

ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



LITURGY for 24/25 December

6pm Welcomers: Volunteers Please **Gifts:** Sabo Family **Readers:** F Lamb, Volunteer please
Ministers: D White, C White, A Jubb, Volunteers Please

8pm Welcomers: A Ryan, R&S Zanos **Gifts:** B&B Gladman **Readers:** R Treffry, M Clancey
Ministers: K Hand, Volunteers Please

8.30am Welcomers: Volunteers Please **Gifts:** Volunteers Please **Readers:** S Hall, M Taggart
Ministers: L&T Kenny, L Taggart

CHURCH CLEANING:

Week commencing

18 December Group 3: B Mair, D Arundell, J Mahony, H Stoll, A Basford

25 December D&D

COUNTING TEAMS:

18 December Team 8: Michael Soulsby, Dion Bartlett

25 December Team 9: Peter & Geraldine Kenna, Kevin Perera

LAWN MOWING: For fortnight 18 December Group 3: Peter Flynn, Don Porter

COMMUNION TO LYNDROCH: 25 December: Robert McLaren, Chris Smith



Making Connections: Try to be intuitive to God's voice this week. What is being communicated to you at this time in your life?

Marriage Tip: "Both husband and wife should try to renew their love day after day, and that is done through sacrifice, with smiles, and also with ingenuity." – St. Josemaria Escriva

Daily Prayer: Higher than the heavens, O Lord our God, and deeper than the nether world is your steadfast mercy and unwearied love, revealed in the child we call Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, until the end of time. Make us as obedient as Mary in embracing the mystery of your will, as unafraid as Joseph in welcoming the unfolding of your purpose. May the promise of the gospel embrace us all.

A Vocation View: Vocations from God are not always clear. Not all of us are like Joseph who had an angel appear to him saying: "Take Mary as your wife, and fear not."

"Spread light this Christmas from here...to the places others do not reach."

"Hope is being able to see that there is LIGHT despite all the darkness." -D. Tutu

"Our lives are an Advent, a time of waiting, listening and hoping, a time of openness to the unimaginable gift of God."
 -Maria Boulding osb.

"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure" St John Paul II

Parishioners Email Addresses To help the efficient circulation of Parish Rosters, please send your name and email address to olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au

"Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life."



*Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
 East Warrnambool - Allansford
 'A Star in the East'*



PARISH BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Advent—18th December 2016

P.P.: Fr Lawrence O'Toole - Phone 5561 1533

olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

OLHC Primary School: Eugene Dalton - Phone 5562 5559

www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au

Facebook: *Our Lady help of Christians Parish*

Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888

St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"

*"I AM THE WAY,
 THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"
 JN 14, 18.*

Recent Deaths: Carmel Brennan, George Swarbrick, Alan Johnstone

Anniversaries: Matt O'Sullivan, Clem Lourey, Harn Bakker, Michael Slattery, Patricia Malady, Frs. Connell & O'Dowd, Wayne Butchman, Tottie O'Brien

Mass Times: Monday 7.30am at St Pius
 Tuesday 10.00am
 Wednesday 9.30am
 Thursday 9.30am
 Friday 9.30am

(Rosary 20 minutes before weekday Masses)

THE LORD'S DAY Saturday 6.00pm
 Sunday 8.00pm
 Allansford 10.00am 8.30am

CHRISTMAS DAY

Purple is the colour of preparation and anticipated joy.



The Word of God: This Week: Is 7: 10-14, Rom 1: 1-7, Mt 1: 18-24
 Next Week: Is 9: 1-7, Titl 2: 11-14, Lk 2: 1-14

Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533
 Reconciliation—Friday 10.00am, St Pius Saturday 10.20am

Welcome Prayer

Lord, our God, source of all life, you reveal yourself in the depths of our being drawing us to share in your life and love. Bless each of us as we respond to your Spirit's invitation to open wide the doors to Christ. Make the doors of our hearts, our homes, and communities wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, prejudice and pride. Let us hasten to welcome the stranger, and so welcome your Son. We make this prayer in his name, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."
 MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return; striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As



we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Keep for Daily Prayer)

LET THE LORD ENTER; HE IS KING OF GLORY.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hand and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, see the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth, He is the king of creation.

HYMNS:

| | | |
|-------------|----|--------------------|
| Entrance | 42 | Joyful in Hope |
| Gifts | | Waiting In Silence |
| Communion | 65 | To Be Your Bread |
| | | The Magnificat |
| Recessional | 28 | Praise to You |

Mystery Of Faith
We proclaim your Death,
O Lord, and profess your
Resurrection, until you
come again.



