

## ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



### LITURGY for 14/15 December

**6pm** Welcomers: D White, D Bartlett Gifts: Musico Family Readers: C Bolte, M Bugge

Ministers: K&M McKenzie, M Mills, F Moloney, J Moorfield, M Page

**9am** Welcomers: J McCosh, J Zanos Gifts: Risma & Jericho Readers: M Wrigley, B Bourke

Ministers: C Wrigley, L O'Leary, A Sanderson

### CHURCH CLEANING:

#### Week commencing

8 December Group 1: A Sanderson, D Porter, D Lawler

15 December Group 2: P Jubb, P Bolte

### COUNTING TEAMS:

8 December Team 3: Terry & Pat King, Maureen & Ron Gillin

15 December Team 4: Margaret Dunne, Dion Bartlett

**COMMUNION TO LYNDONCH:** 15 December: Margaret Dunne, Peter Flynn

*New Rosters are now Available*



## Reflection on the Gospel-1st Sunday of Advent Year A (Matthew 24: 37-44)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Desertification of earth is becoming the norm in these troubled times of ours and wilderness or desert features powerfully in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way...." Ecologically, the Isaian image is confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing metanoia or reevaluating: keep on turning your lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kin-dom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kin-dom is both present and yet still approaching: the verb used here, *ēngiken*, allows for this ambiguity.

The first reading from Isaiah (11:1-10) provides content to the notion of *kingdom* or *basileia*: John is announcing the advent of God's long awaited empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (*metanoia*). In other words, John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judea and the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who listen to the call for *metanoia* (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out".

Fire is a multi-faceted image in the biblical record. Here it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. In the first-century Manual of Discipline from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign of compassionate care.



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



## PARISH BULLETIN

**2nd Sunday of Advent – 8th December 2019**

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

[olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au) [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

OLHC Primary School: Eugene Dalton - Phone 5562 5559

[www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au)

Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888

St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

Child Safety Officer—Dion Bartlett 0458 778 935

**"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"**

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

**Recent Deaths:** Eileen Punch, Pat Davis, Frances Lee, Sister Jan Geason RSM, Betty Fitzgerald, Norman Campbell

**Anniversaries:** Kevin Perera, Des Ryan, Philip Rea, Father Payne, Brian Parsons, Maurie Nash



**Mass Times** Monday 7.30am at St Pius

Tuesday 10.00am (Our Lady of Loreto)

**Wednesday 1.00pm Anointing of the Sick (A plate please)**

Thursday 9.30am

Friday 9.30am

Saturday 10.00am at St Pius



**THE LORD'S  
DAY**

**Saturday  
Sunday  
Allansford**

**6.00pm  
9.00am  
10.30am**

*Purple is a colour of  
preparation and  
anticipating joy*

### The Word of God:

This Week: Is 11: 1-10/ Rom 15: 4-9/ Mt 3: 1-12

Next Week: Is 34: 1-6.10/ Jas 5: 7-10/ Mt 11: 2-11

**Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages** by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533

**Reconciliation**—Friday 10am; Saturday 10.20am at St Pius

### 10 December—International Human Rights Day

*"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world...Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."* - Eleanor Roosevelt

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December—the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This was a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being—regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages.

<https://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

## Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve:

6pm—Family Mass

7.30pm—Christmas Carols

8pm—Mass

### Christmas Day:

8.30am

10am—Allansford

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Keep for Daily Prayer)



**JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH IN HIS TIME, AND FULLNESS OF PEACE FOR EVER.**

O God. Give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!**

Stay awake pray at all times, praying that you may be strengthened, that with confidence you can meet the Son of Man.

**HYMNS:**

Entrance 174 O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
 Gifts CWB 794 Prepare the Way  
 Communion 160 Like a Shepherd  
 Recessional 27 Song of the Body of Christ

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

**WREATH:**  
 Open the heavens, Lord, come to your people, Hide not your face, O God. Open the heavens, Lord, come to your people, Open the heavens and come.



