



# St. Paul VI Parish Wimmera-Mallee

Beulah - Dimboola - Hopetoun - Horsham - Kaniva - Minyip - Murtoa - Natimuk  
- Nhill - Rainbow - Rupanyup - Warracknabeal

## BULLETIN

**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C**  
**22nd of December 2024**

### LAST CHANCE TO COLLECT ENVELOPES

Thank you to everyone who has already collected their planned giving envelopes. This coming week will be the last opportunity to collect if you haven't done so.

We will be phoning all uncollected envelope holders the following week to advise options.

### CONTACTS

#### Parish Priest

*Mons. Glynn Murphy*  
Ph: 0419 683 773

#### Assistant Priest

*Fr Sajan Mathew*  
Ph: 0416 194 825

#### Parish Office

**CLOSED MONDAYS**

Office Hours: **TUES - FRI**  
9am-12.30pm - 1.30pm-4.00pm  
*Closed between 12.30pm -1.30pm*

Ph: (03) 5382 1155

#### **CHRISTMAS** **OPENING HOURS**

Tuesday 24th - Open  
Wednesday 25th - **CLOSED**  
Thursday 26th - **CLOSED**  
Friday 27th - **CLOSED**

#### Email

[wimmeramallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wimmeramallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

#### Address

10 Roberts Avenue, Horsham.

#### Mailing

PO Box 212, Horsham, VIC.  
3400

#### Website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/wimmera-mallee/>

### Mass Livestreaming

Vigil Mass will be livestreamed from the Horsham Church at 6.30pm Saturday Night and will be available to watch 'live', or for replay viewing at a time convenient.  
*(Recordings are deleted weekly, and will be available until Friday each week)*

#### YouTube Channel Link:

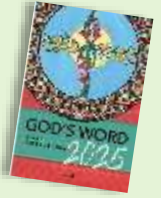
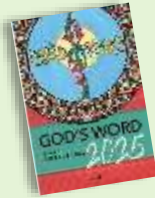
<https://www.youtube.com/@smjchurchhorsham/streams>

### St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

The society of St. Vincent de Paul is now conducting its annual Christmas Appeal. Previously there has been a strong response from our Parish Community and we hope that can continue.

### Publications Available for Purchase

Delivery of **God's Word 2025** has arrived.  
Please contact the office to secure your copy.  
**\$20 each**



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Priests will have copies with them when travelling  
*(Cash only)*


We welcome family members home for Christmas, and a warm welcome to all visitors.



We pray for a safe and blessed holiday and travels for those going away.



### WEEKDAY MASSES

|                                                                                     |         |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
|  | 5.30pm  | Vigil Mass - Murtoa                 |
|                                                                                     | 5.30pm  | Vigil Mass - Hopetoun               |
|                                                                                     | 7pm     | Carols - Horsham (Livestreamed)     |
|                                                                                     | 7.30pm  | Vigil Mass - Horsham (Livestreamed) |
| Tuesday 24th December<br><i>(Christmas Eve)</i>                                     | 8pm     | Vigil Mass - Nhill                  |
|                                                                                     | 9am     | Christmas Mass - Warracknabeal      |
| Wednesday 25th December<br><i>(Christmas Day)</i>                                   | 9am     | Christmas Mass - Horsham            |
|                                                                                     | NO MASS | Warracknabeal                       |
| Thursday 26th December                                                              | 9.30am  | Horsham                             |
|                                                                                     | 9.30am  | Warracknabeal                       |
| Friday 27th December                                                                | 9.00am  | Horsham                             |
|                                                                                     | 10.30am | Sunnyside Lutheran Mass             |
| Saturday 28th December                                                              | 9.30am  | Warracknabeal                       |
|                                                                                     | 9.30am  | Horsham                             |

