

ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



LITURGY for 23/24 December

6pm Welcomers: S&R Zanos **Gifts:** Henderson Family **Readers:** M Atkinson, C Beks
Ministers: T Treffry, C White, D Bartlett, P Bolte, M Bonner
9am Welcomers: T McCutcheon, C Morriss **Gifts:** D Anderson Family **Readers:** F&P Torpy
Ministers: M&L Taggart, T Baker

CHURCH CLEANING:

Week commencing

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

COUNTING TEAMS:

17 December Team 10: Nybyiah & Darren Cross
 24 December Team 1: Paul & Marcia Glynn, Pam & Gavin Nevill

LAWN MOWING: For fortnight 17 December Group 1: Robert Mills, Paul Torpy

COMMUNION TO LYNDROCH: 24 December: Louise & Michael Taggart



Making Connections: Light has become a synonym for Christ, who refers to himself as the light of the world (John 8:12). Thus the presence of Jesus is often symbolised by a lighted candle. How does this light shine in you? Bring light to someone's life this week by a visit, a phone call, a gesture...

Did you Know?: Points of interest and Catholic lore. In the early years, there was rivalry between the disciples of John the Baptist and Jesus. This gospel makes it clear that John does not see himself as a rival to Jesus but as a witness to him. It is Jesus who is the one sent from God.

Sharing the Tradition: The Church is inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, and one of the ways we can encounter the work of the Spirit is 'in the witness of saints through whom he manifests his holiness and continues the work of salvation' (CCC§688). From the Church, a believer can 'learn the example of holiness and recognise its model', especially in 'the spiritual tradition and long history of the saints' (CCC§2030) who have given witness to Jesus, just as John the Baptist did.

Exploring the Word: In contrast to last week's text on John the Baptist, this one comes from the last of the written gospels. The Gospel of John was penned at the very end of the first century. One common characteristic, however, is clear: the Baptist is again presented as the forerunner. John the Baptist rejects all messianic or quasi-messianic titles. He throws human expectation into chaos. He claims for himself only the role of the 'voice' of Isaiah 40, but the evangelist presents him as the most reliable of witnesses, 'Sent by God...to speak for the light'. The only other person in John's Gospel to come from God is Jesus himself. Before an audience of the leaders of the religion of Israel, John witnesses with authority and truthfulness that has its source in God. How do you give witness to Christ?

Marriage Tip: "And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more." (Phil 1:9) God wants your love to grow, always.

Daily Prayer: God of peace, whose word is good news to the oppressed, healing for the broken-hearted and freedom for all who are held bound, gladden our hearts and fashion the earth into a garden of righteousness and praise! Sanctify us entirely, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the One who even now is among us, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Vocation View: There was a man _____ sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is your name in the Gospel today?



Year of Youth 2018 "Open new horizons for Spreading Joy"

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

3rd Sunday of Advent—17th 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: Desmond Douglas, Patricia Beks, Chris Hawse

Anniversaries: Michael Slattery, Marlene Dantas, John Melican, Father O'Dowd, Sister Bernadette Bushell, Peter Kelly, Tottie O'Brien, Wayne Butchman

Mass Times Monday 7.30am at St Pius

Tuesday 10.00am

Wednesday 7.30pm MASS FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS

Thursday 9.30am

Friday 9.30am

Saturday 10.00am at St Pius

THE LORD'S DAY Saturday Sunday

6.00pm 9.00am

ADVENT 4



The Word of God: This Week: Is 61: 1-2a.10-11, 1 Thes 5: 16-24, Jn 1: 6-8.19-28

Next Week: 2 Sm 7: 1-5.8b-12.14a.16, Rom 16: 25-27, Lk 1: 26-38

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.

Third Sunday of Advent

All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and do. Do I?



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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Keep for Daily Prayer)

MY SOUL REJOICES IN MY GOD



My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. Spread the good news over all the earth, Jesus has died and has risen.

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 174 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Gifts CWB 794 Prepare the Way
Communion 74 Come to the Water
6 Lord to Whom Shall We Go?
Recessional 190 Let There Be Peace

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.'



Sacraments for Children 2018

Reconciliation for Year 2, March 20th; for Year 6, March 21st.
Parent Information: February 15th

Confirmation for Year 3, May 19/20 & 20/27
Parent Information: April 18th

First Eucharist for Year 4, August 18/19
Parent Information: July 18th

A Christmas Blessing

Let us remember Mary this Christmas, and may God bless our Mothers.
Let us remember Joseph this Christmas, and may God bless our Fathers.
Let us remember Elizabeth, Zachariah and John this Christmas, and may God bless all our relatives.
Let us remember the Shepherds this Christmas, and may God bless all those who will be working.
Let us remember the Wise Men this Christmas, and may God bless those who will be travelling.
Let us remember Jesus this Christmas, and may God bless all of us and make us His children.



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

Christmas Mass Times

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



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.

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 at St Brigid's Crossley 7.30pm. Friday 12pm, Liebig St—near the fairy penguins/pedestrian crossing

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.

Wednesday is United Nations International Human Solidarity Day. Mass 7.30pm.

Play Group The Parish School is offering a Play Group in 2018. Interest is welcome on 5562 5559.

Christmas Day Lunch at St Joseph's Hall 12 noon to 1.30pm. Bookings—Cath 5561 4120 or Mary 0409 158 177.

Car Parking at the 6.00pm Christmas Eve Mass. If you can help, see Fr. Lawrie. "Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ" (St. Benedict)

Congratulations to John Mahony and Kevin Boyle on receiving life membership from the Country Fire Association.

Clinical Pastoral Training Places available in 2018. See Fr Lawrie.

A short **Singing Practice** after Mass on Wednesday.

Advent Reflections

Thursday 7.30pm, Friday 10.00am
In the Meeting Room
(Sr Mary Bennet)



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 **Matilda Brody & Nicholson Niruban** who is being **baptised** into the family of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.