

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508  
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Email:

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

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

**SUNDAY – 11th December 2022**  
**Second Sunday of Advent - Year A**

### RECENT DEATHS:

Molly Bruty (Carmel Milenkovic's Mother)

### ANNIVERSARIES:

John Sail, Natalie Gillingham, Catherine Collins,  
Gerald Collins, Fr John Martin, John Jess, Dawn Scrivener,  
Ian Morrish, Maureen Wilcox, Francis Cullinan, Ivy Crebbin,  
Tracey Wozniak (Naylor), Merrin Fleay, Tony Hare.

### PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

### ROSTER:

#### **Introduction & Reading**

Today: John Jess

Dec 18th: Sue Mahony

#### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Today: Genevieve Johnston

Dec 18th: Bernadette Franc

#### **Assembly Leader**

Dec 18th: Gerrard Family

#### **Special Minister**

Dec 18th: Therese Jess

#### **Music**

Dec 18th: Carita Clancy

#### **Church Cleaning, Linen Flowers**

Dec 11th – 18th: Briody Family

Dec 24th – 1st Jan: Bernadette Franc & Therese Jess

#### **Church Grounds**

Dec 11th - 18th: Briody Family

Dec 24th – 1st Jan: Bill Franc & John Jess

#### **Newsletter**

December: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

### MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK

**December 18th**

**10.00am LLA**

**Christmas Eve Mass at 9.00pm**

**Columban Calendars**

Available now from Sue Mahony for \$8

### **St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal**

Phone 13 18 12 or

visit <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>

### **Christmas Box**

Donate for a special Christmas Gift for a local family Box at the front of the church. Today is the last chance. Goods will be donated to the Primary School this week. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Our Diocesan Community – Issue 3, 2022**

Please take a copy from the Church foyer

### **2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

Expressions of interest are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11th - 24th 2023 - Jordan, Petra, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, Qumran. Fully escorted, all-inclusive pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll, arranged by Lifestyle Travel Ballarat Contact Fr Justin for further information (Daylesford 0448 220 685) or [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au)

### **Advent Appeal for Ukraine**

A special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine. Collections today and next Sunday For evacuation of people from frontline territories, food packages for people in need or shelters for the displaced. Find out more at [www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)

### **Mass of the Oils 2023**

April 3, 2023, 6.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat

### **A Prayer of Joy for the Third Week of Advent**

O Lord, as we enter this season of Advent, this time of waiting and anticipation, fill me with the hope of Christ. Help me to wait in great expectation for your great light to shine in this world, for all who are living in darkness to see the dawning of your light. This world can be so dark, so troubling, so full of despair, yet you are light and love. May your light fill all the darkest corners of this world. and all the darkest corners of my own heart. May your love conquer all despair and hate, leading us all to a better life in you. This is the hope of Christmas that the birth of a baby - Jesus Christ, your Son - will change the world, and will work a change in my own life. Lord, I pray to be filled with this hope that light will triumph over darkness, love will conquer evil, and Jesus will save us all. This I pray through your Son Jesus Christ, Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

11 DECEMBER 2022

## ARE YOU THE ONE?

One can only begin to imagine the excitement, questioning and discussion that must have accompanied the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Reports were flying thick and fast about the carpenter-turned-preacher from Nazareth, whose preaching was accompanied by miraculous healings, and disconcerting sayings. Was it true that Isaiah's prophecy about the eyes of the blind being opened, and the deaf once again being able to hear was being fulfilled?

John the Baptist had spoken with courage about the messiah that was coming and this led to his imprisonment. He had preached that the coming messiah would be a figure of purification and judgement upon Israel. Could it be that Jesus was the promised one? John could not reconcile Jesus' message and ministry with the message for which he had risked his life. Jesus' response to John's question is simple – you must make your judgement based on what you see. If Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled, then there is no need to look any further.

A challenge for James' community was that they recognised Jesus was indeed the saviour, but how were they to manage until his return at the end of time? Their impatience for the Lord's return was leading them into the trap of being fractious with each other. James provides both them and us with the timely reminder that patience with the Lord and each other is a better way to prepare to greet the Lord on his return.

## FIRST READING

Isa 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy in their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

**R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /  
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is  
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,  
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /  
who raises up those who are bowed down, /  
the Lord, who protects the stranger / and  
upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**



3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but  
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord  
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to  
age. **R.**

## SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the  
Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.  
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for  
the precious fruit of the ground until it has had  
the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too  
have to be patient; do not lose heart, because  
the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make  
complaints against one another, brothers, so as  
not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the  
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.  
For your example, brothers, in submitting with  
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the  
name of the Lord.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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