

ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



LITURGY for 16/17 December

6pm Welcomers: M Brown, M Dunne **Gifts:** M Hawthorne, D Melis –Sharpe **Readers:** F O'Connor, A Ryan
Ministers: F Moloney, J Moorfield, M Page, S Reimert, P Smith, C Smith

9am Welcomers: C Cooper, D Duynhoven **Gifts:** P Aberline Family **Readers:** S Smits, P Allan
Ministers: K O'Leary, A Sanderson, C Spencer

CHURCH CLEANING:

Week commencing

10 December Group 6: Ann-Marie Moloney, Hannah Chisholm, J Squires

17 December Group 1: A Sanderson, K Wright, P Allan, D Porter, D Lawler

COUNTING TEAMS:

10 December Team 9: Peter & Geraldine Kenna, Kevin Ferrara

17 December Team 10: Nybyiah & Darren Cross

LAWN MOWING: For fortnight 3 December Group 4: John Tankard, Michael Soulsby

COMMUNION TO LYNDROCH: 17 December: Margaret Dunne, Peter Flynn



Making Connections: The wilderness of the desert can be a silent and frightening place—and yet it is into this silence that both John and Jesus withdraw to pray. For them it became a place of deep intimacy with God. Is Advent a time to retreat into the wilderness within and listen for the voice whose cries are often missed in the busyness of life?

Did you Know?: Points of interest and Catholic lore. John's clothing of homespun camel hair tied with a leather thong around the waist is the explicit garb of a prophet.

God had called the people of Israel out of Egypt and led them across the River Jordan to be a new People. God, through John, is now calling for a new people by passing them through the waters of baptism in the same river.

Sharing the Tradition: Mark's Gospel was the first to be written down, around the year 70AD. It is generally accepted that Mark wrote for an audience in Rome who were undergoing persecution for their faith. It is the shortest of the four gospels and is told in a lively and straightforward style. Mark seeks to explore the identity of Jesus, to describe the responses of various people to him and to invite us to become disciples.

In this opening verse of the gospel, Mark alerts his readers instantly to the identity of the main character. This work is the Good News about Jesus Christ who is Son of God.

Exploring the Word: The prophet Isaiah brought a message of hope and comfort to the people of Israel who were in exile in Babylon. Despite their failings, God is merciful and has promised them a new beginning. John the Baptist appears in the line of that great prophet and again promises Israel the chance of a new beginning if they repent and turn again towards God. Advent is also a time of new beginnings and John the Baptist's 'voice in the wilderness' is a personal invitation to each of us to prepare a way for the Lord into our lives now. What special preparation for Christmas will you undertake this year? How may this be different from what you have done in the past?

Marriage Tip: Sit down with your spouse and look at some of your favourite photos from the past year. What were the hard times you weathered together? Was there an unexpected blessing? Give thanks for your life and love together.

Daily Prayer: O God, whose word is comfort and whose promise is a new creation, prepare the way in the wilderness of our world. Open our eyes to the One who comes into our midst, that by lives of holiness and service we may hasten the coming of that day and be found at peace when at last it dawns.

A Vocation View: The cry of the people:

"Lord, let us see your kindness". Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?



Pope's Prayer Intentions for December

The Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

"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

2nd Sunday of Advent—10th December 2017

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

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Facebook: *Our Lady Help of Christians Parish*

Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888

St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

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

"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"

Recent Deaths: Robert Andrews, Joan McDonald, Brother Michael Flaherty, Annette Lucas

Anniversaries: Edward Perera, Brian Vallence, Fr Payne, Johanna Arundell, Maurice Nash, Brian Parsons, Bill Brittain, Roger Walsh

Mass Times	Monday	7.30am at St Pius
	Tuesday	10.00am (Jessie Ward RIP)
	Wednesday	1.30pm Anointing Mass (A Plate Please)
	Thursday	9.30am (Corrie van Raaphorst RIP)
	Friday	9.30am (Thanksgiving for OLHC School Year)
	Saturday	10.00am at St Pius



THE LORD'S DAY	Saturday	6.00pm	ADVENT 3
	Sunday	9.00am	
	Allansford	10.30am	December 17th

The Word of God: This Week: Is 40: 1-5.9-11, 2 Pt 3: 8-14, Mk 1: 1-8

Next Week: Is 61: 1-2a.10-11, 1 Thes 5: 16-24, Jn 1: 6-8.19-28

Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533

Reconciliation—Fridays 10.20am, Saturdays at St Pius 10.20am

Advent

Advent is such a busy time of year and we so easily forget that—at its heart—it is meant to be a time of preparation, waiting and hope for the coming of Jesus into our world and lives. I believe this understanding is more urgent than ever before.



Be still each day, listen to God and hear him declare to us, as he declared to his Son—you are my beloved; my favour rests on you (Mark 1:11)

May this Advent and Christmas season offer you a deeper appreciation of the meaning of Christ's birth in our lives and an opportunity to grow in discipleship.

Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the US bishop's pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live—the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."



Wrap-up Advent: 'living in the tension between the now and the not yet'

A theme that pervades the Advent season is the theme of 'living in the tension between the 'now' and the not yet'. This theme unites the Advent season and it's expressed in different ways across the liturgical readings and the prayers...the joyful, loving, hope-filled tension that we experience even in the way that we live and wait for the coming of Christmas with families and personally.
- Fr. Frank Moloney sdb

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Keep for Daily Prayer)

LORD, LET US SEE YOUR KINDNESS, AND GRANT US YOUR SALVATION.



I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever.

HYMNS:

Wreath *Be on your guard and stay awake, I will return, so stay awake
You know not when, so stay awake, until I come again.
Jesus, we stand awaiting you, Watching in prayer, proclaiming you
You are the light of all the world, We pray your kingdom come.*

Entrance CWB 794 Prepare the Way
Gifts 115 A Trusting Psalm
Communion 160 Like a Shepherd
55 Blest Are They
Recessional 158 A New Heart for a New World

Mystery Of Faith
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Advent has commenced and we turn our thoughts to Mary

As a very young woman, she was to enter into a great mystery, for which she deemed herself unfit. Let us ponder on her faith and deep trust in her God. On the human level, she entrusted herself to the care of Joseph. Together, they set off on the incredible path which led to the birth of Jesus, our Saviour.
So, we pray, 'Blessed are you Mary. Help us to learn from you how to live with faith, trust and love, as we try to become increasingly aware of God's will for us in our daily lives, and to do whatever he tells us.'

*Those from whom I receive the greatest consolations and encouragement are those whom I know to be dwelling in paradise
- St Teresa of Avila*

Without Christ, life is as the twilight with dark night ahead; with Christ, it is the dawn of morning with light and warmth of full day ahead.

Advent Reflections

Thursday 7.30pm
Friday 10.00am
Add your name to the list in the foyer (Sr Mary Bennet)



God of Newness

At this time of year, you invite me to imitate both Mary and Joseph. You call me to listen carefully to dreams, strangers, intuitions and angels, You call me to ask questions with an open heart and mind, You call me to respond with courage and trust, You call me to bring the precious, fragile and delicate message of love to birth in the world.
Amen.

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." - St Tereca of Kolata

Anointing Mass and Seniors High Christmas Afternoon Tea Wednesday 13th at 1.30pm.
On Wednesday 13th December—7.30pm in the Church Foyer, **Brother Frank O'Shea**, originally from Allansford, past pupil of CBC, will talk about his life as a **Missionary**. Brother Frank has been in Tonga, Tanzania, South Sudan and currently he is in Nairobi. All Welcome. (Bridge, Brother Franks late mother, would want us to have a Cuppa.)

Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve 6-00pm **Christmas Day** 8-30am
(Christmas Carols) 7-30pm Allansford 10-00am
8-00pm

Mass for the Forgiveness of Our Sins in preparation for Christmas—
Wednesday 20th December, 7-30pm

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, 7 December)

Holy Hour Monday 10.00am.

Coffee today after the 9am Mass. Hosted by Parish Family Groups.

For Sale and supporting the St Vincent De Paul Society: **Columban**

Calendars \$8 (great gift idea) (and for the family). **Christmas Cards** \$3 for a pack of 8.

Carols tonight 7pm in the Allansford Hall. Friday on the Civic Green 6.30pm for 7.30pm. **Sunday 17th** at St Brigid's Crossley 7.30pm.

Cards (Euchre & Solo) 1pm Tuesday in the Church foyer.

You are invited to help with our Christmas Masses. Please place your name and choice on the sheet in the foyer.

On the Notice Boards is "Bishop Paul Bird's response to the Royal Commission's Report" December 6, 2017.

Jubilee Celebrations are taking place for **Sisters of Mercy** whom we may know;
Sixty Years: Sisters Aileen Coghlan, Anne Lourey, Noelle Russell and Anne Arundell.
Fifty Years: Sisters Kathleen Moran, Nola Morrisy and Geraldine Mugavin.
Tuesday 12th December is Foundation Day of the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin.

Today we **welcome Renee Lake** to the Lord's table with us as she receives Holy Communion for the first time.

This Christmas, your donation can make wishes come true.

For most, Christmas is a time for giving and celebrating with loved ones. But for around 105,000 Australians, including families and 17,000 children under 12, it's a time when fulfilling even the simplest of wishes, like having food on the table or a place to call home, will be a struggle.
Take Ollie and his mum, Sharon. All he wants for Christmas is to stop moving all the time and for his mum to finally be happy.
When you **donate to Vinnies**, you're making simple Christmas wishes like Ollie's come true.

"Life in a Whole new Light and Clothed with Power from on High"

Today we welcome with great joy **Elsie Jynes & Charlie Thomson** who is being **baptised** into the family of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.