

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction & Warburton



The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day

25 December 2022

readings

Next Week

Num 6:22-27

Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

in a nutshell

I bring you news of great Joy. We share the joy of the angels and the shepherds as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. He is one with us, in times of darkness and hardship, in joy and celebration.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

*Merry
Christmas!*

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation
of our God.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday

9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Warburton: Saturday—4:30pm (EST)

7:00pm (EDST)

Yarra Junction: Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am Yarra Junction

First Friday—11:30am Warburton

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:00pm-6:45pm

Thursdays at Yarra Junction

First Thursday at Warburton

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Thursdays at Yarra Junction

First Thursday at Warburton

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Web: <http://pol.org.au/upperyarravalley>

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community. Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Mary Ryan
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Working With Children

There are a number of parishioners whose Working With Children Check has expired. Could you please check your cards and update if necessary.

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday please

moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Parish Meetings: Wednesday, 1 February

Finance Committee	7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding	7:30pm
Parish Council	8:00pm

Parish Notices

Holiday Office Hours

Janine will be away the next two weeks. Back in the office Thursday 12 January.

Fr Michel will be taking holidays weeks beginning Monday 9 & 16 January. No weekday masses or activities but Mass as usual on the weekends.

Save the Date: Sunday February 19 2023

All parishioners are invited to a "Shrove" Sunday Pancake breakfast after the morning Mass at Yarra Junction. More details to come.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration: Always remain close to the Catholic Church because it alone can give you true peace, since it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace. (St. Padre Pio)

Confession: By Christ's will, the Church possesses the power to forgive the sins of the baptised and exercises it through bishops and priests in the sacrament of Penance. (CCC 986)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Friday mornings 8:00am. Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." John 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

New Thanksgiving/stewardship Envelopes

Envelopes for the next 6 months are now available. Please note that you may have a different number. Due to the reduced number of givers we have ordered fewer envelopes and so have had to issue some people with a new number. **It would be best to throw out any old envelopes.**

Consider contributing to assist in the upkeep of the Parish through a stewardship pledge. Contact the office to become part of this either by direct debit or envelopes. Only money in envelopes goes towards the support of the parish, loose cash supports the Parish Priest.

Family Online Resource

CathFamily is an online database of prayers, activities, recipes and articles celebrating Catholic culture. Used extensively by parents, teachers and catechists, it equips them with ideas and resources to assist in passing on the faith to the next generation. www.CathFamily.org See noticeboard for more details

Global Gifts Campaign

If you are looking for ways to support Caritas throughout Advent and the Christmas period, you may be interested in Global Gifts: find more information, here: <https://www.globalgifts.org.au/>

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia

ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas. The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria. It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas! To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022

Something to Make You Smile

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene. Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. Father John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?' Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father John.' 'And why did you take him?' With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'

Readings Reflection

[New Song](#)

The Church's Liturgy rings in Christmas with a joyful noise. We hear today of uplifted voices, trumpets and horns, and melodies of praise.

In the First Reading, Isaiah foretells Israel's liberation from captivity and exile in Babylon. He envisions a triumphant homecoming to Zion marked by joyful singing.

The new song in today's Psalm is a victory hymn to the marvelous deeds done by our God and King.

Both the prophet and psalmist sing of God's power and salvation. God has shown the might of His holy arm, they say. This language recalls the Exodus, where the people first sang of God's powerful arm that shattered Israel's enemy, Egypt (see Exodus 15:1, 6, 16).

The coming of the Christ child into the world fulfills all that the Exodus and the return from exile prefigured.

In Jesus, all nations to the ends of the earth will see the victory of God over the forces of sin and death.

Jesus is the new king. He is the royal firstborn son and Son of God promised to David, as we hear in today's Epistle (see Psalms 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14).

And as our Gospel reveals, He is the Word of God, the one through whom the universe was created, the one through whom the universe is sustained.

In speaking to us through His Son, God has unveiled a new age, the last days.

The new age is a new creation. In the beginning, God spoke His Word and light shone in the darkness. Now, in this new age, He sends us the true light to scatter the darkness of a world that has exiled itself from God.

