

Issue 107 / Year B - First Sunday of ADVENT

Mass for SUNDAY 30th November 2014 Parish Priest : Fr Victor Farrugia

Responsorial Psalm - Response : Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved

- 1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might , O Lord come to our help.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 84:8 Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia !

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

2nd Reading: Corinthians 1:3-9 The revelation we looked for , Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37 Stay awake ! You never know when the Lord will come

NEXT WEEK'S GOSPEL : Second Sunday of Advent Year B : Mark 1:1-8 make straight the paths of the Lord.

IMPORTANT : Friends Of Refugees Melbourne

Donations needed again please

Our Refugee families really need the following items , especially leading up to Christmas.

- White goods** - Fridges and Washing Machines
Bedding - Mattresses, Bed frames, Linen, Blankets
Furniture - Sofas, Dining Table sets, Clothes Storage like bedsides and tallboys, bedside tables.
Small Appliances - Microwaves, Vacuum cleaners, Digital TV, portable fans/Air conditioning (summer is approaching)
Kitchen and Dining ware - pots/pans, cutlery, plates/cups

Please let us know if you or your friends have anything to donate to help the Refugees - by replying or emailing us FORM.Melb@gmail.com

Special Note : Please donate any clothing DIRECT to Vinnies , as we do not have the facilities to handle clothing at St Augustine's church. So please do NOT drop off clothing here at the church.

--- Our Ministries ---

FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact our Parish Office (see bottom of page)

St Augustine's YOUNG ADULTS
Tues at 6.30pm in St.Josephs's Hall

St Augustine's ADULT Discussion Groups
Tues at 7.00pm in Bethany

St Augustine's RCIA
Thinking about joining the Catholic faith ?
Wed at 7pm in Bethany

Legion of Mary
Sundays 12 noon after Mass in Bethany

Sacred Heart Devotion to Jesus & Rosary
1st Friday of month after 1.05pm mass

Divine Mercy Devotions
First Sunday of the month from 2.30pm in the church

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
2nd , 3rd & 4th Friday's at 12.20pm

S.P.A.R.C
Song Prayer Adoration Reconciliation & Celebration - Fri Dec 19th 7.30pm

Friends Of Refugees Melbourne
Home visits- Sun 30th Nov
Moving Day : Sun Dec 7th

NORMAL MASS TIMES
Mon to Friday - 1.05 PM
(Reconciliation - 12.45)
Sunday Morning
9.45am – Prayers & Worship
10.30am - MASS
Sunday Evening
7 pm -- Adoration
8 pm – MASS

ALL ENQUIRIES TO

St Augustine's Parish

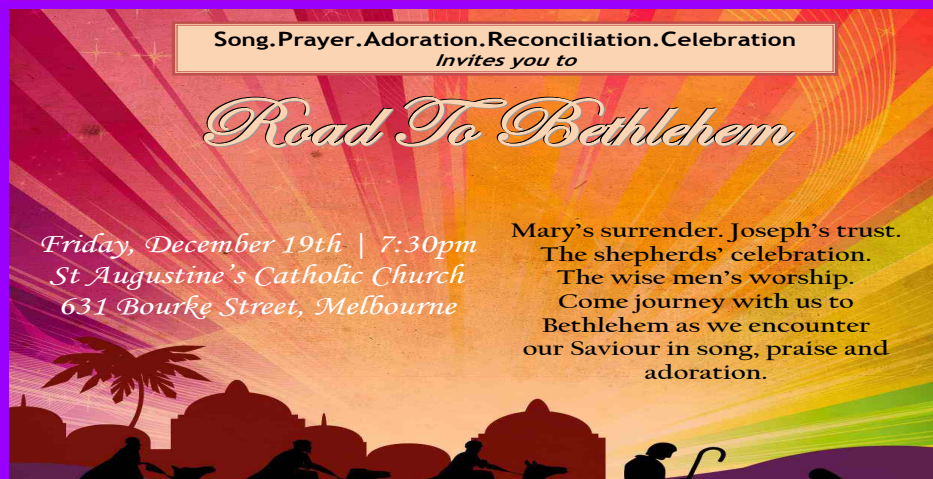
631 Bourke St ,Melbourne 3000
Phone 03-9614 1722 or Email : melbournebourkest@cam.org.au

Song.Prayer.Adoration.Reconciliation.Celebration
Invites you to

Road To Bethlehem

Friday, December 19th | 7:30pm
St Augustine's Catholic Church
631 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Mary's surrender. Joseph's trust.
The shepherds' celebration.
The wise men's worship.
Come journey with us to Bethlehem as we encounter our Saviour in song, praise and adoration.





Stay Awake - He's
Coming

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Tale Of Two Pebbles in AWAKENING, EDUCATION

Many years ago in a small Indian village, a farmer had the misfortune of owing a large sum of money to a village moneylender. The moneylender, who was old and ugly, fancied the farmer's beautiful daughter. So he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgo the farmer's debt if he could marry his daughter. Both the farmer and his daughter were horrified by the proposal. So the cunning money-lender suggested that they let providence decide the matter. He told them that he would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty money bag. Then the girl would have to pick one pebble from the bag. If she picked the black pebble, she would become his wife and her father's debt would be forgiven. If she picked the white pebble she need not marry him and her father's debt would still be forgiven. If she refused to pick a pebble, her father would be thrown into jail.



