

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830 Anne Beer: 0417 369 322

SUNDAY – 12th December, 2021 3rd Sunday Advent – Year C

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Keep up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 restrictions on the government website

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>.

Updates are also available from the diocesan website.

RECENT DEATHS:

We pray for the recently deceased.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Catherine Collins, Gerald Collins, Fr John Martin, John Jess, Dawn Scrivener, Ian Morrish, Maureen Wilcox, Francis Cullinan, Ivy Crebbin, Merrin Fleay, Tony Hare & Alex Reichman.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Readings

Today: Bernadette Franc

Dec 19: Anne Beer

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Charlie Franc

Dec 19: Sue Mahony

Assembly Leader

Dec 19: Angela Gerrard & Genevieve

Johnston

Special Minister

Dec 19: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

Dec 19: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

Dec 12: Briody Family

Dec 19 & 24: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Help might be required on Christmas

Eve or before to put up some decorations.

Dec 26: Sue Mahony & Angela Gerrard

Church Grounds December: Briody family

Newsletter

December – Bernadette Franc 0427678830

MASS TIMES – for next weeks

December 19th: LLA 10.00 AM

Mass on Christmas Eve Dec 24 at 9 pm

December 26th: MASS 8.30 AM

Feast of the Holy Family

Thanks to all those who helped place our Nativity Scene last Sunday.

Advent: Why we do the things we do...

The Church calendar begins with the Advent season, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This period is a time of preparation, not just for Christmas gifts and luncheons and holidays, but for the great feast of God's coming into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ. How privileged we are to live in this age of salvation! For centuries before Jesus' birth, the Jewish people waited faithfully for the coming of the Messiah as promised in the scriptures. We find ourselves in a similar position as we look forward to the second coming of Christ at the end of time. Although we do not know the hour or the day, each Advent we renew our faith in this great promise.

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Returns

26th Festival of Fine Music 7th – 9th January 2022 for information and bookings: www.ballaratorgans.com.au

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

This Christmas donate to Vinnies. Your gift can change a life. There are families who are experiencing poverty and homelessness this Christmas and your help can provide them with much needed essentials like food, clothing and a place to call home. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-kindness>

Our Diocesan Community – Issue 3 2021

The final edition of ODC 2021 is available for collection. Please feel free to take copies to the homebound, Nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

12 DECEMBER 2021

PREPARE WELL

All of us have been involved at one time or another with preparing to meet a special guest. It is often a time of mixed emotions as excitement and joy vie with some measure of anxiety about the quality of our preparations.

As Paul's Christians at Philippi waited for the return of the Lord, he knew that it could be for many a time of anxiety; would they find acceptance on his return? Would they find a place in his kingdom? It was a time of trepidation because it was feared that he would return unexpectedly, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2), and find them unprepared. In the face of such anxiety, Paul encourages them to put their trust in the Lord who loves them. Even now they are called to experience the Lord's peace and joy as they wait for his return. Especially, they are called to pray with confidence and trust.

John the Baptist knew that the Messiah was soon to be among us, and we see how he calls those who listen to his message to prepare by taking a hard look at themselves and how they live. In order to be ready when the Messiah comes he calls for a concern for others that expresses itself in generosity, fairness, and compassion.

As we prepare for the Lord's coming among us, today's readings call us to make ready with the confidence of Zephaniah, the peacefulness of Paul, and the justice and compassion of John the Baptist.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Zeph 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for
among you is the great and Holy One of
Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust,
I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength,
my song, / he became my saviour. / With
joy you will draw water / from the wells of
salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to
his name! / Make his mighty deeds known
to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his
name. **R.**



3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done
glorious deeds, / make them known to all the
earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for
joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the
Lord is very near. There is no need to worry;
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,
and that peace of God, which is so much greater
than we can understand, will guard your hearts
and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.