



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

www.moyneatholic.org.au



Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December, 2020

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Fr Michael: When God commissioned Isaiah to proclaim a year from favour from the Lord, the ancient prophet prefigured our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr Michael now lights the rose candle.

All: Loving God, we light this rose candle in the joy of the Lord. Help us to prepare the way of Jesus our Saviour, who is anointed to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken, and to proclaim liberty to captives. Give us the means to continue his saving work, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 61:1-2,10-11

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

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

RESPONSORIAL

Lk 1:46-50,53-54

R/. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R/. My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

R/. My soul rejoices in my God.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

R/. My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING

1 Thess 5:16-24

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

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

V/. Alleluia!

R/. Alleluia!

V/. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

R/. Alleluia

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8,19-28

*‘There stands among you
the one coming after me’*

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

‘Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

WELCOME TO FR MICHAEL LINEHAN

Fr Michael and Fr John Corrigan have swapped this weekend, so that Fr John can meet the people of St Pius X Parish.

An official farewell for Fr Michael is arranged for Sunday 27 December. Refreshments will be served after 10am Mass at St Pius’ in West Warrnambool. If you would like to share in the occasion, please call or text Karen Johnson on 0447 838 747.

PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We pray for **Michael Lenehan** and **Maureen O’Keeffe** who died recently, and **Ray Sharp** and **Bill Dunne** (Snr) whose anniversaries occur at this time. Rest in peace.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve: 5:30pm, Port Fairy

7:30pm, Koroit

Christmas Day: Port Fairy

WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

Tuesday: 10am, Port Fairy

Wednesday: 10am, Koroit

Thursday: Fr John is at Mercy Place

Friday: 10am, Koroit
(Memorial, Mavis Finnigan)

SUNDAY MASSES IN DECEMBER

Saturday Vigil: 6:30pm, Koroit

Sunday morning: 10:30am, Port Fairy

COVID-SAFE PROTOCOLS

As long as we maintain social distancing, we no longer need masks. We can double our capacity if everyone registers via QR code. Last week, a small number used their smartphone cameras, but most used pen and paper. Both options will be available for Sundays, but at Christmas provisions will be made so that everyone registers digitally, and we can maximise our numbers.

- Everyone in attendance is obliged to record their first name and a phone number, to facilitate contact tracing.
- 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 still 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

THE CHRISTIAN MISSION: BRINGING HAPPINESS TO OTHERS

Happiness is essential to the Christian. Ours, however, is not just any sort of happiness. It is the happiness of Christ, which brings justice and peace. Only he can give supernatural joy and preserve it, because the world does not possess its secret.

The world's happiness is a poor and transitory thing. The Christian's happiness is profound and can exist in the midst of difficulties. It is compatible with pain, with illness, with failures and contradictions. Our Lord has promised: *Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.* [Jn 16:22] Unless we separate ourselves from its source, nothing can take away this joyful peace.

Now each one must be careful how he does the building. For nobody can lay down any other foundation than the one which is there already, namely Jesus Christ. [1 Cor 3:10-11] Only he can be the support of our whole life. There is no sorrow which he cannot alleviate: *Do not be afraid, only have faith,* he says to us. [Lk 8:50] He knows everything which is going to happen in our lives, including those things that will result from our own stupidity and sinfulness. But he has the remedy.

Remembering that God is our Father and wants all that is best for us gives us a serene and joyful confidence even in hardship. How many obstacles vanish, when in our hearts we place ourselves next to this God of ours, who never abandons us! 'What's the matter?' Jesus asks us. And we look at him, and at once nothing at all is the matter. At his side we find our peace and joy again.

Very often, as we do at Sunday Mass, we shall have to come to him in the Tabernacle and have a conversation with him which is both

serious and intimate. And we shall need to lay bare our soul in Confession, and in personal spiritual direction. There we shall find the source of happiness; and our gratitude will show itself in greater faith, in an ever increasing hope which banishes all sadness, and in our care for other people. *Only a little while now, a very little while, for he will certainly come before too long,* [Heb 10:37] and with him comes peace and joy. With Jesus we find meaning in our life.

In order to reach God and to grow in virtue we must have joy. Moreover, if we fulfil our duties joyfully we will be able to give a great deal of help to those around us, for this is a happiness that draws many to God. St Paul instructs the first Christians: *Carry each other's burdens; that is how to keep the law of Christ.* [Gal 6:2] And we can often make life more pleasant for other people in little ways which have no apparent importance in themselves, but which show that we consider others and appreciate them: a smile, a friendly remark, a word of praise, not making a great fuss over unimportant things that are better forgotten. In these ways we can help to make life easier for the people around us. An important part of our Christian mission is to bring happiness to a world which is sad at heart because it is drifting away from God.

Let us prepare for Christmas by encouraging an atmosphere of Christian peace where we live and work, and by doing all we can in small ways to bring pleasure and affection to those around us. Let us try, as well, to stay close to Our Lady. Mary was the first to notice the shortage of wine at the wedding feast of Cana. Her attention to detail enabled her to render acts of service to her neighbours. Sometimes we too can make a material difference to others; on other occasions all we can offer is our optimism and good cheer. It is not difficult to imagine Our Lady, in these days of Advent, radiant with joy at carrying the Son of God beneath her heart. After a long journey, she arrived in Bethlehem tired from a long journey and unable to find a place fit for the birth of her Son. But these problems did not cause her to lose her joy when God became Man, and dwelt amongst us.



POPE DECLARES YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Last Tuesday 8th December was not only the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, but also the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, Pope Francis published an Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”) and proclaimed a Year of St Joseph.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of ordinary people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble St Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Pope Francis describes St Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The pope has encouraged us to consecrate our families to St Joseph in the new year, and to “ask St Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion.”

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

SUNDAY MASSES 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! Koroit and Port Fairy are each guaranteed a Mass every weekend.

ST ANNE’S, PURNIM

On Wednesday, Fr John Fitzgerald met with members of the Purnim Catholic Community. There is a lot of energy and enthusiasm for continuing with fortnightly Mass, alternating with a lay-led Liturgy of the Word with Communion. Fr Lawrence O’Toole will be the celebrant for the fortnightly Masses.

“OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS”

Sharon Easley, staff member, Dennington local and history enthusiast, has written *Our First 100 Years*, a beautiful book documenting St John’s Primary School, Dennington. It is now available to buy at Collins Booksellers.

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading. *2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16.*

Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me.

Second Reading. *Rom 16:25-27.*

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages.

Gospel. *Luke 1:26-38.*

‘I am the handmaid of the Lord.’