They were standing on a pebble strewn path in the farmer's field. As they talked, the moneylender bent over to pick up two pebbles. As he picked them up, the sharp-eyed girl noticed that he had picked up two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked the girl to pick a pebble from the bag.

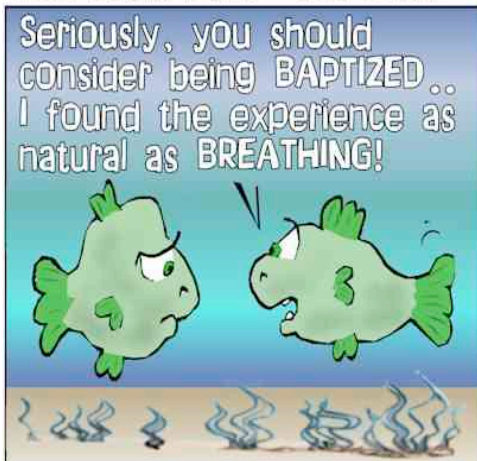
Now, imagine that you were standing in the field. What would you have done if you were the girl? If you had to advise her, what would you have told her? Take a moment to ponder this. What would you recommend that the girl do?

The girl put her hand into the moneybag and drew out a pebble. Without looking at it, she fumbled and let it fall onto the pebble-strewn path where it immediately became lost among all the other pebbles. "Oh, how clumsy of me!" she said. "But never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked." The moneylender dared not admit his dishonesty. The girl changed what seemed an impossible situation into an extremely advantageous one. *By Edward de Bono*

Today's Gospel comment --ONCE MORE we come to the beginning of another liturgical year. Today we begin Cycle B in the three-year cycle of Sunday Scripture readings. The gospel passages during the 'ordinary' Sundays of this year will follow the Gospel according to Mark. Clearly the theme of today's Mass is that of 'coming'.



but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. **Mt. 6:19-20**



FISH BAPTISMS?

Advent primarily is a period of four weeks in preparation for the celebration of Christmas, when we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. However, there is no explicit mention whatever in today's readings of anything that seems to do with Christmas or getting ready for its celebration. Today's readings are more concerned with the ultimate purpose why Jesus, the Son of God, "became a human being and lived among us" (John 1:14).

Each year, the First Sunday of Advent makes a clear link in continuity with the final Sundays of the previous liturgical year. We saw at the end of Cycle A that there were many readings about the final coming of Jesus at the end of time and of the need of each one of us to prepare to come face to face with Jesus our Lord and King and "give an account of our stewardship".

More than one 'coming' - That theme, in the context of Advent, is continued today. It is clear that at this time the word



'Advent/Coming' is being understood on more than one level.

First of all, of course, we are preparing ourselves during what is basically a penitential period (the vestment colours are violet, as in Lent) to celebrate in a fitting manner the coming of Jesus and the manifestation of God among us as a human being.

Secondly, we are also being reminded of the reason why Jesus was born among us in the first place, namely, to be our salvation, our wholeness. He comes now so that we may be equipped and ready to meet him when he comes again at the end of time "to judge the living and the dead". Then we hope to hear his words of welcome, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). It is this coming which features in today's Gospel passage.

There is, however, we may say, a **third coming** which is also of crucial importance. This is when God enters into our daily life and calls us to follow him and be with him. God not only came in Jesus at Bethlehem; he not only will come at the end of time to gather us all to himself; he comes into our lives at every moment, through every person and every experience. For God in Jesus is our Emmanuel, God-with-us. **"I am with you always"** (Matthew 28:20).

CONTEMPLATING OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONBESYE LIVING FR VIC

As the month of November comes to a close , Fr Vic will offer all of your special prayers up at the Lord at the 10.30am & 8pm Masses today.

Lord God you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.
Let us find in your Son comfort in our sadness, certainty in our doubt,
And courage to live through this hour.

Make our faith strong through Christ our LordAmen.....399 / 5

O God , to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of our brothers and sisters,

Whom you have called out of this world; and because they put their trust in you, command that they be carried safely home to heaven and come to enjoy your eternal reward.

We ask this through Christ our LordAmen385/12

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail , our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, the children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs , mourning and weeping in this land of exile.

Turn , then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; lead us home at last and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus: O clement , O loving , O sweet Virgin Mary.
.....424/E

Eternal Rest grant unto our brothers and sisters, O Lord, May they rest in peaceAmen424/D



As we started to drive over Westgate Bridge last week , the silhouette of the safety rails against the sunset was quite stunning , so my photographic assistant (M) was harassed into trying her photographic skills out ..and in a hurry ☺ . The actual photo taken is on the right , but when rotated 90 Degrees it appeared to create an infinite ladder into the heavens, or maybe it is meant for someone who is coming the other way ? .



WEDDINGS at St Augustine's Church

- Great City location close to all major International Hotels and Reception Centres
- Beautiful Historic Bluestone Building has a romantic old world charm
- Church has its own superb leafy garden, perfect for your wedding photos
- On site parking combined with further car spaces available within one block takes care of your visitors cars. Or why not train it to Southern Cross Station which is just 100 metres walk away.
- Church is Fully Air conditioned for the comfort of you and your guests
- Whether you have 30 guests, or 220 guests, your wedding will feel right at home in St Augustine's beautiful church



Don't Miss a week of our newsletter ... JUMP ON TO our email list TODAYjust email us at august28news@gmail.com

St Augustine's Parish Church

For Baptism & Wedding Bookings

631 Bourke Street , Melbourne Phone 9614 1722

E: melbournebourkest@cam.org.au