



THE TIDINGS

SERVING THE AREAS OF MELTON, MELTON WEST, AINTREE, BONNIE BROOK,
GRANGEFIELDS, HARKNESS, KURUNJANG, PLUMPTON, ROCKBANK & TOOLERN VALE



The Catholic
Parish of Melton
is committed
to the safety,
wellbeing and
dignity of all
children and
vulnerable
adults

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Year B | 3 December 2023

CLERGY

Parish Priest: REV. FR MICHAEL MOODY

Parish Deacon: REV. DCN CHRIS CREO

Email: Christopher.Creo@cam.org.au

STAFF & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Parish Secretary: VIVIEN LEMALU

Finance Manager: LORRAINE STAFFORD (Thurs & Fri)

Email: Finance.Melton@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Coordinator: LIZ COUSTLEY

Mobile: 0490 885 515 | **Email:** cso.melton@gmail.com

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 96, Melton, Vic. 3337, Australia

PRESBYTERY & OFFICE

20 Unitt Street, MELTON, VIC 3337

Contact: 03 9743 6515 | **Email:** melton@cam.org.au

Website: <http://www.melbatholic.org/melton>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/parishmelton>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishmelton>

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 9.00am–3.00pm

(The parish office is CLOSED on weekends and public holidays)

MASS CENTRES & MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

- Saturday 6pm (Vigil Mass)
- Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

St Dominic's Church, Melton

Church St, Melton, VIC 3337

- Thursday and Friday 9.15am

CONFESSIONS

St Catherine of Siena Church

Saturday: 5.45 pm | Sunday: 4.45pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT & ROSARY

St Dominic's Church

- Thursday following the 9.15am Mass

SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH

ST DOMINIC'S PRIMARY SCHOOL (Prep-Year 6)

Principal: Mr Jeffrey Parker

Address: Church Street, Melton, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 9743 6225

Email: enquiries@sdmelton.catholic.edu.au

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC

PRIMARY SCHOOL (Prep-Year 6)

Principal: Ms Carmel Marantelli

Address: 108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 9743 2166

Email: info@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Melton West (Year 7-12) | **Cobblebank** (Year 7)

formerly Catholic Regional College Melton

Principal: Ms Marlene Jorgensen

Address: 109-141 Bulmans Rd, Melton West, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 8099 6000

Email: info@sfcc.vic.edu.au

Living the Gospel

Stay Awake!

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks.

It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism,

it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.

It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.

"So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming."



Mark 13:35

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Today's Scripture Readings

Is 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8; Ps 79 (80); 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

Is 40:1-5,9-1; Ps 84 (85); 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Prayer Requests

Recently deceased: Fatima Dsouza

NOTICE TO PARISHIONERS

Thursday and Friday morning weekday Masses will resume this week on December 7 and 8.



Parish Stewardship Update

September Pledged: \$6,651.09 Actual: \$4,770.04
October Pledged: \$6,733.01 Actual: \$4,766.52



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.



Did You Know?

The Character and Characters of Advent

ADVENT presents a challenge for parish liturgy teams, preachers and musicians because the season of Advent, unlike other liturgical seasons, encompasses several different purposes and key figures.

The Roman Document on the Liturgical Year describes Advent as having “a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation”. (GNLY 39)

First the season focuses our attention on the end of time when Christ will come again in glory. Then John the Baptist, who heralds Jesus’ public ministry, takes centre stage. Finally, in preparation for the joyful celebration of Christmas, the liturgy of Advent focuses on the nativity. What joins these diverse elements together is the spirit of ‘devout and joyful expectation’.

The gospel of the first Sunday of Advent looks to the Lord’s coming in glory at the end of time. This year, the year of Mark, the message is urgent: Stay awake! Advent begins therefore by picking up themes that occur in the final Sundays of Ordinary Time at the end of the previous year’s cycle, especially in the feast of Christ the King.

John the Baptist is the central actor in the gospels of the second and third Sundays of Advent. It can sometimes be a little confusing just before Christmas to be hearing stories telling of events some thirty years after Jesus’ birth. It is a reminder that the Church’s liturgy is not a chronological re-enactment of past events but a living encounter with the whole mystery of Jesus’ incarnation, ministry, death and resurrection to glory.

