christians, noticeably with Child?' This is no laughing matter.

It is Advent and will soon be Christmas, but it feels like Holy Week and Good Friday. How can it be that *holy families throughout the world are victims of mindless violence. Many a baby's First Christmas, with their older siblings, will be the first¹ as orphans for the rest of their lives. Every day, so many holy innocents. So many hateful and harmful words. How can we sing our Advent and Christmas hymns without weeping?*

'The world in silent stillness' can no longer wait. Silent complicity, silent indifference, even silent anguish. We cannot wait. When Christ our Savior is dying to be born, we can expect the delivery may be painful. But make way for him. Make way for his overdue grace.'

¹ Text in italics has been edited to reflect global context.

A time of Hope...

A message from Most Rev Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne Christmas 2019

Hello friends,

I love Christmas. It is such a beautiful time of hope. Behind the tinsel, the advertising, the stress and frantic energy of the season, we encounter a profound simplicity in the story of God's arrival.

We just need to think about Mary and Joseph. They weren't welcomed into any warm hotel or inn; they weren't able to put themselves down by the fireplace in someone's home. They had come from far away and arrived in a place they did not know.

They could be like us after a long journey when nobody welcomes or acknowledges you. You can become quite despondent: no family around you; far from home; and in Mary and Joseph's case, a child on the way. It can seem like a story of isolation.

And yet, in the midst of a simple stable, a home for working animals, this most precious gift is given to us—a little boy, who against all the odds and in a place of somewhat hopelessness, becomes not merely a symbol of hope but who is hope itself. A hope for us.

He is a real baby, flesh and blood, with all the tears and the smiles of any little baby, and yet he is also the Son of God. Emmanuel. God among us.

In the distance, the angels were singing their hymns of hope, and shepherds were learning something about how this hope was coming into their lives. These shepherds—traditionally considered the 'lowly' in society—gifted with Hope itself. So, when we look upon this child, we can sense the stirrings of hope within ourselves—hope for new life, new beginnings, and the promise of peace.

He has brought unimaginable joy—joy into his own family who loved him, but also a joy that the whole world needs.

This is not just a story that we might tell each year at Christmas time. It is not just something of the past. Jesus lives now. Jesus lives in us, and Jesus lives for us today.

In today's world of change and uncertainty, we long for God to step gently into our lives, lovingly and tenderly reaching out to each one of us. So, as we busily prepare our homes for the arrival perhaps of family and friends at Christmas time, I invite you to take the time to prepare your hearts to welcome Him who offers himself to us.

May I wish you a beautiful, joyful
and hope-filled Christmas.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Presbytery & Office: 10 Rogers Street, Mentone 3194. Ph: 9583 2103

• Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Michael McEntee Ph: 0417 673 857 • Hon Associate Priest: Rev. Fr. Ramsay Williams OLSC

• Convent: Sisters of St Paul de Chartres

• Director of Music: Myfanwy McIndoe Ph: 0484 079 880

• St Patrick's School: Ph: 9583 5033 • St John Vianney's School: Ph: 9580 5812

Website: www.cam.org.au/MentoneParkdale

Email: MentoneParkdaleEast@cam.org.au

Notices for Parish Bulletin to the Parish Office by 12 noon Thursday

Recently Deceased

Kevin Cheney, Carole West

Anniversaries

Joan Nolan, Ann Finegan, Orazio Costanzo, Eliza & Regino Veridiano

Prayer for the Sick

Milly Camera, Fran Panetta, Catherine Ternent, Gerald Kenny, Clodagh Dowley, Maroa Shelton, Paul Geri, Les Lacey, Lisa Ambrosi, Nick Quill, Oisín Slevin (infant), Theresa Ahearn, Jenny Jessep, Kathleen Cerato, Ron Brown, Nancy Lopez, Yvonne Provis, Lindsay Brown, Jayden Beyrooti, Darren Lacey, Ann Curtain, Greg McLeod, John Hannan, Maureen Oswald, Jim Lacey, Patricia Walker, Rita Buckner, Carmen Lotzniker, Hector Burra, Patricia M, Patricia Power, Nanette Woodbridge, Sebastian Wolfenden, Ellen Farrugia-Merlo, Anthony Mannion, Sharon Kirkwood, Peter Zickert.
(PLEASE LET US KNOW IF A NAME SHOULD BE REMOVED)



Prayer / Meditation

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Each day the Church is open from 8:30am to 6:00pm. Please choose a time (1/2 hour) to spend in Adoration. Each Friday the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration following the 9:15am Mass until 4:30pm, when Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is given.



Rosary:

1. In St Patrick's Church the Rosary is prayed each day before morning Mass at 8:45am. All welcome.
2. The Rosary is also prayed on Thursday after 10:30am OLSC Mass and on Wednesday evenings, 5pm at Bridie's (9585 5142).



