



## *Second Sunday of Advent 5th / 6th December 2020*

### **Parish Clergy**

Fr Martin Cruickshank

### **Parish Office**

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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### **Mass Times**

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm**

**SUNDAY: 9.30 am**

**WEEKDAYS: This Week:**

**Tuesday 5.00pm Thanksgiving Mass for St Vincent de Paul volunteers, helpers and donors. All Welcome.**

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30am**

### **RECONCILIATION**

**SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM**

**BAPTISMS** By appointment.

**Preparation Course: 0411 883 661**



The call to repentance lies at the heart of the Advent season. Like the people in today's readings, we, too, are called to a change of heart, as we long for a better world where injustice will cease.

Today's **First Reading** is full of hope and consolation for a nation weary of suffering. God is seen by the prophet Isaiah both as a warrior who fights for his people, and as a shepherd who nourishes and guides them to rest.

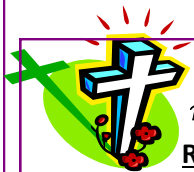
The **Psalms** reveals God's inner ways and intentions; he is a God of peace, mercy, faithfulness and justice, who longs to help us. One of the themes of Advent is that of looking forward to the second coming of Jesus. St Peter advises us to wait patiently. We are to live in a way worthy of our Christian calling; living lives that please God as we allow his peace to fill us. (**Second Reading**)

The **Gospel** underlines how radical John the Baptist was in his calling, just like the Old Testament prophets. His focus was on the need to repent, for people to change their world view and live accordingly. In this way, they will be more open to the teachings of Jesus, so that 'the glory of the Lord shall be revealed' (Isaiah 40: 5).

This week, we might ask for the grace of trust, and to receive the deep love of God into our hearts. God is offering us new life in Christ, empowering us to be his instruments for change in a world torn apart by self-serving actions and fear. Perhaps we can make this our prayer: 'Lord, make us channels of your peace and justice. Amen.'



# Parish Community



*We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Rita Clear, Corrie Van Lint, Jean Parker, Margaret Liston, Margaret Wighton, Sandi McDonald, Trixie Stephens, Frances Nelson, Marie Thomas, Elaine Buckhorn, Lindsay Toole.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Jim Victory, James Burke, Sr Marie Duffy, Imelda Phegan, Marie Carter, Geoffrey Jervois Snr, Jason Farrell, Susan Guy, Joff Hutchinson, Mary Mulquiney, Antonia Rameakeres, Maria Klaus, Malcolm Nicholson Angela Leber, Mary Willis, Gerarda Van Dijk, Carmel Glasgow, Msgr Hatswell, Charlotte Roberts, Lucy Freeman, Jack Collins, Noreen Low, Brenda De Hennin, Louis Dimitrijevic, Ray Corrigan, Michael Gleeson, Bill Slattery, Peter Guthrie.

*Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## ADVENT

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. Advent is the time in the church when we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day. The word Advent comes from two Latin words that mean "Coming Towards". We use this time to prepare ourselves in a special way to welcome Jesus. In our families, we prepare for Christmas by buying gifts, sending cards, decorating the tree and organising family celebrations. In the church we also prepare for Christmas.

The Advent wreath is a ring of evergreens with four candles, one for each week of Advent. Every part of the wreath reminds us of an important truth about God. The circle shape stands for the unending love of God, with no beginning and no end. The green leaves represent life and growth and hope. The candles represent Jesus, the light of the world.

The first candle is the Prophets' candle. The prophets prepared the people in the early days for the coming of the Messiah.

The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle, which reminds us that Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem.

The third candle is the Shepherds' candle and reminds us of the visit of the shepherds.

And the last candle to be lit is called the Angels' candle. An angel announced to Mary that she was pregnant, and then angels announced His birth to the shepherds in the fields.

## Prayer for the Sick

*We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them. May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all. We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen*

## Prayer for Lighting the Second Advent Candle The Candle of Peace



God of Peace, as we light this second candle on our Advent wreath may we be filled with your everlasting Peace.

May your spirit guide us as people of peace and light this Advent. Grant us forgiveness for the times our thoughts, actions and words were filled with conflict and negativity.

As we prepare for the coming of your Son, as peacemakers, allow us to see Your face in all we meet. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

"Advent is a matter of preparing to welcome -- not a fairy-tale character -- but the God who calls us, involves us, and before whom a choice is imposed."

# Parish News

## **CHANGES TO STATE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

As of Monday 7th December:

- 4 sq metre rule now the **2 sq metre rule** across the board outdoors and indoors. In other words we can have twice as many people in our churches.
- Uncontrolled outdoor events can have 3,000 in attendance complying with **2 sq metre rule**. That means that our outdoor masses can have up to 3,000 people with BYO chairs.
- Singing—up to 50 in a choir indoors—and are to practice social distancing. No maximum cap on outdoor choir and congregational singing permitted—wearing masks while singing is optional.

