

ST MARY'S PARISH, ROBINVALE

Incorporating St Patrick's Manangatang

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B 12TH & 13TH DECEMBER 2020



Parish News:

Last Saturday Father Anthony and visitor, Cay, set up the nativity scene in our church for us. Thank you to Antonio Liparota for his generous donation of hay to make the crib look more realistic.

Parishioners seem to be getting back into the routine of 6pm Saturday Mass.

It's nice to be able to come along without having to book a seat! However, things are mandated to change ONLY for Christmas Mass. Information is included with this newsletter. Father will also talk about it on Saturday evening.

Please pass the message on to any of your friends as well.

Please be aware that the Parish Office has an answering service. If you leave a message it will always be answered within 24 hours.

As we approach the 3rd Sunday of Advent let us try to be 'shining lights' in our family, in our workplace and in our community.

Reconciliation:

Wednesday, 23rd December, 6pm. Two visiting priests are available for confessions.



RECONCILIATION

Can You Help?

Now we are nearly back at full capacity, we need people to put their names down on the roster for Commentators, Readers, Special Ministers and Cleaning. Cleaning is an extra activity that we now have to undertake due to COVID-19. As they say, many hands make light work so we would appreciate as many as possible to help. Please put your name, phone number on the list in the Narthex. We will contact you when the rosters are prepared.

Parish Finances: Many thanks for your continuing support of our Presbytery and Parish during these unprecedented times. Parishioners wishing to contribute to the Presbytery/Parish finances, please deposit to the Parish account - Westpac: BSB: 033250 Account number: 870747.

St Mary's Parish has joined with CDF (Catholic Development Fund-Ballararat) and **CDF Pay** where you can electronically make a one off payment or set up a regular payment. You receive an electronic receipt for any payments made.

The link for St Mary's Parish, Robinvale is <https://bit.ly/CDFpayRobinvale>

Parish Planned Giving: Thank you to the parishioners who support the work of the Church through their financial contribution. New envelopes, along with receipts are available from the Parish Office. Please contact Parish Office/Pat Curran 0427 269 211 or email robinvale@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Robinvale and Manangatang Catholic Communities are committed to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable people in our care. Child Safety Officers: Arthur Cassidy (Robinvale) 0437 576 730 and Noreen Morris (Manangatang)

Please remember these people in our prayers



Recent Deaths:

Valeliano 'Ahovelo (Leo)

Anniversaries:

Antonio Giardina; Sebastiano Montalto; Michael Ryan; Pamela Pisasale; Sr Ula Dempster; Carmela Pupillo

Sick:

Sam Giampaolo; Therese Cummins; Rosa Santos; Kristin Sparto; Debbie Nolen; Basilio Alcodia;); Jeremy Dickson; Carmela Garreffa; Sister Basil; Peter MacIntosh; Gai Thi Tran

Parish Office

Ph. 50263068
19 Watkin St

Parish Administrator
Fr Anthony Nagothu

Parish Contact

Mary Knight
0438627920
robinvale@ballarat.catholic.org.au

FINANCES

Presbytery: \$

Parish: \$



MANANGATANG MINISTRIES		
Date	13-12-2020	20-12-2020
Readers	Lisa Zanker	Thomas Sebi
Prayer of the Faithful	Gerard Mackay	Brain Barry
Offertory	Anne Arentz	Noreen Morris

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Manangatang:

Thursday 24th December @ 5pm

Robinvale:

Thursday 24th December @ 8pm

Friday 25th December @ 11am



St Mary's Church -

Cleaning & Lawns

December

Molluso Families

Natale Families

Scarcella Families

Iudica Families



First Reading

Is 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in 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.’

**This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

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.

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.

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.

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading

Thes 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Light the Advent candle, three:
Think of heavenly harmony;
angels singing ""Peace on earth""
at the blessed Savior's birth.



Hello Everyone,

As you may have seen, the Victorian government has announced a further easing of COVID restrictions. From midnight tonight, Sunday December 6, Victoria will move to “COVIDSafe Summer Restrictions”.

There will be no overall limit on the number of people who can attend religious gatherings and ceremonies (including weddings and funerals). The **number of people** will depend on the **size of the church**

We will still need to **keep a record of the first name and contact phone number** of each person who attends.

If we keep the record **manually** (using pen and paper), the density quotient will remain at **1 person per 4 square metres**. If we keep the record **electronically**, using a QR (Quick Response) code, the density quotient can be **1 person per 2 square metres**.

Using a QR code requires people to scan the code using their smart phone camera. The QR code takes the person to a website where they enter their details. You can find information about the Victorian Government QR Code Service at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qrcode

I expect that most of our communities will continue recording first name and phone number using pen and paper. For those communities, the density quotient will remain at 1 person per 4 square metres. In this case, to calculate the number of people who can gather in a particular area, you measure the floor space and divide by 4. For example, if a church is 30 metres long x 10 metres wide, the area is 300 square metres. So you could have 75 people gather in that church.

From midnight tonight, **wearing a mask** will no longer be mandatory in places of worship.

However, wearing a mask is **recommended** when you cannot keep 1.5 metres distance from other people.

Thank you all for your patience through these months of restrictions. Special thanks to those who have been serving our communities in extra ways, such as in keeping records and doing the extra cleaning of our churches.

May the easing of restrictions mean that we can worship together more freely while still keeping safe.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

Paul Bird CSsR

Gospel Reflection

Witness to the Light

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

COVID SAFE PLAN:

St Mary's Robinvale & St Patrick Manangatang



- ◆ 1.5m social distancing at one time.
- ◆ Please wear mask.
- ◆ Record your details in the book.
- ◆ Sanitise your hands and sanitise your contact surface.
- ◆ Please avoid interactions in the indoor space before or after the service.
- ◆ If you are sick or unwell, do not attend, get tested & please contact Parish Office or Mary Knight 0438 627 920