He is the one Isaiah foretold—who brings good tidings of peace and salvation, who announces to the world that God has come to dwell and to reign (see Revelation 21:3–4).

So we sing a new song on Christmas. It is the song of those who have believed in the Christ child and have been born again—who have by grace been given the power to become children of God.

[Dr. Scott Hahn
stpaulcenter.com](http://Dr.ScottHahn.stpaulcenter.com)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given!

“Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy ...; for to you is born this day ... a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10–11).

Today! This “today” which resounds in the liturgy does not refer only to the event which took place two thousand years ago and which changed the history of the world. It also refers to this Holy Night in which we are gathered here, in Saint Peter’s Basilica, in spiritual communion with all those throughout the world who are celebrating the Solemnity of Christmas. Even in the farthest reaches of the five Continents there resound tonight the angelic words heard by the shepherds of Bethlehem: “Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy ...; for to you is born this day ... a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10–11).

Jesus was born in a stable, as the Gospel of Luke recounts, “because there was no room for them in the inn” (Lk 2:7). Mary, his Mother, and Joseph had not found a welcome in any house in Bethlehem. Mary had to lay the Saviour of the world in a manger, the only cradle available for the Son of God made man. This is the reality of the Lord’s Nativity. Every year we return to it: thus we rediscover it, thus we experience it every time with unchanged wonder.

The birth of the Messiah! It is the central event in the history of humanity. The whole human race was awaiting it with a vague presentiment; the Chosen People awaited with explicit awareness.

A privileged witness of this expectation, throughout the entire liturgical season of Advent and also at this solemn vigil, is the Prophet Isaiah who, from the distant centuries directs his inspired gaze to this single, future night at Bethlehem. Although he lived many centuries earlier, he speaks of this event and its mystery as if he were an eyewitness of it: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given”—*“Puer natus est nobis, Filius datus est nobis”* (Is 9:6).

Such is the historical event imbued with mystery: a tender child is born, fully human but at the same time the only-begotten Son of the Father. He is the Son, not made but eternally begotten, the Son of one being with the Father. “God from God, light from light, true God from true God”. He is the Word, “through whom all things were made”.

We shall soon proclaim these truths in the Creed and add: “For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man”. Professing our faith together with the whole Church, this night too we shall acknowledge the amazing grace which the Lord’s mercy bestows on us.

Israel, the People of God of the Old Covenant, was chosen to bring to the world, as a “shoot from the stump of David”, the Messiah, the Saviour and Redeemer of all humanity. Together with an outstanding representative of that People, the Prophet Isaiah, let us therefore turn to Bethlehem with our eyes lifted in expectation of the Messiah. In the divine light we can glimpse how the Old Covenant is being fulfilled and how, with Christ’s birth, a New and Eternal Covenant is being revealed.

Saint Paul speaks of this New Covenant in the Letter to Titus which we have just heard: “The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men” (Tit 2:11). Precisely this grace enables humanity to live “awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ”, who “gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds” (Tit 2:14).

Dear Brothers and Sisters, this message of grace is today addressed to us! Listen, then! To all “whom God loves”, to all who accept the invitation to pray and keep vigil on this Holy Christmas Night, I repeat with joy: God’s love for us has been revealed! His love is grace and faithfulness, mercy and truth! By setting us free from the darkness of sin and death, he has become the firm and unshakeable foundation of the hope of every human being.

In God is the fullness of glory. On this night the glory of God becomes the inheritance of all creation and, in particular, of mankind. Yes, the Eternal Son, the eternal object of the Father’s pleasure, became man, and his earthly birth on Christmas night testifies once and for all that in him every man is included in the mystery of God’s love, which is the source of definitive peace.

“Peace among men with whom he is pleased”. Yes, peace to humanity! This is my Christmas wish. Dear Brothers and Sisters, during this night and throughout the Christmas Octave, let us implore from the Lord this much needed grace. Let us pray that all humanity will come to know in the Son of Mary, born in Bethlehem, the Redeemer of the world who brings us the gift of love and peace. Amen!

Pope St John Paul II, Midnight Mass 1997