



Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

14 December 2025

readings

Next Week 4th Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14
Ps 23:1-6
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

in a nutshell

The blind see again. Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus. Many wondered: 'Are you the one who is to come?' Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth at Christmas by being good news to the poor.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially, Joe Varone, John Laan, Harry & Dorothy Heering, Jim & Pat Henshaw, Fr Pat Purcell

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

Christmas raffle begins!!!
Tickets are on sale in the foyer.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Psalm Response

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

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.)

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.)

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.)

Gospel acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not
fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save
us.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours
Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass
Saturday—5:00pm
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary
Tuesday—6:00pm
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am
Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation
Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm
Tuesday—5:10pm-5:40pm
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition
Tuesday 5:00pm
Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:
smmoutevelyn.catholic.edu.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Ways to contribute to the financial viability of the Parish:

Cash donations and envelopes in the labelled boxes in the narthex,
Tap and Go terminals, the QR code



Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm or Alan Somers
0419 134 300

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday
please moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee on first and third Saturdays of the month at 8:00 – 10:00 am. Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church.

Parish Meetings: Tuesday February 10

Finance Committee 7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm
Parish Council 8:00pm

Christmas Mass Times – Mount Evelyn

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 5:00pm (Carols from 4:40pm)

Midnight Mass – 12:00am (Carols from 11:30pm)

Christmas Day – 10:30am

Christmas Mass Times – Yarra Junction

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm (Carols from 6:30pm)

Christmas Day – 8:30am

Parish Notices

Thanksgiving Envelopes

Please pick up your envelopes for the next 12 months.

Third Week of Advent— Joy

“Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of hope” Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* n244 May 2015

St Vincent de Paul Society Giving Tree

While we will still be assisting people in need, instead of presents we will be giving them gift vouchers so they can get what they need, as many have found this year very unpredictable. You are invited to make a donation of a gift voucher or make a cash donation by placing it in an envelope and placing it in the box in the foyer by 14th December. Thank you.

Christmas Raffle –donations welcome

We will once again be holding a Christmas raffle. Contributions of festive hamper type gifts would be appreciated. Please place these in the box available over the next couple of weekends. The raffle will be drawn after 5pm mass on Christmas Eve.

Adoration of the Eucharist

In an apparition to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Jesus spoke these beautiful words: “I have a burning thirst to be honoured by men in the Blessed Sacrament.” Go to Adoration, as often as possible. Jesus desires to be with you, to have you gaze upon Him, as He so lovingly gazes upon you. (Caitlin Sica)

For a priest, the experience of sitting in persona Christi (in the person of Christ) in the sacraments like Confession, is always a lofty, sublime kind of moment. Sin, darkness and pain are revealed, and forgiveness, light and healing are wrought. In a way, every Confession is a mini miracle as grace pours forth from the pierced heart of Jesus. (Fr. Morehead)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Tuesday at 5:00pm & Friday 8:00am. Yarra Junction: Thursday at 6:00pm. Confessions available during Adoration.

Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards

The 2026 Columban Art Calendar at \$11.00 each and Christmas Cards in packs of 5 are available at the SVdP Piety Stall.

Stewardship Corner

“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Holiday Office Hours

Office will close on 24 December and reopen on January 14.

Red November Rosary will be prayed before the 10:30am Mass

To pray the Red Rosary, we begin as we would the traditional Rosary—offering each decade with a special intention for persecuted Christians.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

Agony in the Garden: For Christians in the Middle East & Asia

Scourging at the Pillar: For Christians in the Americas

Crowning with Thorns: For Christians in Oceania & Australia

Carrying of the Cross: For Christians in Europe

The Crucifixion: For Christians in Africa

Sacramental Program 2026

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact the parish office. Lessons will begin Sunday 1st March after 10:30 Mass for Confirmation and Tuesday 3rd March at 5pm for First Communion.

