



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy
Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday 21st December and Sunday 22nd December 2019

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Let the Lord enter,
he is the 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 it firm.

*Let the Lord enter,
he is the king of glory.*

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

*Let the Lord enter,
he is the king of glory.*

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

*Let the Lord enter,
he is the king of glory.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We commend to God's care
Loy Carey (Fr Michael
Linehan's uncle) and **Mark
O'Keeffe** who died recently,
and **Geoffrey Keaton** and
Andrew Dwyer, the volunteer fire
fighters who were killed on Thursday.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

6:30pm Mass, Koroit

6:30pm Mass, Port Fairy

Christmas Day

9:00am Mass, Port Fairy



NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

10pm New Year's Eve

Late Night Mass, Port Fairy

10am New Year's Day

Morning Mass, Koroit



THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Weekly presbytery collection

Koroit: \$250.50

Port Fairy: \$340.20

Monthly planned giving (Nov)

Koroit pledged: \$3,227.00

Koroit received: \$2,352.00

Port Fairy pledged: \$2,572.00

Port Fairy received: \$1,506.50

PRIESTS SHORTENING HOMILIES?

(From *The Catholic Herald*, 16/12/2019)

A new analysis from the Pew Research Center shows that many Catholic priests are holding to Pope Francis' advice to keep their homilies on the shorter side, especially compared to Protestants.

An analysis of nearly 50,000 sermons, given across the US during Lent and Easter found that the median length of a sermon was 37 minutes, but for Catholic priests, the median length was just 14 minutes. Pew found that black Protestant sermons had the longest median length at 54 minutes, while mainline Protestant sermons were 25 minutes, with evangelical churches falling in between at 39 minutes.

The relatively shorter homilies by Catholic priests is in line with the pope's own recommendations. In February 2018 Pope Francis addressed priests and other Catholics and discussed the importance of having short, interesting homilies.

"Whoever gives the homily must be conscious that they are not doing their own thing, they are preaching, giving voice to Jesus, preaching the Word of Jesus," he said. Homilies *"should be well prepared, and they must be brief!"*

To drive the point home, Francis told a story about a priest who had told him that when visiting his home town, the priest's father had said *"I'm happy, because your mother and I have found a church which provides Mass without a homily!"*

"How many times have we seen people sleeping during a homily, or chatting among themselves, or outside smoking a cigarette?" the pope asked. When people laughed at the notion, Francis responded, *"it's true, you all know it ... it's true!"*

"Please," he said to priests, *"be brief ... no more than 10 minutes, please!"*

WELCOME TO FR JOHN

This weekend, we welcome Fr John Fitzgerald to the Koroit and Port Fairy parish Masses. He and Fr John Corrigan will swap weekend Masses from time to time so that as Canonical Administrator, he is familiar with our communities.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS



Boxes in the back of the Koroit and Port Fairy churches collect used postage stamps all year round. These are forwarded to the Mary MacKillop International Initiative. In 2019, used stamps raised \$65,000, which will be spent by Josephite sisters on mission. Thank you, and God bless you, for your ongoing support of this program.



SUMMER SCHOOL IN BACCHUS MARSH, 12th–19th JANUARY

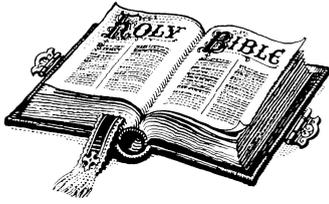
For ages 16–35. A powerful week of encountering God: great speakers, uplifting worship, beautiful liturgies, and vibrant community. The Diocese is offering financial assistance. Fr John has details. Visit www.summerschool.org.au or www.facebook.com/ssemelbourne/ or text 0467 092 091. From an email a participant sent Fr John:

"This week changed my whole life last year so I am trying my hardest to encourage any young people to come along. Even if not overly strong in their faith, the school is so much fun and a great way to make new friends!"

TOUR OF HOLY LAND

28th May – 10th June 2020

Join Fr John Fitzgerald on a two week pilgrimage to Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and other holy places. It will transform your appreciation of the Gospels. Pilgrims also attend the world-renowned Oberammergau Passion Play. E-mail: info@harvestjourneys.com



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION by Fr Francis Fernandez

HOPE ALWAYS

Advent calls us to live closely with Our Lady during this time when she is carrying Jesus in her womb. We can think of the whole of our life as a somewhat longer advent, a time of waiting for that definitive moment when we will at last find ourselves with God forever. The Christian knows that he has to live this advent beside Our Lady every day of his life if he wants to be certain of attaining the only thing in the whole of his existence that is really important – finding Christ in this life, and afterwards being with him in eternity.

