

Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South



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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2019

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW 5:7 – REACH OUT IN LOVE AND MERCY

This week's readings: Is 2:1 – 5; Rom 13:11 – 14; Gospel Matthew 24:37 – 44

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER: When John the Baptist performed baptism it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action. It was not a baptism of initiation into community that is the case today. John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: repent and prepare. His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. His call for preparation is in the long line of prophets that includes the great prophet Isaiah from whom we take today's first reading. All of the prophets urged the people towards hope in the future. Isaiah and others spoke specifically of a person – a Messiah – who would bring that hope to reality. But the tradition demanded a readiness for the Messiah and that was the call to preparation that John the Baptist echoed at the beginning of the public life of Jesus.

John's taunting of the Pharisees and Sadducees is an indication of this need for preparation and readiness. He accuses them of being too confident of their own rightness. He demands proof from them of their honest repentance: 'but if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit'. Rather, he suspects that they think that salvation is assured for them by virtue of being a Jew; a son of Abraham. He warns them that an axe hangs poised to cut down any part of the Jewish tradition that is failing to produce good fruit. This is a theme that is picked up later by Jesus himself; you can't be complacent about your own position, you have to welcome the new truth revealed by Jesus and give yourself wholeheartedly to God.

Living the Gospel – Prepare Ye! John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

Gospel Focus – Out of the wilderness: The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.

Scriptural context – Brood of Vipers! The gospel of Matthew in particular casts the Pharisees in a very dim light. John's insult to them, calling them a brood of vipers, is indeed echoed by Jesus later in this gospel. In this gospel, Jesus describes the Pharisees as hypocrites and blind guides. The community for whom this gospel was written were predominantly Jewish Christians. However, at the time of writing serious cracks were appearing in the relationship between the Jewish community and the Christian sect. This gospel aligns closely with the Jewish tradition but is very critical of the inflexibility of the Pharisees.

Raise your voices ... Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Response to the Psalm: 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!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

Reach out in ...
www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth

Whitehorse Deanery
Eastern Region
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Rev Father Gerard
Parish Priest

Sonya O'Farrell
Part-time Parish Secretary
Wednesdays, Thursdays &
Fridays
10.00am - 2.00pm

Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au

Website:
www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am & 10:30am

WEEKDAY MASS & ROSARY:

Tues @ 11.00am
Weds. - Sat. @ 9:00am

Rosary prayed after Weekday Mass
times as listed above. All welcome.

RECONCILIATION
Saturday 9.30am & 5.30pm

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

In recess this week *due to a meeting
with our local State Legislative
Assembly Member, Mr Neil Angus.*

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

By appointment and
six months (6) notice, please.
*(This helps with the planning of both
celebrations and Parents usually know
nine months in advance when their
baby is to be born).*

St Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Parish Primary School
46 Orchard Grove,
Blackburn South Vic 3130
Tel: (03) 9877 4023

Mrs. Liz Sullivan: Principal

Email:
principal@slblackburnstth.catholic.edu.au

Website:
stlukes@slblackburnstth.catholic.edu.au

Prayer to Saint Luke the Evangelist

Lord God, who chose Saint Luke to
reveal by his preaching and writings the
mystery of your love for the poor, grant
that those who already glory in your
name may persevere as one heart and
one soul and that all nations may merit
to see your salvation. Through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and
reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen!

Patron Saint of artists, physicians,
surgeons, students and butchers.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this weekend all who are sick, especially Gerald Chia, Bernardine O'Meara, Keith Yelland, Peter Murphy, Kathryn Holmes, Jim Maguire, Nadia Tarquino, Elaine Chapman, Therese O'Donoghue, Nadina and all those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For all who died recently, especially Chris Richardson, Bill Grant and Tony Grieve, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, may they rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Advent. **Monday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; **Wednesday:** St Damasus I, pope; **Thursday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe; **Friday:** St Lucy, virgin, martyr; **Saturday:** St John of the Cross, priest, doctor. **Sunday Masses:** Preface of Advent I. Eucharistic Prayer III. Eucharistic Acclamation No. I.