Divine Mercy Devotions:

Are held in St Patrick's Church each Friday at 3:00pm, with the exception of Good Friday.

1st Collection:

Presbytery: \$1,329.60

2nd Collection:

Thanksgiving: \$3,040.00

Vocations

"God is with us"

St Joseph listened to the call of God, his vocation was to trust. Today let us pray that many young people from our parishes and families will hear the call of God and trust enough to say 'yes' to priesthood and consecrated life.

Please Pray for Vocations

Pope's Intentions: December 2019

Universal – The Very Young

That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

Parish Events

ADVENT CONCERT 2019 *Magnificat*

Sunday 22nd December, 3pm
St Patrick's Church, Mentone

St Patrick's Choir
Organ - Myfanwy McIndoe
French Horn - Evgeny Chebykin



Featuring music of the Advent season

FREE ADMISSION

CHRISTMAS MASS AND RECONCILIATION 2019

Times and details are printed in this bulletin, please take a copy home for reference, noting all times and dates.

28/29 DECEMBER 2019

Parish of Mentone-Parkdale

Rosters

Readers:

6:00 pm - T Dillon (SP)
9:00 am - J Alford, G Shea (SJV)
11:00 am - K Mooney (SP)
5:00 pm - F De Summa (SP)

Extraordinary Ministers:

6:00 pm - H Foley, S Henning (SP)
9:00 am - B John (SJV)
11:00 am - S Tobin, V Mathers (SP)
5:00 pm - N Maratas (SP)

Procession of Gifts:

6:00 pm - Brennan Family (SP)
9:00 am - Swadling Family (SJV)
11:00 am - D Zuccala, J Vernon (SP)

Extraordinary Minister to the Sick:

J O'Donoghue (SJV)

Flowers:

G Costanzo (SJV)

Counters: Team 6

G Giulieri, R Mulavin, R Fairhill
C Bergin, T Brown

Sacristans:

St Patrick's - Group 3

M Zickett, K Lyons
St John Vianney's
J Dunstan

Pilgrim Statues:

This Week:

Anawana Family, 15 Kershaw St (SP)

Next Week:

Carroll Family, 1/84 Como Pde (SP)

This Week:

Alford Family (SJV)

Next Week:

Edkins Family (SJV)

Adoration Roster:

Week 3 - Pope Pius X

Parish and Diocesan News

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers rosters

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers rosters for the next 6 months have now been emailed or posted to all involved, if you have not received your roster, please contact Bob Razga, phone 9583 8206, to arrange a copy.

Cuppa & Chat

All attending the **6:00pm Mass** on Saturday 21st December are invited to a special Cuppa & Chat in the Parish Community Centre following Mass.

There will also be a special Cuppa & Chat in the Parish Community Centre on **Sunday 22nd** following Mass at St Patrick's.

We are also calling for volunteers to assist with the Cuppa & Chat on Sunday mornings. To volunteer, please phone **Richard McCormick 0438 045 464** or **Eddie Woods 0419 872 932**.

2020 Columban Calendars

2020 Columban Calendars are now available in St John Vianney's and St Patrick's piety stalls for \$9 each. A new selection of Christmas Cards are now available for sale too.



St John Vianney's piety stall is open every Sunday after the 9:00am mass. St Patrick's piety stall is open every Sunday after the 9:30am Ordinate Mass and after the 11:00am mass.

Advent Gospel Study Group

Final session: Monday 23rd December 2:00pm in the **Parish Centre**. Sessions will run for approximately 45 minutes. Enquiries to **Sr Mary Joseph 0405 700 308**

CatholicCare

CatholicCare would like to thank the community of Mentone/Parkdale East Parish for its generous donation of \$2,025.65 to the recent CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. All funds raised go to support a wide range of programs and services.

Other Events

SIX DAY SILENT RETREAT

To deepen your relationship with God, we offer you silence, a peaceful ambience, a spiritual director and ample time for prayer.

Friday 17th January to Friday 24th January 2020, from 10am, Live-in \$925. For bookings contact **Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality**, 99 Studley Park Road, Kew. 9854 8110. secretary@campion.asn.au

Catholic Theological College

2020 Study Options Now Available!

Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation:

Meditation in the Christian Tradition;
Applied Meditation; Meditation and Wholeness

Audit and Credit options available
Contact the Academic Records Office for enrolment information and appointments.
+61 3 9412 3309 –

AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au

– 278 Vitoria Parade, East Melbourne
ctc@ctc.edu.au

Catholic Theological College The Parish and Pastoral Ministry in a New Environment

Parish life today is facing many new opportunities and challenges. The parish of the future will be built on the missionary creativity of people and priests working together in a changed social and ecclesial environment. Fr Brendan Reed, author of *Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes*, will be teaching this new unit in 2020. This intensive will be beneficial for anyone involved in parish life, parish councils, parish teams and parish ministry. It will be particularly of use to those wishing to engage in parish life in light of the 2020 Plenary Council. 12, 14, 19 March; 30 April; 2, 23 May + online learning (12 hours equivalent)

Church History

Discover more about the Church's story and the journey of faith across the centuries. Units include;

The Spirit of Trent and the Mystery of Vatican II, Lecturer: Rev. Dr Max Vodola – Semester 1, Wednesday 6-9pm.