There is no better way of preparing for Christmas, which is now so close, than by keeping Mary company, getting to know her and

deepening our love and trust in her. Mary imparts a great joy to our souls, because when we turn to her she leads us to Christ.

Mary teaches us to hope. *'All generations will call me blessed!'* she prophesied. Humanly speaking, how could she hope for such a thing? Who was she, in the eyes of her contemporaries? The great heroines of the Old Testament – Judith, Esther, Deborah – won a measure of human renown even here on earth. Mary's throne, by contrast, like that of her Son, is the Cross.

What a contrast between Our Lady's hope and our own impatience! We call so often upon God to reward us at once for any little good we may have done. No sooner does the very first difficulty appear than we begin to complain. Often we find ourselves incapable of sustaining our efforts, of keeping our hope alive. Why? Because we lack faith.

The ones who become discouraged are not those who undergo difficulties and feel pain. It is those, rather, who do not aspire to sanctity and eternal life, those who despair of ever reaching them, who buckle and give up. It is shaped by a lack of faith, by comfort seeking, lukewarmness and an excessive attachment to earthly goods, which they consider to be the only good things worth having. Discouragement, if it is not remedied, paralyses any

effort to do good and overcome difficulties. Sometimes discouragement over one's failure to advance in sanctity comes about through lack of will power, through fear of the effort required, and of having to give up comforts. Not even apparent failures in our spiritual life should be cause for dismay. Whoever does things for love of God and for His Glory never fails. In this context, St Josemaría counsels: *"Convince yourself of this truth: your success – this time, in this matter – was to fail. Give thanks to our Lord ... and try again! You haven't failed; you have gained experience. On you go!"*

In a few days' time we shall see Jesus in the Crib. The sight is proof of God's mercy and love. We can say: *On this Christmas night everything inside me stops. I am face to face with Him; there is nothing but this Child in the whole of that huge white expanse. He does not say anything, but He is there ... He is God loving me. And if God becomes man and loves me, how can I refuse to seek Him? How can I give up hope of finding Him, if He is searching for me?*

Let us rid ourselves of any hint of discouragement. Neither external difficulties nor our personal failings can do anything to quell the joy of the Christmas which is approaching.

KOROIT: 24th December, 6:30pm

Intercessions: Margaret Cashill.

Lectors: Gerard Auld, Fran Biber.

Communion: Betty Bishop, Jenny Auld, Christine Russell.

Gifts: Mary Kelly.

PORT FAIRY: 24th December, 6:30pm

Welcome and Intercessions: David Ryan.

Lector: Martina Murrehy.

Communion: Marj Murrehy, John Hoy, Sue Paulka, Teresa Wales.

Gifts: Murrehy family.

PORT FAIRY: 25th December, 9:00am

Welcome and Intercessions: Graeme Munro.

Lector: Trish Blythe.

Communion: Sr Maureen Stone, Peter Sanderson, Henk Winnen.

Gifts: Helen and Brian Moloney.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Feast of the Holy Family

First Reading. *Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14.*

He who fears the Lord respects his parents.

Second Reading. *Colossians 3:12-21.*

Family life in the Lord.

Gospel. *Matthew 2:13-15,19-23.*

The flight into Egypt and the return to Nazareth.

SUNDAY MASSES

1st Sunday of the month

Koroit (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Port Fairy: 10.30am Sun

2nd Sunday of the month

Port Fairy (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Koroit: 10.30am Sun

3rd Sunday of the month

Koroit (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Port Fairy: 10.30am Sun

4th Sunday of the month

Port Fairy (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Koroit: 10.30am Sun

5th Sunday of the month

Koroit (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Port Fairy: 10.30am Sun

RECONCILIATION

5pm–6:15pm, Saturday

at the place of the Vigil Mass.

After 10am Wednesday Mass

Infant Jesus, Koroit

After 10am Thursday Mass

St Patrick's, Port Fairy

NEARBY PARISHES:

After 9:30am Friday Mass

Our Lady's, East Warrnambool

After 10am Friday Mass

St Joseph's, Warrnambool

After 10am Saturday Mass

St Pius X, West Warrnambool

CANONICAL ADMINISTRATOR: Fr John Fitzgerald, john.fitzgerald@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 5562 2231. Warrnambool office hours: 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr John Corrigan, john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0422 342 499. For urgent matters, please don't hesitate to call any time.

PARISH SECRETARY: Louise Dryburgh, portfairy@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0408 681 223. Port Fairy office hours: **OFFICE REOPENS 13th JANUARY 2020.**

Parish office: St Patrick's Church, Princes Highway, Port Fairy.

Parish postal address: PO Box 8, PORT FAIRY VIC 3284.