Jubilee Year—Pilgrims of Hope

If you are unable to travel to Rome during the Jubilee Year, you are invited on a local journey of reconciliation and renewal by participating in the 2025 Jubilee at one or more of the many Pilgrim Places across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, where plenary indulgences may be obtained as part of this very special time. A not too distant pilgrimage location, which offers various experiences for pilgrims this Jubilee Year, including Masses, Reconciliation and adoration. Visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pilgrim-place-sacred-heart-croydon> for more information about Sacred Heart Croydon.

Carols at the Cathedral

Join us on Sunday 21 December 2025 from 3 to 6pm as the renowned choir of St Patrick's Cathedral presents its 51st Advent Carol Service (music, readings and prayers) in the spectacular setting of the Cathedral.

Pro-Life Alert – 365life Cards “Every card can save a life”

Twice a year on packing day, these cards are distributed to our champions across Australia, to raise awareness and help mothers in need. Each card links to a website with pregnancy help resources. Each card can save a life. Your opportunity to help: **Thursday 18th December** from 10am in the meeting room. Contact James Nolet: jnolet@iinet.au mobile: 0407406384. More info: <https://familyvoice.org.au/voice> for change

This week's Joke!

How do you know when Santa's around? You can always sense his presents.

What's every parent's favourite Christmas Carol? Silent Night.

Readings Reflection

[Here is Your God](#)

John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing “the works of the Messiah,” foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2).

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: “Here is your God.”

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

Joy exists because God exists and is with us!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have heard Isaiah's prophesy, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted ... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Is 61:1–2). These words spoken so many centuries ago, ring out, in a very up-to-date way for us too, today, while we are halfway through Advent and already look forward to the great Solemnity of Christmas. These are words that revive hope, that prepare us to welcome the Lord's salvation and announce the inauguration of a season of grace and liberation.

Advent is precisely a time of waiting, of hope and of preparation for the Lord's coming. The figure and preaching of John the Baptist invite us to make this commitment, as we heard in the Gospel that has just been proclaimed (cf. Jn 1:6–8, 19–28). John had withdrawn into the wilderness to live a very austere life and to invite people to conversion, also by the example of his life. He conferred on them a baptism of water, a single rite of penance which distinguished it from the many rites of external purification of the sects of that time.

So who was this man? Who was John the Baptist? The response he himself gave is surprisingly humble. He was not the Messiah, he was not the light. He was neither Elijah come back to the earth nor the great prophet awaited. He was the Forerunner, a simple witness, totally subordinate to the One he proclaimed; a voice in the wilderness, as in our day too, in the wilderness of the great cities of this world, of the great absence of God, we need voices that simply announce to us "God exists. He is always near, even if he seems absent".

John the Baptist was a voice in the wilderness and a witness to the light; and this moves our hearts, for in this world where there are so many shadows, so much darkness, we are all called to be witnesses of light. This is the mission of the Season of Advent itself: to be witnesses of light, and we can only be this if we carry the light within us, if we are not only certain that the light exists, but also that we have seen a ray of light.

In the Church, in God's word, in the celebration of the sacraments, in the Sacrament of Confession with the forgiveness that we receive, in the celebration of the Blessed Eucharist where the Lord gives himself into our hands and hearts, we touch the light and receive this mission: to bear witness today that there is light, and to carry the light in our time.

Dear brothers and sisters, I am very glad to be with you on this beautiful, "Gaudete" Sunday, the Sunday of joy that tells us that "even in the midst of so many doubts and difficulties, joy exists because God exists and is with us!"...

"Brethren.... Rejoice always" (1 Thes 5:16). This invitation to joy which St Paul addressed to the Christians of Thessalonica in that time, also characterizes this Sunday, commonly known as "Gaudete" Sunday. It resonates from the very first words of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is at hand"; St Paul, in prison, wrote these words to the Christians of Philippi (cf. Phil 4:4–5) and also addresses them to us.

Yes, we are glad because the Lord is near us and in a few days, on Christmas night, we shall be celebrating the mystery of his birth. Mary, who was the first to hear the Angel's invitation: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" (Lk 1:28), points out to us the way to reach true joy, which comes from God. St Mary of Grace, Mother of Divine Love, pray for us all. Amen!

From a pastoral visit by Pope Benedict XVI