### **Christmas Mass Times**

Taking into account the above changes to state guide lines for social gatherings please be aware of the altered arrangements for our celebration of Christmas masses this year.

### **Christmas Eve**

**6.00pm Mass** to be celebrated in the grounds of Xavier High School. BYO chair or blanket and mask if possible. (Liturgy adapted for families, children and teen agers). **9.00pm Mass** in Sacred Heart Church.

### **Christmas Day**

Two celebrations of the Eucharist **8.00am & 9.30am**

### **Vinnies Covid-19 Christmas Appeal**

Appeal Envelopes will be at the door of the Church. We invite parishioners to support this Appeal, by donating gifts (unwrapped) suitable for children up to 12 years, Gift Vouchers, monetary donations or non-perishable food items. Please leave these gifts in the baskets provided at the entrances to the Church. Your support will be gratefully received and it will help make Christmas for those doing it tough.

### **Men's Breakfast**

Saturday 12 December at St James Hall, Lavington. Time approx. 7.45am Welcome & Grace 8.00am followed by food. Speaker: Graeme Scott. Cost: donation. All Men Welcome.

### **Australian Catholics—Parish Edition—Summer 2020/21**

**Pilgrim Life**—In his autobiography, St Ignatius Loyola describes himself as 'the pilgrim'. He considered his life as one long journey through which he sought to know, and become closer to God. What if we also viewed our whole lives as pilgrimages? How does that shape our life choices, our journeys and our encounters with others?

In this edition we explore how our life journeys - with all their twists and turns, joys and challenges - can inevitably lead us into a deeper relationship with God, if only we remain open to that possibility. Please take and distribute your free copies.

### **Staff Appointments: St Anne's Primary School**

Elizabeth O Carrigan the current Director of Schools for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga has announced that Mrs. Leanne Allibon has been appointed Assistant Principal and Mrs. Cassandra Jones Religious Education Co-Ordinator for 2021 and beyond.

Both Leanne and Cassandra are members of our parish community. Please continue to pray for them as they undertake these significant leadership roles.

### **Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2020**

The parish has once again purchased copies of the Advent / Christmas Daily Prayer Reflections produced by the Diocese of Wollongong. Inspired by the shepherds, Magi and Mary & Joseph this year's reflection book Adore provides a wonderful opportunity for us to take a quiet step out of our daily lives and refocus our attention on the Lord in adoration of what he has done for us through his Son.

If you would find this way of praying useful please take your free copy or distribute to someone confined to their homes or places of care.

### **UPDATED COVID-19 DIOCESAN PROTOCOLS**

**If you are feeling unwell, have a cough or cold, sore throat or flu like symptoms please do not attend our physical gatherings as this puts others as well as yourself at risk.**

After having your name registered or ticked off please use the hand sanitiser located at the four entrance points of the church at the beginning of our liturgical celebration and as you leave the church building.

Communion will begin with those on the car park side and then move to those seated on the Swan Street side. Please allow space between each recipient.

### **Advent 2020 with Bruce Downes The Catholic Guy**

Join me and people all around the world and Expect the Unexpected!

Sign up for a free daily email devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent.

Starting November 29th you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Bruce Downes, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be! Register now or for more info go to: <https://brucedownes.org/registerforadvent>

Email: [info@brucedownes.org](mailto:info@brucedownes.org)

### **Ordination to the Diaconate—Connell Perry**

Connell will be ordained to the diaconate during the ordination mass of Cyprian Onuorah on Friday 11 December at 6.00pm. The celebration will be live-streamed via the following link: <https://www.thestreamingguys.com.au/production/ordination-cyprian/>

Please continue to pray for Connell & Cyprian as they prepare for this important rite of passage in their lives.

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

**Christmas Cards—pk of 10—\$5**  
**Columban Calendars—\$10 each**  
**On Sale at back of church**



# Liturgy of the Word

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

**(First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11)**

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low.

Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes. The Word of the Lord

## **Responsorial Psalm 79**

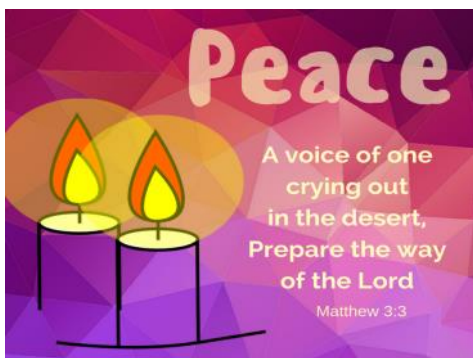
*Lord let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
A voice that speaks of peace,  
Peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and faithfulness have met,  
Justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,  
and justice look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
And peace shall follow his steps. **R**



## **Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14**

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace. The Word of the Lord

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia , alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
All people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 1-11**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord