



- ⇒ Read the book.
- ⇒ Make a 33 day consecration.
- ⇒ Entrust your life to St Joseph.

THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Throughout this year of St Joseph, the weekly bulletin will carry a permanent short column on ways we can deepen devotion to our Universal Patron Saint.

Some ideas have already been suggested:

- A parish pilgrimage to St Joseph's in Penola, which can also honour St Mary MacKillop, who had a great devotion to St Joseph.
- A monthly day of recollection focused on St Joseph and the sanctification of family life.
- Consecration of our homes and families to St Joseph. Fr Donald Calloway's 2019 book, *Consecration to St Joseph* will make ideal spiritual reading in 2021. It is momentarily out of print, but the parish has obtained copies of an Australian print run which will be available for sale in the new year.
- If you have any more ideas on how we might celebrate the Year of St Joseph, individually or communally, please let Fr John know!

Pope Francis' Prayer to St Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

FAREWELL TO FR MICHAEL LINEHAN

Bishop Paul Bird is joining an official farewell for Fr Michael next Sunday 27th December. Refreshments will be served after 10am Mass at St Pius' in West Warrnambool. If you would like to share in the occasion, please call or text Karen Johnson on 0447 838 747.

MASSES IN JANUARY 2021

Fr Michael's retirement takes effect on New Year's Day, and we will need a few weeks to determine how the Warrnambool Masses are reduced. So in January, local Mass times are:

Saturday Vigil: 6:30pm, Koroit
Sunday morning: 9:00am, Port Fairy

"OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS"

Sharon Easley, staff member, Dennington local and history enthusiast, has written *Our First 100 Years*, documenting St John's Primary School, Dennington. It is not a heavy history text, but a coffee table book with a lot of images to illustrate the school's history. It might make the perfect Christmas present! It is now available to buy at Collins Booksellers.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year. To donate please collect an envelope from the Christmas tree at the church entrance, and place your donation in the basket underneath.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS Feast of the Holy Family

First Reading. *Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14.*
He who fears the Lord honours his parents.
Second Reading. *Colossians 3:12-21.*
Family life in the Lord.
Gospel. *Luke 2:22-40.*
'My eyes have seen your salvation.'



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy
Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit
www.moyneatholic.org.au



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th December, 2020

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Fr John: As we light the fourth Advent candle, we pray that our hearts burn with the love that filled the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the Annunciation and Incarnation of Christ our Lord.

An appointed person now lights the fourth Advent candle.

All: Loving God, these candles have been lit in the peace that Jesus, our Saviour, gives to the world. We have not seen Jesus, but we believe in him and we love him. Help us prepare the way of the Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

*Your House and your sovereignty
will always stand secure before me*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I

will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

RESPONSORIAL Ps 88(89):2-5,27,29

**R/. For ever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim
your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the
heavens.

**R/. For ever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.

**R/. For ever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord.**

'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."

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I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.’

*R/. For ever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord.*

SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

*The mystery is revealed that
was kept secret for endless ages*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

V/. Alleluia! R/. Alleluia!

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to your word.

R/. Alleluia

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

I am the handmaid of the Lord’

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and

the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We pray for **Brian Downes** who died recently, and **Paul Sharkey** whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve: 5:30pm, Port Fairy

7:30pm, Koroit

Christmas Day: 9:00am, Port Fairy

NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

Christmas Mass will be offered for residents at Moyneyana, but unfortunately non-residents are not yet permitted to enter.

NEW YEAR’S DAY MASSES (Solemnity of Mary, Mother Of God)

New Year’s Eve: 10:00pm, Port Fairy

New Year’s Day: 10:00am, Koroit

COVID-SAFE PROTOCOLS

- Masks are recommended but optional.
- Everyone in attendance is obliged to record their first name and a phone number, to facilitate contact tracing.
- Fonts are empty of holy water.
- We won’t ‘pass the plate,’ so please leave offerings in baskets at the doors.
- No sign of peace.
- No communion from the chalice.
- Singing is still not recommended.
- Every second pew is roped off to maintain the 1.5m social distancing rule.



Reflection on today’s Readings

by Fr Francis Fernandez

JESUS IS NEVER LATE

The spirit of Advent largely consists in living close to Our Lady during this time when she is carrying Jesus in her womb, and seeking a share of her hope. We can think of the whole of our life as a longer advent: a time of waiting for that definitive moment when we will at last find ourselves with God forever.

One day in his public ministry, when Jesus returned to Capernaum, St Luke tells us a large crowd “were all waiting for him.” (Lk 8:40) In the thick of that crowd one person is singled out by the Evangelist, whom he calls “*president of the synagogue.*” This man begs Jesus to cure his daughter: “*He fell at Jesus’ feet.*” Jairus has no hesitation in giving public proof of his humility and of his faith in Jesus.

At Our Lord’s instruction, they all move off in the direction of Jairus’ house. His 12 year old daughter is dying. She must be in her death throes when a woman, inconspicuous in the jostling crowd, approaches Our Lord from behind and touches the edge of his cloak. She too is full of deep humility. She is anxious not to take up any of the Master’s time. She considers herself too unimportant to be noticed by Our Lord. It is enough if she can touch his cloak.

Both miracles are to be fully accomplished. The woman, for whom the skill of so many doctors has been unavailing, will be cured forever. Jairus’ daughter will go on to live a completely healthy life even though when the retinue arrives, after the delay to their journey, she has breathed her last.

Whilst the encounter with the woman with the issue of blood is taking place, what has become of Jairus? It seems he has fallen into the background, probably distraught, because his daughter was already on the point of death when he left her to seek out the Master. Jesus, on the other hand, does not appear to

be in much of a hurry. He seems to attach little importance to Jairus’ concerns.

When Jesus finally arrives the girl is dead. There is no longer any possibility of preventing her death. It seems that Jesus is too late. And precisely now, when as far as human intervention is concerned nothing can be done, when all natural hope is gone and everything calls for grief, the moment has come to awaken supernatural hope.

Jesus never arrives too late. He only demands greater faith. He waited until it was ‘too late’ in this instance to teach us that supernatural hope remains, like a solid foundation, amid the ruins of human hope, and all we need is unlimited trust in God, who can do anything.

This episode reminds us of our own lives. When it seems sometimes that Jesus has not intervened to meet our needs, he then gives us a much greater grace than we have been seeking. To hope in Jesus is to trust in him and to let him act, to let him do what he will. The greater the trust, the fewer the elements we should need to rely on in human terms.

In a few days’ time we shall see Jesus in the Crib. The sight will be a proof of God’s mercy and love. We will be able to say:

On this Christmas night everything inside me stops. I am face to face with Him; there is nothing but this Child in the whole of that huge white expanse. He does not say anything, but He is there ... He is God loving me. (J. Leclercq, *A Year with the Liturgy.*)

And if God becomes man and loves me, how can I refuse to seek him? How can I give up hope of finding him, if he is searching for me? Let us rid ourselves of any suggestion of discouragement. Neither external difficulties nor our personal wretchedness can do anything to quell the joy of the Christmas which is approaching.

During these days that precede Christmas, and always, let us ask Our Lady to teach us how to hope in her son Jesus Christ, the Messiah whose advent was foretold by the Prophets. “She shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come, a sign of sure hope and comfort to the pilgrim People of God.” (Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*, §68.)