The notion of Christ as the Messiah may also assist us to appreciate the fullness of the mystery that is celebrated in Advent. The first readings for these weeks are taken from the prophets who looked forward to the coming of the Messiah.

Hope



First Advent Candle: Hope

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.”

— C.S. Lewis

It is only fitting that the first candle on the Advent wreath represents **Hope** – the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. The first candle is **purple**, the primary colour of Advent and a colour symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle,” the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah’s foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

Source: <https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/>

In this year B we hear from Isaiah. These texts help to situate John the Baptist as the last of the prophets who prepared for the coming of the Christ, the salvation of God’s people.

The two prefaces provided for Advent reflect the scripture texts of the season. The second is the better one to use on the second and third Sundays because of the explicit mention of John the Baptist:

*For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him,
the Virgin Mother longed for him
with love beyond all telling,
John the Baptist sang of his coming
and proclaimed his presence when he came.*

The character of Advent changes sharply on the 17th December as the readings now look at the circumstances of Jesus’ birth. On the fourth Sunday of Advent we hear the story of the Annunciation from the

gospel of Luke and the focus is on the role of Mary in salvation history.



The article originally published in **LITURGY LINES** (28 Sept 2017)
by Elizabeth Harrington.





Remember, the gadgets we choose do more than entertain; they can influence personal safety and the wellbeing of our families. That's why healthy online habits are important right from the start.

Choose tech gifts wisely this holiday season, ensuring they're fun, safe, and age-appropriate for your child. Gift smart, gift safe, and be online safety conscious when giving gifts this Christmas season. **EXPLORE THE ESafety GIFT GUIDE HERE:** WWW.ESAFETY.GOV.AU/PARENTS/RESOURCES/GIFT-GUIDE

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

JOIN people all around the world for a free Daily Devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent.



Starting 3rd December, you'll receive a short inspirational video each day filled with real life stories and practical ways to help you in your prayer and spiritual journey. I find, "You don't become what you hope to become. You only become what you do." What will you do this Advent?

REGISTER HERE: [HTTPS://BRUCEDOWNES.ORG/ADVENT/](https://brucedownes.org/advent/)

CHRISTMAS LITURGY ROSTER

There are still many spaces to fill on the 'Christmas Weekend' Masses. Any volunteers who are able to assist at these Masses please email Liz: cs0.melton@gmail.com and let her know for which Mass you are available.

PLEASE CONSIDER OFFERING YOUR HELP.

PLEASE RING THE MASS MANAGERS IF UNABLE TO ATTEND:

6 pm	Tania Walters	0492 952 478
9 am	Theo Franken	0411 040 897 Vickie Cassar 0418 348 946
11 am	Bruna Tomassi	9743 0341
5 pm	Josephine Krajina	0407 042 133

BULMANS ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORK

Roadworks on Bulmans Road have commenced. Check out a video of the traffic simulation of the proposed changes:

youtube.com/watch?v=irYfH0xsNvk

ADVENT PREPARATION FOR FAMILIES

As Advent approaches and we prepare for the birth of Christ, parents might be interested in Caritas Australia's [interactive Advent Calendar](#) designed especially for primary school students and families. It uses the See-Judge-Act-Pray rhythm to guide daily reflection on Scripture, Advent themes and Caritas stories, along with ideas for action and prayer. The Advent Calendar is offered alongside our 2023 Advent resources for [secondary school students](#) and [parish groups](#). CHECK OUT CARITAS' ADVENT RESOURCES HERE: WWW.CARITAS.ORG.AU/ADVENT



