

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 79)

ANTIPHON: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

RESPONSE: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

LECTOR: O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

LECTOR: God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

LECTOR: May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

NEXT WEEK (2nd Sunday Advent, Year B) Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 84; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

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Are we prepared?



December 3 2023 First Sunday Advent Year B

When travelling, especially overseas, many people spend a good amount of time in preparation. There may be a trip to the doctor, dentist, pharmacy, the supermarket and even the hairdresser. Calls to insurance companies regarding travel and medical cover, requests to neighbours and family members to keep an eye on the house, the dog, the cat ... the list goes on.

Much of the preparation goes into ensuring that when we do leave, there is peace of mind knowing that everything possible has been done. There could also be a last-minute momentary panic. Just as the plane is about to take off, or when the ship is about to leave port, a thought may cross your mind; has the kitchen light been left on?

We hear this in today's gospel. Mark is encouraging his faith community to continue living their lives as best they can in preparation for the second coming of Christ. When Jesus ascended into heaven after Good Friday and Easter Sunday, a lot of the early disciples and followers were left with the impression that Jesus would come back sooner rather than later to usher in a new era of God's Kingdom.

Hence, there was a lot of urgency in the early writings of the early faith communities to encourage one another not to lose faith, not to fall by the wayside and to continue to live their lives in accordance with the teachings of Christ. In other words, to maintain their faith and peace of mind.

For us in the 21st century and reading the words of the gospel, the circumstances of our faith and our journey maybe somewhat different from those early communities in Mark's time. However, the overarching message of being ready and prepared remains the same.

Advent is a 'reminder' time to do our best each day to follow in the footsteps of Christ and loving God and loving our neighbour. To take the journey of the path less travelled. To go against the grain of a world that promotes greed, power, and a focus on the self over others. To have hearts that are open to the mystery of God in our lives, in the lives of others and in the wider world, despite all the uncertainties, doubts, anxieties and even fears around us.

Advent is when we begin to prepare for what is to come: When we plant our faith firmly in God's truth so we can better face up to the delays, the unexpected side trips and dark pathways that our lives can unexpectedly take.

And that truth is that God so loved the world that God gave his only Son to be born as one of us.

So let us stay awake and be witnesses to the wonder of God's love that is continuously at work around us as it was then, as it is now, and as it will be for all time.

Mark Chia CSSR
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Memorare of St Joseph for protection from COVID Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MORE RAIN *Heavenly Father, maker of all things and protector of your people, look upon us in your love and give us your help. Open the heavens for us and give us the rain we need. Teach us to live for you and to share your gifts with others. Father hear us in our need, for we come to you through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

Special Collections 2023 November 1 – December 10 – St Vincent de Paul Christmas Giving Tree, December 10 – Melbourne Overseas Mission.

Saints and Masses this Week Tuesday 5 December – Advent wk1, Wednesday 6 December – Advent wk1, Thursday 7 December – St Ambrose, Friday 8 December – Immaculate Conception BVM, Saturday 9 December – Votive BVM, Sunday 10 December – Advent wk2

Pious Goods Stall Lots of pious goods, Christmas cards, and instruments of devotion to help you or someone you love to grow in holiness.

St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree Take a card or two from the Giving Tree, buy the item listed and bring it back to the tree. The focus is on Christmas fare, treats and small tins of ham, chocolates, mince pies, puddings, shortbreads, Christmas cakes and lollies. Here for one more week in the church until the end of Mass, Sunday December 10.

Christmas and New Year Mass times In the foyer where you collect your bulletins are copies of this year's Christmas and New Year for Tallarook and Seymour timetable.

Advent And Christmas Meditation Booklet Advent has now begun and there are only a few copies left. Ask father if he still has one for you.

First Thursday Anointing Mass 9:30am Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
Baptism Preparation 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month at the presbytery. No bookings required; one session that lasts about an hour; attendance is essential for documentation and before tentative or actual booking.

School Masses Wednesday 6 December entire primary will attend 9am mass. Whole school mass 10:30am Friday 8 December in school hall.

CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR

ST JOSEPH'S, TALLAROOK

PO BOX 100, VIC 3661

PHONE: 9412 8406 MOBILE: 0455 123 509

EMAIL: seymour@cam.org.au

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT	9am at St Mary's	EXTRAORDINAR MINISTERS	
SAT VIGIL	6pm at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUNDAY	8:30am Tallarook 10am at St Mary's	M. Winnell	J Devanny
		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
MASS PREPARATION		SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	C Spykers	A Allison H Basco
J Quinlan	S Anderson	COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
COUNTERS		SATURDAY	SUNDAY
C Smith	S Doyle	C. Spykers W. Spykers	J. McMahan C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$541

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 03/12 – 9/12: Margaret Roberts, John Sullivan, Fr John Williams, Rene Rourke, Ellen Rourke

ILLNESSES we pray for: Cath Evans, Lorna Slavin, Marcy Ah-Wang, Lesley Tebble, Wally Bohlmann, Tom DeSousa, Souraya Bacash, Pat Coffey, and all who are suffering from the Corona Virus and all those unwell at the present time, who receive support from our prayers.

9/10 December 2023

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS Sat: M. Winnell Sun: M Flynn

LECTORS SAT: D Mercovich SUN: E Cramer L Cramer

MASS PREPARATION SAT: M Jennings SUN: J McMahan

COUNTERS: W & T Bohlmann J Bacash