

ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



LITURGY for 28/29 December

6pm **Welcomers:** Conheady Family **Gifts:** G&A Ryan **Readers:** S Clancey, M Cooper

Ministers: P Bolte, M Bonner, K Bouchier, R Coffey, J Conheady, M Crichton

9am **Welcomers:** D Duynhoven, J McCosh **Gifts:** J&S Smits Family **Readers:** J Fish, P Franc

Ministers: M&L Taggert, T Baker

CHURCH CLEANING:

Week commencing

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

29 December Group 4: J Hales, T Woolley, M&J McLean

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

29 December Team 6: Robert Mills, Robert Lane, Paul Torpy

COMMUNION TO LYNDOK: 29 December: Jim & Elaine Hales

New Rosters are now Available



Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Advent Year A (Matthew 1: 18-24)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. "Nothing", was my immediate response. "I just want to spend time with community and family and friends, especially those who would otherwise be alone". And that's what I'll be doing, simply "being with". Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that "being-with" is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are "with-us" even in our absence and "being-with" in spirit or in person is closely allied with "being-for". Today's gospel affirms "being-with" as God's Christmas gift to us.

The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is "God-with-us", Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into the gospel story of God-with-us and with all of creation, and to live out the pattern of the Christ story more fully in our lives.

There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams. The angelic announcement in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but is to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God.

If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or "being-with" as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.



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



PARISH BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Advent – 22nd 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: Norman Dumsney, Mark O'Keeffe, Michelle Billings, Joan Cummings, Colleen O'Keefe, Beverley Clifford, Delma Clapp, Reg McVilly, Deceased Firemen
Anniversaries: Mary Carroll, Sean Murphy, Brother Brian Kelly, Annie Chapman, Patricia Delaney, Fathers Glennan and Bushell, Leo Kelly, John Porter, John Malone



Mass Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7.30am at St Pius	Christmas Eve 6.00pm (7.30pm Christmas Carols)	Christmas Day 8.00pm Allansford 10.00am	10.00am (Feast of St Stephen)	9.30am (Feast of St John)	10.00am at St Pius

THE LORD'S DAY	Saturday	Sunday	Allansford
	6.00pm	9.00am	10.30am

HOLY FAMILY

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



Greetings for the Christmas Season to Parishioners and Visitors, from the Parish Co ordinating Team—Marion Buggz, Minn Cooper, Rachel Kelly, Dion Bartlett, Theresa Bant, Fr. Lawrig, John Tankard, Paul Torpy & Catherine White
Wishing you peace happiness and God's abiding love at Christmas and throughout the coming year.

*Purple is a colour of
preparation and
anticipating joy*

"Life in a Whole new Light and Clothed with Power from on High" Today we welcome with great joy **George Sleeman, Lulu Williams & Elizabeth Ross** who is being baptised into the family of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM *(Keep for Daily Prayer)*



LET THE LORD ENTER; HE IS KING OF GLORY.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hand and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, see the face of the God of Jacob. **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 20 Joyful in Hope
- Gifts 54 The Magnificat
- Communion 65 To Be Your Bread
- 12 Gather Us In

Recessional CWB 690 Go Now You Are Sent Forth

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.

We Pray for All in New Zealand
God of all life, the extraordinarily destructive power of this volcano confronts us with many questions. We gather up in prayer the lives of all affected by this event on White Island in the beautiful country of New Zealand. Nothing is ever hidden from you and you understand all that is mystery to us. Through the elements of that island and its surrounds—the air, the wind, the sounds and the waters, bring peace for those who have perished there and healing and hope for the survivors and rescuers. Amen.

Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-2
This e-book, which may be downloaded [free of charge](http://www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/) 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/

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.

Marriage Tip: It may seem unrealistic to "rejoice always" as St. Paul encourages us to do, but surely you can find one thing to be grateful for today or to rejoice over.

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 "Our Diocesan Community" is available.

Bible Study Recess until Lent.

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 Today.

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

"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.

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.

"Let us pray to Christ the Lord, the sun who enlightens all, whose light will never fail us: Lord Our Saviour, give us life!"

Plenary Council Delegates from the Diocese of Ballarat Bishop Paul is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Copies of Bishop Paul's letter are available through parishes and through our diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by **Friday, February 7th, 2020.**

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. Calvin Coolidge

Feliz Navidad / Bon Nadal / Boas Festas / Bones Fiestas
Buon Natale / Joyeux Noël / Frohe Weihnachten
Feliz Natal!

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? 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.