Two Centuries of Catholic Experience in Australia, Lecturer: Rev. Dr Christopher Dowd OP – Winter Intensive, 29/6, 1/7, 3/7, 6/7, 8/7, 10/7 9.30-4.30pm

The Reformation in the British Isles, Lecturer: Rev. Prof. Austin Cooper OMI AM – Saturday Intensive, Semester 1: 7/3, 14/3 18/4, 2/5. Semester 2: 1/8, 29/8, 12/9, 10/10 10-3.00pm.

Contact the Academic Records Office for all study options and further information.

+61 3 9412 3309 –

AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au – 278 Vitoria Parade, East Melbourne ctc@ctc.edu.au

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. This parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in legislation. A copy of the Parish Policy is available by contacting the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2019

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December 2019

6:00pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas: St Patrick's

7:30pm - Carols

8:00pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas: St John Vianney's

11:30pm - Carols

Midnight: Solemn Mass of Christmas: St Patrick's

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25th December 2019

10:00am: Mass of Christmas Day: St Patrick's
(please note there is NO 5pm Mass on Christmas Day)



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Confessions)

WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER

9:45am

Following 9:15 Mass, St Patrick's Mentone

11:00am

Following 10:30am Mass, St John Vianney's East Parkdale

THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER

6-7pm St Patrick's Mentone

FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER

5:45pm

Following 5:15pm Mass, St John Vianney's East Parkdale

SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER

9:45am

Following 9:15am Mass, St Patrick's Mentone

5:15pm

Before the 6:00 pm Mass, St Patrick's Mentone

TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER

9:45am

Following 9:15am Mass, St Patrick's Mentone

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Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A, 22nd December 2019

Mass Response

Psalm Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, Alleluia!**
The virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

Legend: "CWBII" Catholic Worship Book II

6:00 pm Vigil Mass (Saturday) - St Patrick's

Mass Setting: Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin - Ostrowski
Entrance: CWBII 416
Offertory: CWBII 410
Communion: CWBII 407
Recessional: CWBII 213

9:00am (Sunday) - St John Vianney's

Mass Setting: Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin - Ostrowski
Entrance: CWBII 416
Offertory: CWBII 232
Communion: CWBII 163
Recessional: CWBII 213

11:00am Choral Mass (Sunday) - St Patrick's

Mass Setting: Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin - Ostrowski
Introit: *Rorate caeli desuper* - C. Tye
Russian Kyrie (arr. Bell)
Offertory: CWBII 410
Agnus Dei: *Missa brevis* - A. Gabrieli
Communion: *Ave Maria* - Tomas Luis de Victoria
CWBII 407
Recessional: CWBII 213

5:00 pm (Sunday) - St Patrick's

Mass Setting: Mass of Our Lady Help of Christians - Connolly
Entrance: CWBII 416
Offertory: CWBII 232
Communion: CWBII 163
Recessional: CWBII 213

Readings Next Week:

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach: 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians: 3:12-21
Matthew: 2:13-15, 19-23

MASSES THIS WEEK

(SP) St Patrick's Church; (SJV) St John Vianney's Church

WEEK DAY MORNING MASSES

Monday, 23rd December
NO MASS

Tuesday, 24th December Christmas Eve
9:15 am (SP) 4th week of Advent
(Christmas Mass times refer inside Bulletin)

Wednesday, 25th December Christmas Day
Solemnity: The NATIVITY of the LORD
(Christmas Mass times refer inside Bulletin)

Thursday, 26th December (Public Holiday)
9:15 am (SP) Feast: St Stephen, the first martyr
10:30 am (SP) **Ordinarie Mass**

Friday, 27th December
9:15 am (SP) Feast: St John, apostle, evangelist
5:15 pm (SJV) Mass

Saturday, 28th December
9:15 am (SP) Feast: The Holy Innocents, martyrs

WEEKEND MASSES

(Vigil) Saturday: 6:00 pm (SP)
Sunday: 9:00 am (SJV)
Sunday: 9:30 am (SP) **Ordinarie Mass**
Sunday: 11:00 am (SP) (Choral Mass)
Sunday: 5:00 pm (SP)

RECONCILIATION

After the 9:15 am Mass on Wednesday & Saturday mornings (SP) and 5:15 pm Saturday (SP)

**EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION
WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY 2020**