### Funeral Mass for

*Peter Allan Ewing*

*St Joseph's Catholic Church, Dimboola*  
**Saturday 21st December at 11am**



| <b><u>HORSHAM MINISTRY ROSTER</u></b>                      |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | <b><u>WARRACKNABEAL LITURGY ROSTER</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                         |                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b><u>21st &amp; 22nd December</u></b>                     | <b><u>6.30pm Vigil</u></b>                                                                        | <b><u>10.30am Sunday</u></b>                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><u>22nd December Mass 8.30am</u></b> | <b><u>29th December Mass 8.30am</u></b> |
| <b>Reader</b>                                              | Sr Jacinta                                                                                        | Anna Robertson                                                                                             | <b>Reader</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | M. Walder                               | M. Farrall                              |
| <b>Commentator</b>                                         | Garry Heinrich                                                                                    | Louise Kemp                                                                                                | <b>Prayers</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | F. Casey                                | A. Van den Akker                        |
| <b>Eucharist Ministers</b>                                 | Anne Newton<br>Bernadette Trounce<br>Maree Plazzer                                                | Faye Wills<br>Rosie Taylor<br>Bob Pritchett                                                                | <b>Collectors</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | L. Casey                                | B. Bentley<br>L. Downes                 |
| <b><u>28th &amp; 29th December</u></b>                     | <b><u>6.30pm Vigil</u></b>                                                                        | <b><u>10.30am Sunday</u></b>                                                                               | <b>Cleaning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Working Bee                             | Working Bee                             |
| <b>Reader</b>                                              | Kevin Dunn                                                                                        | May Rosello                                                                                                | <b><u>NHILL LITURGY ROSTER</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                         |                                         |
| <b>Commentator</b>                                         | Micky Robarts                                                                                     | Dianne Noy                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><u>22nd December Mass 11am</u></b>   | <b><u>29th December Mass 11am</u></b>   |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                               | John Parker<br>Bob Hayes<br>Lesley Price                                                          | Simon Lynch<br>Anna Robertson<br>Timothy Lannen                                                            | <b>Sacristan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | J. Gurry                                | C. Kennedy                              |
| <b>Projector</b>                                           | Geoff Simpson                                                                                     | Gabby Mills                                                                                                | <b>Reader</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | J. Gurry                                | M. Millington                           |
| <b>Musicians</b>                                           | Chris Robarts                                                                                     | Choir                                                                                                      | <b>Collector</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | J. Kennedy                              | J. Millington                           |
| <b>Livestream</b>                                          | Robert Sartori                                                                                    | N/A                                                                                                        | <b>Music</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Paul Ramas                              | Paul Ramas                              |
| <b>Welcomers</b>                                           | Garry & Betty Heinrich                                                                            | Alistair Castle                                                                                            | <b>Cleaning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | C. Kennedy<br>J. Gurry                  | C. Kennedy<br>J. Gurry                  |
| <b>Tea/Coffee After Mass</b>                               | N/A                                                                                               | Jisha Luke<br>Nimmy, Chrisna, Preeni                                                                       | <b><u>HOPETOUN LITURGY ROSTER</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                         |                                         |