TEN WAYS TO CELEBRATE ADVENT AT HOME is one half of our supplement this weekend. Please take it with you as you go.

ST V. DE P LOCAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL was held last weekend. "Mum didn't eat last night so I could. You can help a family put food on the table this Christmas". It's not too late to add your support to what was raised last weekend. Parishioners will be pleased to know that at the time of printing, the Christmas Appeal tally is \$1298.25. From the Conference to the Parishioners, **many thanks!**

A VOCATION VIEW: A vocation grows in silence, as a shoot sprouts from the ground. Make sure to keep the seed of faith alive in your heart and soul. (Is. 11:1)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10) Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent, and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter, and junk. Our time, our talent, and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

THE 6PM SATURDAY VIGIL CHOIR is now in recess till early next year. Our genuine thanks to Maria, Lena and their team for their faithful commitment during the year to complement our Parish Mass Saturday evenings and usually twice a month.

LITURGICAL ROSTERS THROUGHOUT THIS CHRISTMAS AND FOR JANUARY 2020: Your able witness and assistance is requested please for the Minister of the Word and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Rosters. Clipboards are available in our Church Foyer on the trestle for you to sign up please. Doing this sooner rather than later will help with the planning and execution for all of us.

OUR NEXT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE PARISH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE) WILL BE 12 PARISHIONERS IN TOTAL: The Steering Committee has been Darren McLean, Margaret Gearon, Fr Gerard and Mike Yore. The Steering Committee has finalised the arrangements for membership of the next Parish Pastoral Council. We hope to present the New Members to the Parish next weekend. Refreshments will be served next Sunday morning after the 10.30am Mass to celebrate the occasion. May I take this opportunity to express my genuine thanks to each member of the Steering Committee for their commitment to this stage of our journey, the gifts they brought to the table each time we met this year, their time and most importantly for me, their company along the way. Fr Gerard P.P.

2019 CHRISTMAS CARE GROUP RAFFLE: A **HAMPER** is in our Church entry/foyer with a sign on it for donations for the raffle this year. **Please note** that suitable and appropriate items wanted this year have a 'use by date' no earlier than mid to late January 2020, PLEASE?

OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, THE NUTCRACKER AND FATHER CHRISTMAS this year have all recently been donated to the Parish by a generous Parish Family. A special thankyou to Paul, Belinda and Linkon Rose, one of our Parish School Families, for making the time this past week to 'roll' out the lights, set in place the various Christmas lit images, the Nutcracker and Father Christmas all in time for our Year 6 Graduation this coming week and for Christmas, just around the corner for all of us.

STANDING INVITATION TO ATTEND TRAINING - EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEES: The (Archdiocesan) Professional Standards Unit is pleased to announce upcoming Effective Safeguarding Committees training. **Why is this training necessary?** The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's new Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework requires parishes, agencies and entities to utilise Safeguarding Committees to implement and strengthen child safety efforts. Whether your parish has a Safeguarding Committee already in place, or is just starting to think about setting one up, this training is essential. Darren McLean, our Parish Child Safety Officer will attend a February 2020 workshop in Ringwood. Other interested Parishioners are encouraged to discuss with Darren their interest and their availability to attend with him please.

OUR PARISH 'TAP N' GO': For Parish Supporters who would like to continue to do so according to the 21st Century our Parish has installed this new way of inviting your financial support in our Church foyer. It is set for **\$5 a tap** and is quite simple to use. Like the ones we use when we go shopping, just wave your Visa, Mastercard, Debit card (no Amex or American Express) across the screen and wait for the beep - all done. If you would like a receipt please let Sonya know in our Parish Office at your convenience. We hope this will be another way for supportive Parishioners and particularly Guests, can enable our Parish to continue to be financially secure for years to come.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