WAITING IN SILENCE
(C Landry)
Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
We are your people, we long for you,
Lord.
God ever with us, Emmanuel,
Come, Lord Jesus, Maranatha!
Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
We are your people, we trust in your
love.
O Sun of Justice, true Prince of Peace,
Come with your justice, Lord,
Maranatha!
Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
We are your people, Lord, we seek
your truth.
Wisdom Incarnate, teach us your way;
Show us the path of life, Maranatha!
Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
We are your people, we long for new
life.
O Key of David, open our hearts.
Give us new vision, Lord, Maranatha!
Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
We are your people, our hearts thirst
for you.
Flower of Jesse, bloom in our midst.
Make us your garden, Lord,
Maranatha!

WREATH:

Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
We are your people, we long for new
life.
O Key of David, open our hearts.
Give us new vision, Lord, Maranatha!
(C Landry)

WASTING TIME WITH GOD:

"Friendships need space to develop and grow strong. Friends must waste time together. It is also thus in prayer. Prayer is making friends with God and he with us. Prayer is trying to focus on the mind of God, and to admit him into our hearts. Prayer is wasting time with God. Prayer needs space to develop and grow strong".
Cardinal Basil Hume.



**God of hope,
As we prepare for Christmas,
help us to take the time to open our
hearts to others and to new opportunities.
To stop, listen and wait purposefully in your
love, resisting the pressure to do more and buy more
by living more simply and sustainably.
May we recognize the talents you have given
each of us and seek the opportunity
to be a light to others:
offering a message of hope.
Amen**

"Life in a Whole new Light and Clothed with Power from on High"
Today we welcome with great joy **Octavia Bidmade & Scarlett Harris**
who are being **baptised** into the family of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

CHRISTMAS HOSPITALITY We are seeking parishioner's who are attending Christmas masses to act as ministers of hospitality. *The first people visitors encounter are usually these ministers. A warm smile and a "Merry Christmas" can be powerful things, especially when it is crowded. Even when the seats are filled, a simple smile helps people know they are still welcome to the celebration.*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve:
6pm **FAMILY MASS**
8pm (Carols from 7.30pm)
Christmas Day:
8.30am
10am Allansford



PARISH LIFE—LIFE TO THE FULL

OLHC Community acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of this land—the Gunditjmara People and other tribes.

WELCOME TO OLHC & ST. CARTHAGE In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

Our Parish Vision *"Bringing People together in an atmosphere that is welcoming, nurturing and challenges all to share in the Mystery of God's Love."*

Spend December with the Saints "Throw wide the gate of your heart and stand before the sun of everlasting light." (St Ambrose—7th Dec)

Holy Hour Monday 10am. OLHC, a Spiritual Oasis *"Set pools of silence in this thirsty land."* (James McAuley)

The Parish has been gifted with a **Defibrillator**. We invite parishioners who would be willing to learn how to use it.

Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars are for sale by the **St Vincent de Paul Society**. The Society has a Christmas **appeal** for the poor.

Advent Calendar—visit www.xt3.com/advent

4.30pm Singing practice.

Christmas Day Luncheon at the Uniting Church. RSVP 5561 6085.
Mass at Allansford on Christmas Day 10am and on New Year's Day 10.30am

Christmas Carols tonight at **St Brigid's, Crossley** 7.30pm, a BBQ from 6.30pm.

Today is Pope Francis' 80th Birthday.

"May you and yours experience the blessings of Christmas: peace, love, hope."

"There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." (Leonard Cohen)

"Let us pray for those who are sick. We remember them in our Masses"

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone."

- St John Paul II

"When Our Savior came to earth God blessed this land"
(Origen)

Thanksgiving and Eucharist

Eucharist means **thanksgiving**. In the ancient dialogue between priest and people that introduces the Eucharist (thanksgiving) prayer, the priest says "let us give **thanks** to the Lord, our God." The people respond "it is right and just."

Why must we discharge this obligation at Mass rather than in the comfort of our own homes? Because our sacrifice of **thanksgiving** is weak and insufficient on its own. There was only One who has ever offered perfect worship to the Father, and His sacrifice is made present again at every Eucharist. Our inadequate "**thanks**" is absorbed into the perfect sacrifice of praise offered by the Son much like the drop of insipid water the priest puts in the chalice is absorbed into the rich wine that becomes Christ's blood.

But thanksgiving can't be limited to Sunday Eucharist. We are called to develop a lifestyle of thanksgiving. We're called to become a Eucharistic people. (Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio)

"It is Christmas every time we allow Jesus to love others through us."
(Saint Mother Teresa)