



PRAY FOR FR JAMES BAPTIST

You might remember a young deacon who visited the parish in 2019? This weekend he was ordained a priest. He writes:

"You did not choose me, but I chose you..." (Jn 15:16) I truly believe that Our Lord has called each one of us to do something remarkable for Him with our lives.

My name is James Baptist. I was born and bred in Melbourne, growing up in Bentleigh along with my greatest ally: my big sister! From a young age I was able to witness true faith in action by the great examples of my wonderful Mum, and my Nana and Papa. I loved attending Mass, altar serving for my Irish parish priest and learning about my Catholic faith, although I never considered the priesthood at that time. However, there were a few sign posts along the way, such as some holy nuns saying that they were praying for me to be a priest! My own beloved Papa also thought that I 'might have a vocation' from a young age, although he never mentioned it to me until after I had felt the call myself, so as to allow it to come from God alone.

This call would not become clear until the time of World Youth Day in Sydney, 2008. I was blessed to attend and was inspired by witnessing the universal Church, as well as the amazing priests and seminarians who were present, many of whom are now good friends. From that point onward I have never doubted God's call, which grew stronger as I prayed and spent time asking Him to show me His Divine Will. The words Pope St John Paul II addressed to young people come to mind: *"Remember: Christ is calling you; the Church needs you; the Pope believes in you and he expects great things of you!"* Please continue to pray for holy vocations, especially to the priesthood, that Our Lord will raise up saints and superheroes of His Church.

WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

Thursday: 10am Mass, Port Fairy

Friday: 2pm Anointing Mass, Koroit

CHRISTMAS MASSES

When and how Christmas Masses are offered will be decided later this week, depending on what Premier Andrews advises in his next press conference.

SUNDAY MASS IN 2021

A provisional schedule will be prepared in the next few weeks, and reviewed early next year. Hopefully we will be able to gather in numbers which facilitate a public dialogue! Infant Jesus and St Patrick's Churches are each guaranteed a Mass every weekend.

PUBLICATIONS

A number of free Catholic publications are available for collection at the church entrance:

- Catholic Mission diaries
- *Our Diocesan Community* (August!)
- *Australian Catholics* (Summer)

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year. To donate please collect an envelope from the Christmas tree at the church entrance, and place your donation in the basket underneath.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading. *Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11.*

He has sent me to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

Second Reading. *1 Thess 5:16-24*

May you all be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel. *John 1:6-8,19-28.*

"There stands among you the one coming after me."



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit

www.moynecatholic.org.au



Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November, 2020

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Fr John: Our lives are constantly filled with the ups and downs, the mountains and valleys, of everyday living that challenge us to keep focused on the God who comes to save us. We now recognise God's presence amongst us here and light our Advent candle which reminds us of the joy and expectation of the season.

An appointed person now lights two of the violet candles on the wreath.

All: O God, who sent St John the Baptist to proclaim a baptism of repentance, let these two candles prepare the way for the Lord within us. Forgive our sins and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Make us ready to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 40:1-5,9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it

'Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding

them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL

Ps 84(85):9-14

R/. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

R/. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

R/. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

R/. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

We are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4,6

V/. Alleluia! R/. Alleluia!

V/. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

R/. Alleluia

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of

Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We pray for **Bryan Mair** and **Kate Kelly** who died recently, and **Fay McAlinden** and **Chrissy**

Freckleton whose anniversaries occur at this time. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



SUNDAY MASS IN DECEMBER

Because Fr Michael Linehan retires in January, and the region's Mass schedule will need be revised then, in December we're hitting 'the pause button' on the alternating weekend schedule.

Sunday Mass times will be fixed throughout December:

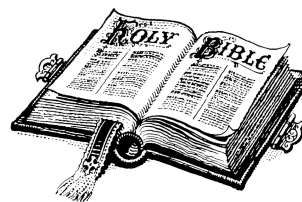
Infant Jesus, 6:30pm Saturday

St Patrick's, 10:30am Sunday

COVID-SAFE PROTOCOLS

A COVIDSafe Plan is in place to keep us safe:

- Everyone in attendance is obliged to record their first name and a phone number, to facilitate contact tracing.
- Masks are worn throughout Mass.
- Fonts are empty of holy water.
- We won't 'pass the plate,' so please leave offerings in baskets at the doors.
- No sign of peace.
- No communion from the chalice.
- Singing is not recommended.
- Every second pew is roped off to maintain the 1.5m social distancing rule. (Families from one household may still sit together.)



Reflection on today's Readings

by Fr Francis Fernandez

OUR ROLE AS WITNESSES AND PRECURSORS TO JESUS CHRIST

Like St John the Baptist, you and I have received the honourable duty of making our faith in Christ known by our words and our deeds. What sort of witnesses are we? What is our Christian testimony like amongst our colleagues and our families? Is it forceful enough to convince those who do not yet believe in Jesus? Those who do not love Him? Those who have mistaken ideas about Him? Is our life a proof, or does it at least point to the *likelihood* of the truth of Christianity? These questions could help us to live this Advent, so that it is filled with apostolic meaning.

We know Christ and His Church, we have the sacraments. The doctrine of salvation has been perfectly marked out for us ... We know that the world needs Christ to reign, we know that the happiness and salvation of humankind depends on Him. We have Christ Himself; the same Christ whom John the Baptist knew and announced.

In the words of St Josemaría: *We have to bear witness and at the same time we must show others the way. Our responsibility is great, because to be Christ's witnesses implies first and foremost that we should try to live our lives according to his doctrine, that we should struggle to make our actions remind others of Jesus and his most lovable personality. We have to act in such a way that others will be able to say, when they meet us: "This person is a Christian, because they do not hate, because they are willing to understand, because they are not a*

fanatic, because they are willing to make sacrifices, because they shows that they're a person of peace. In short, because they know how to love." (St Josemaría Escrivá, *Christ is passing by*, 122.)

Perhaps, in many cases, today's world does not await anything at all. Or it waits facing in a direction from which nobody will come. Many people have thrown themselves heart and soul into possessing material things as if these were their last end. But their hearts will never be satisfied with these things. We have to show the way to such people and to everyone.

You know, says St Augustine, what each one of you must do in your own home, with your friend, your neighbour, your superior, your subordinate. You also know the way in which God provides the opportunity, and the way He opens the door with his word. Do not be content, then, to live at peace with yourselves until you have won your acquaintances for Christ, for you have been won for Christ. (St Augustine, *Treatise on St John's Gospel*, 10,9.)

Our family, friends, workmates, those people we come in contact with frequently, should be the first to benefit from our love for God. With our example and our prayer we should reach even people we do not have the chance to talk to.

Our great joy will be that of having brought to Jesus, as John the Baptist did, many who were far away or indifferent. We should never forget that it is God's grace, and not our human strength, that can move souls towards Jesus. As nobody can give what he does not have, the effort to grow in our interior life becomes more urgent, so that all those we meet and pass on the road can be infected by our superabundant love for God.

Mary, our mother and Queen of Apostles will increase our longing and our effort to bring souls to her Son in the certainty that no effort is in vain in the sight of God.