		7 AND 8 DEC 2019	14 AND 15 DEC 2019
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Monica Hodder	Ian Holmes
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Melina Barcellona	Beryl Chelliah
	10:30 AM	Jenny Dixon	Lizzie Dixon

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

		7 AND 8 DEC 2019	14 AND 15 DEC 2019
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Terry Wells	Melina Barcellona
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Rosemary Donaldson	Kana Chelliah
	10:30 AM	Dale Dixon	Dale Dixon

WELCOMER'S ROSTER

		7 AND 8 DEC 2019	14 AND 15 DEC 2019
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Lorraine Kermond	Terry Wells
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Marie Pekish	Don McKenzie
	10:30 AM	John LoGiusto	Pamela & Michael

SLIDE OPERATORS

		7 AND 8 DEC 2019	14 AND 15 DEC 2019
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Terry Wells	Tony Lobo
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Anthony Fernandez	Rosemary Donaldson
	10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Advent

CHURCH CLEANING

14 DECEMBER 2019
Team 1 (Val's Team)
Val Fogarty, Jim Fogarty,
Megan McLean & Anthony Fernandez

MAINTENANCE

7 DECEMBER 2019
Team 9
John Ryan, Darren Foster &
Anthony Fernandez

Parish Groups & Contacts

... love and mercy. (Matthew 5:7)

Lectors, Welcomers, Collectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, & Rosters

Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

Children's Liturgy Group

Nina Grieve - 9877 4023

Jess Kilroe-Smith - 0452 613 863

Stewardship Counters

Dale Dixon - 0433 885 087

Steve Kilroe-Smith - 0404 864 232

Pastoral Council & Child Safety Officer

Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

Parish History

Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

Whitehorse Deanery

Finance Committee

Bernard Negline

Parish Accountant

Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the Parish Office - 9877 2292

Care Group & Gardens

Judy Noy - 9894 1506

Church Sacristan

Greg Grant - 0401 644 474

Church Linen

Toni Plevier

Church Cleaning & Flowers

Megan McLean - 0419 347 693

Parish Garden Maintenance

Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

Holy Communion

to the housebound

Emmaus College

Education Board Parish Reps

Maureen Mac Mahon & Bernard O'Malley

Parish & School Choirs

Maria Pinto, Lina Mafi
0411 136 043

Marg Yore & Kat Bergin

9877 4023

Parish and School

Fete Committee

Liz Sullivan - 9877 4023

Parish School

Education Advisory Board

Liz Sullivan - 9877 4023

Parish School

Parents' Association

Liz Sullivan - 9877 4023

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contact: Margaret Gearon

RECRUITMENT NOTICE:

These Parish Groups welcome new members who choose to participate in the life of the Parish in these ways - would you like to make contact with one or more of them?

THE MELBOURNE OVERSEAS ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL 2019 is this weekend throughout the Archdiocese. To better understand what your support does and where it goes please see information on our Parish noticeboard in our Church foyer.

AUSTRALIA MOVES INTO SECOND PHASE OF 2020 PLENARY COUNCIL PREPARATION - HERE'S A PRECIS OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL REPORT: THE JOURNEY SO FAR ...

More than 222,000 people participated in listening and dialogue encounters and contributed 17,457 submissions during the first stage of preparation for the Australian Plenary Council. The voices of the faithful help all of us to understand something of the historical experience and the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. This gathered data also reveals some deeper hopes and questions, and the diverse yearnings, that we are now challenged to consider together. **What happens next?** The six National Themes for Discernment are inspired by the data and call us toward the future. The newly updated [Plenary Council website](#) provides more information on each theme. In coming months, the Church of Australia will move through a listening and discernment process that will draw on the six National Themes for Discernment as determined by what has been said around the country. How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is: **WITH SIX NATIONALLY IDENTIFIED WAYS** - Missionary and evangelising. Inclusive, participatory and synodal. Prayerful and Eucharistic. Humble, healing and merciful. A joyful, hope-filled and servant community. Open to conversion and renewal.