| <b>Prayers</b>                                             | Angela Amor Pauline Breen                                                                         |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><u>22nd December 9am LLA</u></b>     | <b><u>29th December 9am LLA</u></b>     |
| <b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>              | <b><u>29th December</u></b><br>Zita Cannane<br>Lorraine Clancy<br>Pauline Breen<br>Judi Delahunty | <b><u>5th January</u></b><br>Lynda Hutchinson<br>Bernadette Delahunty<br>Gwen Antonucci<br>Carmel O'Connor | <b>Reader</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Horman Family                           | Luca & Dakota                           |
| <b><u>WEEKEND MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND</u></b>              |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | <b>Offertory</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Joan & Marilyn                          | Claire & Joan                           |
| <b>4th Sunday of the month: <u>22nd December, 2024</u></b> |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | <b>Eucharistic Minister</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Therese                                 | Marilyn                                 |
| Horsham: <b>Saturday Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 10.30am</b>      |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | <b>Please Remember in Your Prayers</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                         |                                         |
| Dimboola: <b>Sunday Mass 8.30am</b>                        |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | <b><u>RECENT DEATHS</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                         |                                         |
| Warracknabeal: <b>Sunday Mass 8.30am</b>                   |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | Peter Ewing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                         |                                         |
| Beulah: <b>Saturday Vigil 7pm</b>                          |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | <b><u>ANNIVERSARIES</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                         |                                         |
| Nhill: <b>Sunday Mass 11am</b>                             |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | Shane Kennedy , Bob Wallis, William Francisco,<br>Mandy Murphy, Serena Joan Arcscott                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                         |                                         |
| Minyip: <b>Sunday LLA 10am</b>                             |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | <b><u>SICK OR INJURED</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                         |                                         |
| Murtoa: <b>Sunday LLA 9am</b>                              |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | Pat Hateley, Ted Haynes, Alex Kavoor, Elliot Pumpa, Kevin<br>Clancy, Jodie White, Bernie Ryan, Brendan McKinnon,<br>Cynthia Maiden, Peter James, Noel Kearns, Patricia<br>Simpson, Frank White, David Gillard, Jason O'Connell, Tim<br>Clancy, Cassie Simpson, Jean Simpson, Adam Cooper,<br>Peter Dybing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                         |                                         |
| Hopetoun: <b>Sunday LLA 9am</b>                            |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            | <b><u>ADVENT WREATH PRAYER WEEK FOUR</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                         |                                         |
| Rainbow: <b>Sunday LLA 10am</b>                            |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |  <p>LOVING GOD,<br/>YOU CALL US ALL TO BE YOUR PEOPLE<br/>UNITED IN JOY, TO PREPARE THE WAY OF<br/>THE LORD.</p> <p>THESE CANDLES HAVE BEEN LIT IN PEACE.<br/>THE PEACE THAT JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR,<br/>GIVES TO THE WORLD. THOUGH WE HAVE<br/>NOT SEEN JESUS, WE LOVE HIM; AND EVEN<br/>THOUGH WE DO NOT<br/>SEE HIM NOW, WE BELIEVE IN HIM.</p> <p>LET US PREPARE, THEN, THE WAY OF THE<br/>LORD.</p> <p>WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.</p> <p>AMEN.</p> |                                         |                                         |
| <b><u>WEEKEND MASS TIMES NEXT WEEKEND</u></b>              |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| <b>5th Sunday of the month: <u>29th December, 2024</u></b> |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Horsham: <b>Saturday Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 10.30am</b>      |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Nhill: <b>Sunday Mass 11am</b>                             |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Minyip: <b>Sunday Mass 8.30am</b>                          |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Warracknabeal: <b>Sunday Mass 8.30am</b>                   |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Murtoa: <b>Saturday Vigil Mass 6.30pm</b>                  |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Hopetoun: <b>Sunday LLA 9am</b>                            |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Dimboola: <b>No LLA</b>                                    |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Beulah: <b>Sunday LLA 9.30am</b>                           |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |
| Rainbow: <b>Sunday LLA 10am</b>                            |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |

# CHRISTMAS MASSES - EVE & MORNING

Please see church foyers for notice showing distribution of Bishop's Christmas appeal 2023.

**25th December 2024**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### *Advent Wreath Prayer*

Let us pray: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
We light these candles because Jesus, the light of the world,  
was born on this day, and he brightens all things.  
Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Amen.

### *First Reading*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 62:1-5  
About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

*Responsorial Psalm* Ps: 88: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

**R.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David, my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever,  
and set up your throne through all ages."

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
Who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
Who find their joy every day in your name,  
Who make your justice the source of their bliss.

He will say to me: "You are my father,  
My God, the rock who saves me".  
I will keep my love him always;  
For him my covenant shall endure."

**R.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

### *Second Reading*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25  
When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

### *Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
"Glory to God, in the highest heaven,  
Peace to all People, all people on earth,  
Glory to God, in the highest heaven,  
We sing in jubilation for the Saviour's birth"  
Alleluia!

### *Gospel*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 1: 18-25  
This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to

## Horsham Christmas Roster

|                              | <u>Tuesday 24th December</u><br>7pm - Christmas Eve Carols<br>7.30pm - Vigil Mass | <u>Wednesday 25th December</u><br>9am - Christmas Mass |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reader</b>                | Maree Plazzer                                                                     | Bob Pritchett                                          |
| <b>Commentator</b>           | Lesley Price                                                                      | May Rosello                                            |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> | Pat Glaubitz<br>Anne Newton<br>Anna Robertson                                     | Lynda Hutchinson<br>Bob Pritchett                      |
| <b>Projector</b>             | Geoff Simpson                                                                     | Geoff Simpson                                          |
| <b>Musicians</b>             | Combined Choir                                                                    | Chris Robarts                                          |
| <b>Livestream</b>            | Robert Sartori                                                                    | N/A                                                    |
| <b>Welcomers</b>             | Connie Besselaar<br>Pat Glaubitz                                                  | -<br>-                                                 |



**Christmas Eve!**  
AT Ss MICHAEL & JOHN, HORSHAM

Children attending Mass on Christmas Eve are invited to carry in a candle (battery operated) at the beginning of Mass to place around the Nativity Scene and also to gather on the Sanctuary during the Offertory to sing 'Christmas Star' (Candles Supplied)

22nd December 2024

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

A reading from the prophet Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

### Responsorial Psalm

PS: 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**R.** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**R.** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews 10: 5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

### Gospel Acclamation Luke 1: 38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 1: 39-45

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the scriptures invite us to prepare our hearts with unwavering trust in God's plan. This journey of preparation is embodied perfectly in Mary. We are invited to prepare our hearts as she prepared hers. Mary's journey is one of trust, humility, and hope as she awaits the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. As we come to the final days of waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ Jesus to come into our homes and into our world, who better to spend it with than his mother?

As we focus on Mary, we are encouraged to open our hearts to welcome Christ more fully with Elizabeth, and the shepherds — all of whom waited in wonder and faith for the Saviour. In the reading from Luke (1:39-45), we witness Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, goes "with haste" to share her joy. This meeting is simple yet powerful — a moment of faith and divine presence. Elizabeth, moved by the Holy Spirit, recognises that the Lord is near and blesses Mary for her belief. Through this encounter, we're reminded that their encounter is deeply rooted in faith and that true preparation for Christ is about having a heart open to God's work.

Mary's journey to Elizabeth is also a journey of action and service. Even as she awaits the fulfilment of God's promise, she steps out to support her cousin, showing her willingness to serve and share in the joy of God's blessings. This Advent season, Mary's example calls us to prepare our hearts not just through prayer but also by reaching out to others, sharing God's love through our actions. Advent becomes a time to reflect on how we can bring the presence of Christ into the lives of those around us, especially those in need.

In the first reading from Micah, we hear that a ruler will come from Bethlehem, a place of little significance in the eyes of the world. God's choice of this humble setting reminds us that true preparation for Christ happens in the "Bethlehems" of our own lives, the small, often ordinary or overlooked areas where God's grace quietly enters. As we prepare for Christ, we are encouraged to find him in our everyday lives, the simple places, all the while trusting that God is at work even in the smallest details of our lives.

The responsorial psalm, "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved," is a beautiful Advent prayer. It speaks to our longing for God's presence, urging us to set aside distractions and keep our gaze on God. Preparing

for Christ is about reorienting our hearts, allowing them to be softened and open to transformation.

The second reading from Hebrews deepens this idea by showing how Jesus is the ultimate example of preparation through faith. Jesus came into the world with a purpose: to do the will of God. He wholeheartedly accepted this mission. Jesus reminds us that true fulfilment lies in aligning ourselves with God's will, even when it challenges us. In preparing for Christ, we are invited to make our own "yes" to God, as Mary did, even when the road ahead is unclear.

As we prepare for Christmas, we're reminded that faith is an active journey. Mary's example shows us that preparing for Christ means opening our hearts in trust and readiness, actively welcoming him by serving and trusting in his promises. Mary's faith is a living response to God's call, and it invites us to reflect on how we, too, can prepare our lives to receive and reflect Christ.

These final days of Advent are a sacred time to embrace this call. May we welcome Christ not only on Christmas Day but each day, as we grow in faith. Like Mary and Elizabeth, may we prepare with joyful hearts, ready to receive the Saviour with humble trust and a heart open to his transformative love.

### Next Weekend's Readings - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

1st Reading: Samuel 1;20-22, 24-28

Response Psalm: Ps 83: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Response: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

2nd Reading: A reading from the first letter of St. John 3: 1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52