

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 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



4th Sunday of Advent



Making Connections: Mary's perfect 'yes' to God's will establishes her as a model of discipleship. What are you called to say 'yes' to, to enable God to live within you?

Like Mary, who called on her elderly kinswoman when she was in need, call on someone this week who may be in need of company or support.

Did you Know?: Points of interest and Catholic lore. From the time of the Exile in Babylon, Israel had longed for the Messiah to come. He was to be the anointed one of God and the prophets foretold that he would come from the House of David and be born in David's home town of Bethlehem. According to Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph live in Nazareth in the north and travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the census because Joseph is of David's line and must return to his 'home' country.

Sharing the Tradition: The Second Vatican Council emphasised Mary's role as the first disciple and model for all disciples. As such she is Mother of the Church and Mother of God. The title 'Mother of God' conveys one of the truths of Christianity: that Jesus Christ, Son of God is also the son of Mary, a human being. It expressed the mystery of the Incarnation where God became flesh and dwelt among us.

Living the Word: God does not always act in grand or expected ways, nor does God manipulate human response. God simply invites collaboration and we, like Mary, must respond freely.

Marriage Tip: As we wait for Christmas, it's a good time to develop the virtue of patience. Focus on being patient today, especially with your family members. Offer up the frustrations that come from things not going the way you had planned.

Daily Prayer: Great and merciful God, from among this world's lowly and humble you choose your servants and call them to work with you to fulfil your loving plan of salvation. By the power of your Spirit, make your church fertile and fruitful, that, imitating the obedient faith of Mary, the church may welcome your word of life and so become the joyful mother of countless offspring, a great and holy posterity of children destined for undying life.

A Vocation View: Every person who has ever born a child, and every

person who has freely vowed away this honour, helps in some mysterious way to bring Jesus Christ into this world again. Can you say: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord"?



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

4th Sunday of Advent—24th December 2017

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

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

"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"

Recent Deaths: Patrick Smith, Nora Forrest

Anniversaries: Matthew O'Sullivan, Les Ryan, Roo Smith, Annie Chapman, Patrick Bourke, Margaret O'Keefe, Daisy Raynor, Ray McNiece, Jim & Nance McNiece, Leon Greene, Ken McLean, Leon Murphy, Travis Shannahan

Mass Times Monday BIRTH OF THE LORD

Tuesday 10.00am (St Stephen)

Wednesday 9.30am (St John) (K McLean RIP)

Thursday 9.30am (Holy Innocents)

Friday 9.30am (Our Deceased)

Saturday 10.00am at St Pius

THE LORD'S DAY

**Saturday
Sunday**

**6.00pm
9.00am**

HOLY FAMILY

10.30am at Allansford

The Word of God: This Week: 2 Sm 7: 1-5.8b-12.14a.16, Rom 16: 25-27, Lk 1: 26-38
Next Week: Gn 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3, Heb 11: 8.11-12.17-19, Lk 2: 22-40

Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533

Reconciliation—Fridays 10.20am,

Saturdays at St Pius 10.20am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" - "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." - that the promise finds fulfillment.



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.



Christmas and many blessings in the coming year.

Thank you very much for your support of our mission during this year.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Keep for Daily Prayer)

FOR EVER I WILL SING THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD



I will sing forever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts forever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty forever and set up your throne through all ages.’ **R.**

He will say to me: ‘You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.’ I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. Come let us praise the living God. Joyfully sing to our Savior

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 20 Joyful in Hope
Gifts 52 The Magnificat
Communion 88 Taste and See
Hail Mary Gentle Woman
Recessional 57 City of God

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

Advent 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.



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)

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.

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

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)

Next Sunday “The Woodford Cup” which supports St John’s School, Dennington.

Mass on New Year’s Day 10am (World Day of Peace)

Fr. Michael Gatt’s **Christmas Time Help Line** is 08 9440 5379 or gattline@bigpond.com.

His First Coming

A gentle Babe, caved in helpless way
Where straw would be His resting place
Of bodied power of Love, all graced
In deep humanity! Ah, the Mystery
Of it all, steadies my heart to deepened joy
At His coming, for the saving of us all...!
Let us recall this Mystery of Love
In a depth-wise silent way...
With His Mother there, embracing Him,
And us in Him, within a gentle love,
Stand still and will His Presence
In its vast, embracing way.

Pauline Fitz-Walter SGS

A time of festivity can be a lonely time.
Visit a neighbour who is on his or her own.

Indeed full of grace, for to others it is given in portions, but on Mary its fullness is showered.

- St Jerome

Year of Youth 2018

“Open new horizons for Spreading Joy”

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
Milly Dolphin
who is being baptised into the family of God,
who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.