ENTERING PHASE TWO - LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT: 'To discern means first of all to listen to God, to pay attention to God's active presence, and to obey God's prompting, direction, leadings, and guidance.' — Henri J. Nouwen, *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*, p. 5 **Listening and Discernment:** The next step towards the Plenary Council is the listening and discernment phase, where the country is asked to delve deeper into what has been said during the earlier listening and dialogue phase. In this short video, <http://www.cam.org.au/plenary/News/Article/22976/Entering-Phase-Two-Listening-and-Discernment> Br Ian Cribb SJ, Sr Grace Roclawska CSFN and Fr Ormond Rush offer some general principles around the idea of Christian discernment: What is it? What are its origins? And how does discernment differ from decision-making? The other half of our supplement this weekend identifies "**What People talked about around the country**" or see the poster on our Church noticeboard. **THIS DISCERNMENT PROCESS** will involve establishing Working Groups for each National Theme for Discernment. Also, people in faith communities across Australia will be called to participate locally in their own communal listening and discernment encounters. The fruits of what is discerned during this time will shape the agenda of the first session of Plenary Council in October 2020. As we move into this second stage of preparation for the Plenary Council, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Please see <http://www.cam.org.au/plenary/> for further details.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM: Here on the Journey this week, we have nothing but the best to continue the Advent Season. You'll hear from Fr Antony Jukes, straight from the Advent program as well as the wonderful Mother Hilda Scott, Bruce Downes and Sam Clear, just to name a few. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email.

CAMPION CENTRE OF IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: Six day silent retreat, just before the busyness of the year begins. It is from January 17th until January 25th, at Campion in Kew. Please check poster on Church noticeboard for more details.

SAFETY STATEMENT: We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and vulnerable adults in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds the care, safety, wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. <http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Policies.aspx>

Make a straight path for the Lord



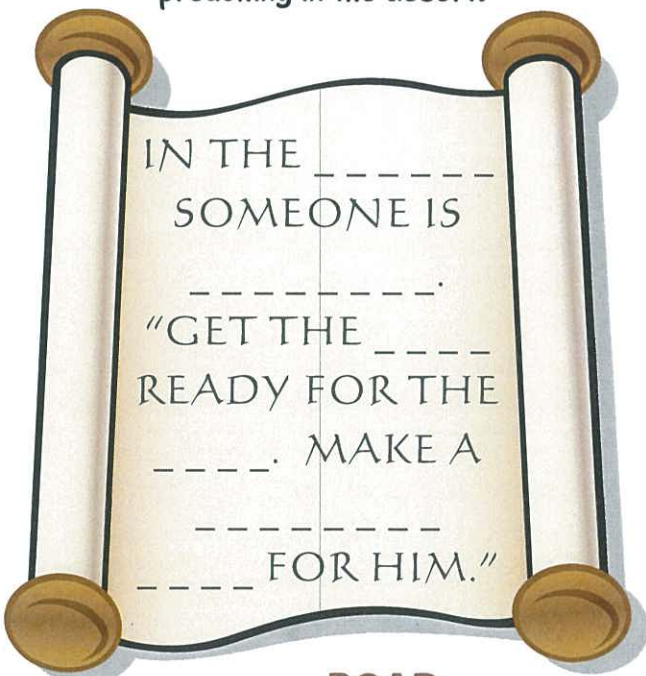
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A



