

ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



LITURGY for 21/22 December

6pm Welcomers: S&R Zanos Gifts: G&U O'Toole Readers: C Carvalho, M Clancey

Ministers: S Reimert, J Tankard, T Treffry, C White, D White, D Bartlett

9am Welcomers: J Bouwman, C Cooper Gifts: Skilbeck Family Readers: M Cooper, D Farley

Ministers: C Spencer, C Swarbrick, P Allan

CHURCH CLEANING:

Week commencing

15 December Group 2: P Jubb, P Bolte

22 December Group 3: D Arundell, J Mahony, H Stoll, A Basford

COUNTING TEAMS:

15 December Team 4: Margaret Dunne, Dion Bartlett

22 December Team 5: Dennis Farley, Brian Dalton, John McCarthy

COMMUNION TO LYNDOKH: 22 December: Louise & Michael Taggart, Christine Di Palma

New Rosters are now Available



Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday of Advent Year A (Matthew 11: 2-11)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: "the desert shall rejoice and bloom ..." (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's gospel passage is full of questions. John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong.

The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or God's Anointed One. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading). In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges. The Christ, the Anointed of God, lives on in the community and the community is called to bring the saving power of God, the joy of the Gospel, to a troubled world.



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



PARISH BULLETIN

3rd Sunday of Advent – 15th December 2019

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

Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888

St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

Child Safety Officer—Dion Bartlett 0458 778 935

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

"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"

Recent Deaths: Margaret Mary Thomas, Tom Baker, Kevin Shanley
Anniversaries: Nora Forrest, Patrick Smith, John Mahony, Bill Brittain, Roger Walsh, Father O'Dowd, Jessica Ward, Dorrie Mansbridge, Leon Greene, Wayne Buchman, Ed Rea, Jim & Ray McNiece, Matt O'Sullivan



Mass Times Monday 7.30am at St Pius
Tuesday 10.00am (Leon Greene RIP)
Wednesday 7.00pm Mass for the Forgiveness of Our Sins
Thursday 9.30am
Friday 9.30am
Saturday 10.00am at St Pius



THE LORD'S DAY Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am
(with Columban Fr. Peter O'Neill)

*Purple is a colour of
preparation and
anticipating joy*

The Word of God:

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

Next Week: Is 7: 10-14/ Rom 1: 1-7/ Mt 1: 18-24

Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533

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

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

Today we welcome with great joy

Lani Jones

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

*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.*

The World is the first Bible that God made for the instruction of man.
- St. Clement of Alexandria

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)



LORD, COME AND SAVE US.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **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 12 Gather Us In
- Gifts 28 Praise to You
- Communion 88 Taste and See
- 129 One Bread, One Body
- Recessional Christ Be Our Light

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.

Christ Be Our Light

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

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.

Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-2
This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer/tablet/phone, offers the Gospel for every day of the coming Liturgical Year A-2 (Sundays Year A, weekdays Year 2) beginning with Advent, together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. The e-book may be passed on for downloading to friends or acquaintances as desired. It may be accessed at the following URL address:
www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

Marriage Tip: "The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures." – Pope Francis
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 Event (December):

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.

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 or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 0407 523 424.

Morning Tea after Mass **next Sunday.** A plate please.

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

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.

"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 TODAY at 4.30pm.

Next Sunday Columban Missionary **Fr. Peter O'Neill** will join us at 9am Mass and for morning tea.

New Rosters are available. Volunteers are needed for our Christmas Masses.

Volunteering at St John of God Hospital is welcome. Contact Felicity Barker on 5564 0600.

Free Christmas Day Lunch at St Joseph's Parish Hall, noon-1.30pm. RSVP Mary 0409 158 177, by Tuesday.

Carols for Compassion Friday 20th, noon. Liebig St—near the penguins. 'Love makes a way for people seeking asylum'.

In 2020 St Pius' conference of St Vincent De Paul is celebrating 50 years of service. Former members will be invited. Chris Nolan (Pres.) welcomes information 0447 566 232.

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



disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.

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;

