

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF MENTONE - PARKDALE

SAINT PATRICK - SAINT JOHN VIANNEY



Second Sunday of Advent (Year A) : 8th December 2019

FATHER MICHAEL'S MESSAGE

The Word in Advent, Cycle A

By Barbara Lee

In the Church, it is Advent, season of hope and joyful expectation. In the world, it is December, season of shopping, parties, crowds, and all kinds of pressures. How do we cross over? Is there any way to imagine, let alone experience, the trust in God's promise to send the Messiah? How do we hear God's promise above all the noise?

One way to overcome the internal and external background noise assailing our ears is to listen to the Word of God. Listening is counterintuitive, even countercultural. That's the point.

St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God speaks to us in our deepest feelings and desires. One way of exploring those feelings is praying with the readings for the Sundays of Advent, Cycle A, which are some of the richest in the entire Bible.

At the beginning of Advent, Matthew gets our attention with an image of the Messiah as the Son of Man coming at the end of time (Matthew 24:37-44). Later in the month, the prophet Isaiah in explicit terms predicts the coming of the Messiah in time: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). But during most of the season, there are readings that invite us to experience the longing for the coming of Christ into our hearts.

Isaiah predicts that people will beat their swords into plowshares; that lambs and small children will be safe among wolves and vipers; and that the blind shall see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the mute sing for joy (Isaiah 2:4, 11:6-8, 35:5-6). The implication that these promises will be fulfilled in Jesus is made explicit in the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent: "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them" (Matthew 11:5). These readings, with their vivid imagery and powerful emotion, lend themselves especially well to imaginative prayer, a way of reading Scripture less with our eyes and ears and more with our hearts.

Consider the vivid scene in Matthew 3:1-12, which we hear on the Second Sunday of Advent. Can you visualize John the Baptist, dressed in animal skins, thin and muscular from living in the desert, subsisting on "locusts and wild honey," with long, untended hair and beard, and a light in his eyes reflecting the passion within? He was evidently a charismatic preacher, since he attracted great crowds. What does his voice sound like? Can you imagine yourself one of the crowd lining up to be baptized in the Jordan River? Can you acknowledge your sins? How do you feel after coming out of the water? Or do you identify with one of the skeptical Pharisees? What grace do you need this Advent?

In another example, consider the metaphors that the prophet Isaiah piles one upon another: flowers blooming in abundance, the land ringing with joyful song, water abounding in the desert, the weak made strong, the sick and the suffering made whole, and seeing "the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God." (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10, First Reading for the Third Sunday of Advent). Can you visualize each of these images? What do they symbolize? As Christians, we believe that the longed-for Messiah comes not as the ruler of an earthly kingdom, but as the Savior of all humankind, promising not earthly conquest but eternal life. Are there elements of Isaiah's prophecies that still remain to be fulfilled? What is our role in realizing these promises?

Our Advent liturgies invite us to look forward to Christmas as the coming of Christ at a particular time in history; the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time; and above all, the coming of Christ in our own hearts. The Word of God is alive in our hearts as we listen and reflect imaginatively.

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us." (John 1:14)



Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter on the **meaning and importance** of the nativity scene. He signed the Letter during his recent visit to the Italian town of **Greccio**, where **St Francis of Assisi** created the first crib scene in **1223** to commemorate the birth of Jesus. Included here are some of his writings...

"The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God".

"The nativity scene is like a **living Gospel** rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman." So great is His love for us, writes the Pope, "that He became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with Him."

The Pope encourages the **family tradition** of preparing the nativity scene, "but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares." Pope Francis says he hopes this custom will never be lost "and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived."

"Coming into this world, the Son of God was laid in the place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal Himself as 'the bread come down from heaven'." The nativity scene "evokes a number of the mysteries of Jesus' life and brings them close to our own daily lives".

The Christmas crèche moves us so deeply because it shows **God's tender love**. "The nativity scene has invited us to 'feel' and 'touch' the poverty that God's Son took upon Himself in the Incarnation. It asks us to meet Him and serve Him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need."

...to be continued.

www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-12/popefrancis-apostolic-letter-nativity-scene

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

Recently Deceased

Natale Colosimo

Anniversaries

Fr John Williams, Florence Clifton, Tony Bova, Jessie Ward

Prayer for the Sick

Milly Camera, Catherine Ternent, Gerald Kenny, Clodagh Dowley, Maroa Shelton, Paul Geri, Les Lacey, Lisa Ambrosi, Nick Quill, Oisin 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, and those on our continuing prayer list.

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: \$1,385.80

2nd Collection:

Thanksgiving: \$3,081.05
Loose Money: \$390.40

Vocations

"Prepare a Way for the Lord" John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. How do we prepare the way for Jesus in the lives of our young people? Do we pray for them? Encourage and support them? Invite them to serve, and thank them? How can we be like John the Baptist to those people who do not know Jesus?

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.