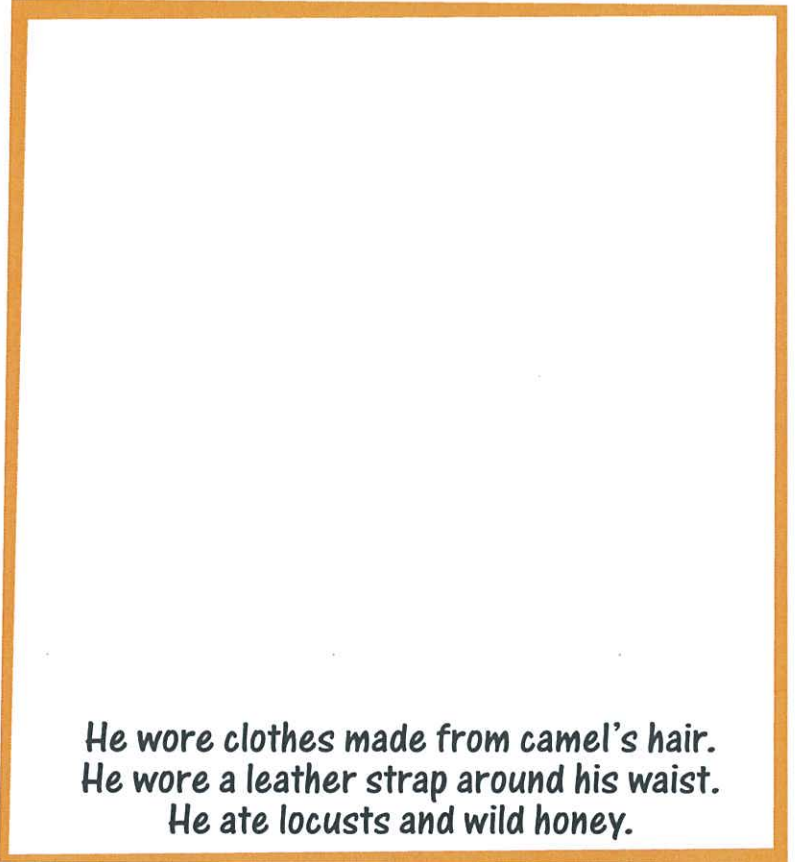
At each bend in the road write down something that you are sorry for doing.

Use the words below to complete Isaiah's prophecy which tells of John the Baptist preaching in the desert.

Draw a picture of John the Baptist from his description in the bible.



ROAD
STRAIGHT LORD PATH
SHOUTING DESERT



He wore clothes made from camel's hair.
He wore a leather strap around his waist.
He ate locusts and wild honey.

Ten ways to Celebrate Advent at Home

Advent is a time of spiritual renewal as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. In what way will your home be 'different' because it's Advent? Try some of these practical ideas...

1. Light the Advent wreath

It's a very clear symbol that Advent is here! Unpack that Advent wreath, dust it off, or make a new one out of craft or natural materials. Use the wreath as a family gathering point and a call to prayer. Be faithful to lighting that new candle each week.

2. Use Advent symbols

Decorate your home in the spirit of Advent. A mauve table cloth, a banner, a child's artwork, a table centrepiece such as the Advent wreath. Refresh your home's 'sacred spaces' with some Advent imagination.

3. Show hospitality

Now that your home is decked out in sacred symbolism, fill it with warmth, prayer, laughter. Invite some parishioners over for an Advent meal or perhaps a night of faith sharing. Bask in the goodness of the body of Christ.

4. Family meals

Put extra effort into your family meals. For a start, be there! Pray grace together. Prepare a table topic: "If I could have three wishes this Christmas..."

5. Organize a family outreach

Is there a neighbour who could use some assistance? Is there a parish Christmas hamper to which we could contribute? A local nursing home we could visit? Find a way to share your family's wealth and talents so as to bring life to others in your local community.

6. Take time

Take time to nurture your key relationships. Cancel a work date to 'hang out' with your kids. Leave the shopping and write to a dear friend. Spend some precious, intimate time with your spouse. Or just sit in prayer and 'waste time' with God.

7. Feed your brain

Feeling a bit sluggish? Use Advent as a time to limber up, strength your faith, update your knowledge as a Catholic. Enril in a short course. Do some spiritual exercises (do some physical exercises too!). Play an educative or prayerful CD in the car. Feed your brain. Nourish your soul.