**Advent is the season of new beginnings.** A new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and it beckons to us with images of hope. It is the season of the impossible becoming possible. In the scriptures we read of the dry, barren wilderness bursting into bloom; of broken hearts healing; of a barren woman and a young virgin both conceiving children. Candles are lit on the Advent wreath signifying our longing for the light of Christ. It paves our celebrating Christ as God-with-us, God in human flesh. This is the heart of our faith, and it is the cause of our joy, hope, peace, the reason for the Season to change our ways, to celebrate Christmas.

**Plenary Council Prayer**  
 Lord  
 You once told us, 'Just as you did it to one of the least of these, who are members of my family, you did it to me.'  
 May our eyes be opened to the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick and imprisoned.  
 May our minds be freed from the bounds of self-interest, fear and prejudice.  
 May our hearts be moved to recognise and respond to the needs of your people.  
 May we be open to the fruits of your Spirit, so that our thoughts, words and actions can be infused with love, peace, compassion and selflessness.  
 We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

"Life in a Whole new Light and Clothed with Power from on High"  
 Today we welcome with great joy  
 Jack Franc  
 who is being baptised into the family of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Marriage Tip:** Do you find yourself comparing your marriage or family life to others around you? Gratitude is the best remedy against jealousy.

**Pope's Prayer Intentions for December**  
**The Future of the Very Young**  
 That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

**Forthcoming Events (December):**

Wednesday Dec 11th—Anointing Mass and High Afternoon Tea for Senior Parishioners, 1pm;  
 Wednesday Dec 18th—Mass for the Forgiveness of our Sins 7pm.

**PARISH LIFE—LIFE TO THE FULL**

**OLHC Community acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of this land—the Gunditjmarra People and other tribes. We deeply respect the Aboriginal Community upon whose land our parish resides.**

**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 everyday with the saints.** "It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards our progress nor the nature of the task, but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken."

**Holy Hour at OLHC** Monday 10am

**Worth Watching** "Songs of Praise" Sundays 11.30am on ABC1.

**View ABC1 Compass** 11am Sundays.



**"Australia's most liveable city and district is Warrnambool"**

**Now Selling** Christmas Cards to support St Vincent de Paul; Columban Calendars 2020 to support Columban Missionaries

**Compliments of the Parish** the latest edition of "Australian Catholics" and "Our Diocesan Community" are available.

**Preparing for a Holy Christmas** Wednesdays 10am and Thursdays 7.30pm in the Church Meeting Room. All welcome.

**Catholic Charismatic Retreat** Jan 14-17 at St Mary's College, Parkville. RSVP 9486 6544 by Dec 12th.

**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program—now open for new participants** A low-cost online study. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over 5 weeks per subject. Next study cycle begins January 12. Registration open now until December 23. More info at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au) ph. 0407 523 424.

**Morning Tea** after Mass Today. Hosts Family Groups.

**The Saint Vincent De Paul** invite us to include our poor with a Christmas Gift.

**Christmas Carols** in the Allansford Hall on Sunday 8th December at 7.00pm.

**Winners** of Prizes at Our Parish Flower Festival and Rose Show are listed on the notice board. \$1,200 was raised for the St Vincent De Paul mission.

**Clinical Pastoral Education 2020** February 13 to June 25. Applications close December 20, 2019. For further information and application details contact Bernadette Wurlod 0455 033 321 or [bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au](mailto:bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au).

**"Summer School of Evangelisation** Jan 12-19, 2020 in Bacchus Marsh, 16-35y/os looking to deepen their faith in Christ. Ballarat Diocese Youth Ministry is offering financial support. Contact Patrick on 5337 7160.

**Christmas Singing Practice** Sunday 15th Dec at 4.30pm.

If you wish to give to our Parish Finances via bank transfer:  
 BSB: 06 3533  
 Acc. No: 0090 3353  
 Ref: Planned Giving  
 All donations are greatly appreciated.

If they, why not I? If these men and women could become saints, why cannot I with the help of him who is all-powerful?  
 -St Augustine

May Jesus, who is *the way*, be a lamp unto your feet and a light for your path as you journey towards the mystery of the Christmas miracle.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,** and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;  
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.