14/15 DECEMBER 2019

Parish of Mentone-Parkdale

Rosters

Readers:

6:00 pm - S Henning (SP)
9:00 am - D Clifton, A Berghella (SJV)
11:00 am - R Smith (SP)
5:00 pm - K Ady (SP)

Extraordinary Ministers:

6:00 pm - T Dillon, A Ady (SP)
9:00 am - M Webster (SJV)
11:00 am - A Earle, S Tobin (SP)
5:00 pm - M Haryanto (SP)

Procession of Gifts:

6:00 pm - B Hickey, E Hoare (SP)
9:00 am - Sells Family (SJV)
11:00 am - N Chung (SP)

Extraordinary Minister to the Sick:

D Kidner (SJV)

Counters: Team 3

A Berghella, B Andrews
B McCann, J Ludlow

Sacristans:

St Patrick's - Group I
L Smith, L Terblanche
St John Vianney's
G & K Sullivan

Pilgrim Statures:

This Week:
DSouza Family, 5 Balcombe Place (SP)
Next Week:
Jones Family, 19 Wakool Ave (SP)

This Week:

Jensen Family (SJV)

Next Week:

McCann Family (SJV)

Adoration Roster:

Week 1 - Christ, The Priest

Parish and Diocesan News

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Monday 9th December 2019

Please note:

There will be Mass at St Patrick's
Mentone at 8:30am on this date.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION ANNUAL APPEAL 7th & 8th December 2019

Melbourne Overseas Missions continues to assist the disadvantaged and marginalized in Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Botswana, Peru and Jerusalem. The work puts a key focus on the education of young people in socially and economically disadvantaged communities. Thousands of children and young children and young people will have access to safe and engaging learning environments thanks to the generosity of the clergy and parishioners of the Melbourne Archdiocese. Melbourne Overseas Missions very much appreciates your generosity in facilitating this work and very much hopes it will continue.

Envelopes are available in both churches.
Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

ADVENT GOSPEL STUDY GROUP

Second session: Thursday 5th December
Third session: Thursday 19th December
Fourth 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.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL St Vincent De Paul

The Christmas Appeal will be held in the parish on the weekend, 14-15 December 2019. Donation envelopes will be made available at both St Patrick and St John Vianney churches. Envelopes can be returned with a special collection at The Appeal Mass. The Society thanks you for your generosity and help with the Appeal.

Christmas Tree Gift Appeal St Vincent de Paul Society- East Parkdale

We invite parishioners to participate in the above by selecting a heart from the Christmas Tree, located in the church foyer at St John Vianney.



The heart will have details for you to provide a Christmas gift that will be distributed to people and families in the community. We thank you for your help with this Appeal. Gifts are to be returned to the Christmas Tree by December 15th 2019.

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.

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Thank you to those who supported our efforts with sales of the Kenshi Candles. It's not too late to order, contact Anton Ady 0411 135 850 or email ThanksGiving2019@bigpond.com

CUPPA & CHAT

Come along following morning Mass to enjoy a Cuppa & Chat in the comfort of the new Parish Centre, from Sunday 15th December. Volunteers are wanted to assist with the Cuppa & Chat on Sunday mornings. To volunteer, please phone either:- Richard McCormick 0438 045 464 or Eddie Woods 0419 872 932.

JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY

Mentone Junior Legion of Mary has been active again last Saturday when 16 children re-enacted the Gospel events of the Birth of Our Lord. They visited Mordialloc Nursing Home, Mercy Place Corben and BlueCross Autumndale to sing Christmas Carols and to perform Nativity Plays. Sister Mary Joseph who started the Junior Legion in Mentone in 2001 is back with us to witness the fruits of her labour. Maryanne Watkins has been caring for the junior praesidium since its inception as President. The juniors were well rehearsed and prepared for the play by Kathleen Bergin. Thank you also to everyone involved. The juniors were wonderful in their performances. Concluding each play, the children wished the residents a Merry Christmas and handed out little Cribs of the Baby Jesus. There was great joy all round. The parents of the juniors are to be congratulated for their constancy and support."

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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Second Sunday of Advent, Year A, 8th December 2019

Mass Response

Psalm Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, Alleluia!**
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
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 of Our Lady Help of Christians - Connolly
Entrance: CWBII 245
Offertory: CWBII 244
Communion: CWBII 242
Recessional: CWBII 232

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

Mass Setting: Mass of Our Lady Help of Christians - Connolly
Entrance: CWBII 244
Offertory: CWBII 245
Communion: CWBII 564
Recessional: CWBII 540

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

Mass Setting: Community Mass—Proulx
Russian Kyrie (arr. Bell)
Entrance: CWBII 244
Offertory: *The Crown of Roses* - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Communion: *Jerusalem, surge*
CWBII words 522, tune 449
Recessional: CWBII 245

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

Mass Setting: Mass of Our Lady Help of Christians - Connolly
Entrance: CWBII 245
Offertory: CWBII 244
Communion: CWBII 242
Recessional: CWBII 232

Readings Next Week: 3rd Sunday of Advent: Year A

Isaiah: 35:1-6,10
James: 5:7-10
Matthew: 11:2-11

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

WEEK DAY MORNING MASSES

Monday, 9th December

8:30 am (SP) Solemnity: The IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION of the BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday, 10th December

9:15 am (SP) 2nd week of Advent

Wednesday, 11th December

9:15 am (SP) Optional: St Damasus I, pope
10:30 am (SJV) Mass

Thursday, 12th December

9:15 am (SP) Optional: Our Lady of Guadalupe
10:30 am (SP) **Ordinariate Mass**

Friday, 13th December

9:15 am (SP) Memorial: St Lucy, virgin, martyr
5:15 pm (SJV) Mass

Saturday, 14th December

9:15 am (SP) Memorial: St John of the Cross, priest,
doctor

WEEKEND MASSES

(Vigil) Saturday: 6:00 pm (SP)
Sunday: 9:00 am (SJV)
Sunday: 9:30 am (SP) **Ordinariate 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 OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
THIS FRIDAY: BENEDICTION 4:30 (SP)**