8. Share your Advent activity

Involve your children or the whole family in making or doing something special during Advent. E.g., Make a nativity crib in the garden. Or share a simple treat on Sundays: ice cream cones after Mass, a family cricket match in the park, a walk in the sunshine.

9. Be reconciled

Prepare to receive the sacrament of reconciliation this Advent. Come before God with an honest and open heart, conscious of your brokenness and failures, yet confident in God's unconditional love and mercy. Is there someone to whom you need to say sorry?

10. Shop simply

Plan a strategy for your Christmas shopping this year. Rather than being swept along with the consumer tidal wave, make choices to simplify your lifestyle. Keep presents simple and shopping to a minimum. Give gifts of self (e.g., a gift of your time, affection, presence, prayer.)

Helpful Hint

To make Advent a priority in your busy life:

- Put it in the diary!
- Let go of a less important activity.
- Pray for the capacity to enter into the spirit of Advent. Or pray for the *desire* to celebrate Advent well.
- Team up with a friend or family member and support each other in your Advent goals.

TeresaPirola.net

Text: Teresa Pirola

Design: Sarann Ryan

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faith education tools

Support same sex marriage
Outreach to the wider community
Allow contraception
Serbian Leadership

Pietersean Pastoral Control
Call to repentance for clergy sexual abuse

Renewed call to holiness
Lay led parishes
Radical change in governance and decision making
Transparency in youth ministers in Catholic Schools
More chaplains and youth ministers and sacramental programs

Better use of finances
Lay led liturgies and masses
Better formation of women
Ordination of women
Fight for human rights
Christ of the laity
Better selection and formation of candidates to priesthood

Latvian supporting priests
Become Vatican II spirit
Listen to the Holy Spirit
Better formation of priests
Greater focus on Jesus
Greater involvement
Love God, Love Neighbour
Care for the family
Greater attention to music in the liturgy
Church to act as guide for Australian society

End celibacy
Allow priests to be married
Greater access to Mass and Reconciliation
Importance of Communion services in rural parishes
Concerns regarding overseas priests
Better homilies
Better communication of what the Church does
Outreach to youth
Greater recognition of Eastern Catholic Churches
Church should adapt to multicultural reality

Establish more youth programs
Focus on the new evangelisation
Affordable adult faith formation courses
Greater attention to the elderly
New model of Church Diocese Parish
Bring the Church into the 21st century
Catholic schools
Inclusion of indigenous clergy sexual abuse
Australians
Sexual abuse
Evangelisation in and of the family
Greater focus on permanent deacons
Keep the Commandments
for all

Defend right-to-life issues
New translation of the mass (inclusive language)
Bring the Church into the 21st century
Catholic schools
Inclusion of indigenous clergy sexual abuse
Australians
Sexual abuse
Evangelisation in and of the family
Greater focus on permanent deacons
Keep the Commandments
for all

Return to Traditional pre Vatican II ways
Be a witness in society
Greater connection and accountability
Royal Commission for married couples
Pray for neighbourhood
Care for ecumenism
Greater focus on permanent deacons
Keep the Commandments
for all

Remain Authentic
Greater transparency
More implementation and support for married couples
Focus on ecumenism
Greater focus on permanent deacons
Keep the Commandments
for all

Creation of small groups within parishes
Greater support for RCIA
Better training and support for youth leaders
Remain faithful to Church teaching
Youth to be involved
Greater attention to music in the liturgy
Church to act as guide for Australian society

Greater role for women
Remain faithful to Church teaching
Youth to be involved
Greater attention to music in the liturgy
Church to act as guide for Australian society

More welcoming parishes
Better faith formation
Share the faith with others
Care for the environment
End Clericalism
Focus on being missionary disciples
Acknowledge Christ's sexual abuse scandal
Better interlace between parish and school
Greater focus on the Word of God

Work together in unity
More youth facilities in parishes who have left to marry
Welcome back priests
Encourage vocations
Share the faith with others
Care for the environment
End Clericalism
Focus on being missionary disciples
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