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

SIMBANG GABI

CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

An Advent Preparation for the Birth of Jesus

DECEMBER | **15-23** | 8-9 PM

St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West

1 st Sunday of Advent		Saturday & Sunday December 2&3, 2023		
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Margaret Richards	Graham Dempsey	Liz Coustley	Frank Unferdorben
The Word	Tetchie Hadfield	Theo Franken	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
Responder	Tania Walters	Alzira Mascarenhas	Cira Cleary	Michael Higgins
Presentation of Gifts	Leny Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Bruna Tomassi	Brian Dean
Holy Communion	Robert Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Liz Coustley	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
PowerPoint Operator		Sanyata Creo	Theo Balebanga	
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
Choir	Divine Mercy Choir	Veneration Choir	St Anuarite Choir	Tongan Choir
Counters	Leslie Gordon, Elaine Neely, John Woof			
2 nd Sunday of Advent		Saturday & Sunday, December 9 & 10, 2023		
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Bill McGuinness	Maureen Mohr	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Tania Walters	Karl Metha	Janet Estrada	Ismael Sosa - Sanchez
Responder	Tetchie Hadfield	Vickie Cassar	Cira Cleary	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
Presentation of Gifts	Robert Obtinalla	Theo Franken	Janet Estrada	
Holy Communion	Leny Obtinalla	Richard Kealy	Lea Jacuta	Michael Higgins
PowerPoint Operator	Kate Mulholland	Sanyata Creo	Liz Coustley	
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Graham Dempsey	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Choir	Filipino Choir	Veneration Choir	Veritas Choir	Filipino Choir
Counters	Maria Abela, Tania Walters			



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.

LOOKING FOR BABY JESUS!

Do you have or know of a newborn who can play Jesus at Christmas time? We need YOU!
No experience necessary. No Working With Children Check required.

OPEN TO ALL BABIES LESS THAN 4 WEEKS OLD



NEW CHRISTMAS ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE PIETY STALL



New Christmas items are for sale in the display cabinet in the Gathering Area of the church. Feel free to have a browse!

Christmas Tree Hampers

Collection for Christmas Hampers continues this week—we have exceeded our goal to collect enough items to fill 20 Christmas hampers thanks to your generosity!



If you would still like to donate any items, please place them into the hamper under the tree in the Gathering Area.

Each Hamper will be given to a family in our community and contain items to help celebrate Christmas.

All items to be returned by 3rd December please.
Thank you!



NEW TO OUR PARISH? WELCOME!

Please collect a Welcome Pack from the Gathering Area of the church. Once census form is completed place it in the white return box in the Gathering Area.

MISSED OUT ON THE TIDINGS?

Back issues of the parish Tidings are available on our parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton



CLICK to VIEW
PREVIOUS BULLETINS



Mailing
List

Would you like to receive
The Tidings
prior to the weekend Masses?

Send an email to melton@cam.org.au requesting The Tidings or subscribe on our website.

APPLICATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR OUR PARISH'S ST LUKE'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024



for children and young people who do not attend a Catholic School, or attend a Catholic secondary school, and wish to receive the Sacrament of Penance, Eucharist or Confirmation.

Available online on our Parish Website. Hard copies are available in the Gathering Area of the church.

PLEASE NOTE:

When applying for a Working With Children Check or renewal as a volunteer, please state that the organisation is:

Catholic Parish of Melton
20 Unitt St, Melton VIC 3337

NOT St Catherine of Siena Parish, Bulmans Rd., as this is not the name of our Parish.

VINNIES SOUP VANS STREET SERVICE MELTON



Soup Vans will continue its Street Service around Melton as follows:

Tuesday

- 6.00-6.30pm **Melton Town Centre Amphitheatre**
Palmerston St, Melton
- 7.00-7.30pm **Melton Station Square Shopping Centre**
11-25 Station St, Melton South

- Fruit and vegetables
- Non-perishable pantry items
- Toiletries
- Soup, sandwiches, hot food



SOUP VAN VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Scan the QR code to sign up to help with preparing and packing food, assisting with loading the Soup Vans, distributing food on a 'Soup Van Run' and assisting in cleaning up the kitchen and vehicle as a team.

- Vinnies Welfare Assistance—1800 305 330 (Monday-Friday 10am-3pm)
- Opening Doors(24hr State-wide Support Crisis Accommodation) —1800 825 955
- Lifeline (24hr Crisis Counselling) - 13 11 14
- Safesteps Family Crisis Response (24hr service) - 1800 015 188
- Ask Izzy (A-Z Directory of services) - askizzy.org.au

HOME VISITATION & BLESSING REQUESTS

For Home Visitation & Blessing requests, please speak to Deacon Chris safter Mass or fill out the online request form:

<https://tinyurl.com/HBlessing>

PARISH BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Announcements & Notices: Please submit your announcement or notices not later than 5pm every Wednesday. Bulletin notices are normally retained in **The Tidings** for two weekends. Notices and announcements submitted after the deadline will be considered for publication on the following weekend.



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