

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

3 December 2023

Readings

Next Week

Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 84: 9-14
2 Pet 3:8-14
Mk 1:1-8

in a nutshell

Come, Lord Jesus. The prophet Isaiah implored God to tear the heavens open and come down to save the people. God, however, did not come among us in such a dramatic way but in the humble form of Jesus of Nazareth. God continues to enter our lives in unexpected ways. If we are watchful for the presence of Christ in each day, we will recognise him when he comes in glory.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Harry & Dorothy Heering
For those who have died recently: Fr Gerard Dowling
and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Rocco Musico

of special note

Melbourne Overseas Mission
Collection next week.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm

(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.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us
your salvation.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth
shall yield its increase.

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—6:30pm (EST)
5:00pm (EDST)
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—9:00am
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am
Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

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

Exposition

Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.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.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

Safeguarding Committee

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

Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church. Please Leave the front for the truly disabled.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's
Conference 0427 874 374 or Alan Somers
0419 134 300

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

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

Regular Gardening/Working Bee—Friday November 3rd.

Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church. 4pm onwards

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, 13 February

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

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH



Parish Notices

Special Collection—9/10 December for Melbourne Overseas Mission

Giving Tree

St Vincent de Paul Society will be having a giving tree this year, however, due to the covid virus, 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 in the box in the foyer by 17th December.

Christmas Raffles Hampers—It's not too late to donate!

...maybe a bottle of wine or soft drink, some festive food, chocolates, packets of nuts, a voucher from a business your connected with etc. Place your donation in the box in the narthex. Thank you in advance! Raffle tickets available at each mass.

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Children are encouraged to come dressed as a Nativity character; shepherd, king, angel, Mary or Joseph .

SVDP News

The Piety Stall has in stock the 2024 Columban Art Calendar at \$10.00 each. We also have a stock of Christmas Cards in packs of 5 for \$3.00 each.

Parish Celebration—Sunday 26 November

Thank you to all who stayed to celebrate the end of the Church year at the Parish BBQ. The Bake Stall was very successful with \$274.50 raised. Hope you all enjoyed the delicious purchases.

Adoration of the Eucharist

The Lord is present in the tabernacle in his divinity and in his humanity... He knows, too, that being what we are, we need his personal nearness. Therefore, the Church has instituted Eucharistic Adoration for members of the faithful who feel attracted to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. (St. Edith Stein)

When G.K.Chesterton became a Catholic he was asked what was the final argument that had brought conviction. "No argument," he said, "I wanted my sins forgiven and to sit back and say thank you".

Adoration: Friday morning 8:00am. Yarra Junction Thursday 6:00pm (first Thursday Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Mass Collections

The use of separate boxes for donations for Thanksgiving/stewardship) and the presbytery appears to be a popular decision. **If you have envelopes please continue with their use.**

Parish Sacramental Program 2024 Enrolments

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 or annevan.tilburg@gmail.com
Contact Anne by mid-December for 2024 enrolments.

St Mary's Prayer Group—Every Friday

The Prayer Group meets every Friday in the church from 2-3 p.m. "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene).

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)

ACN have produced Prayer Cards for Peace in the Holy Land. These are available in the Narthex, please take them for you and your friends. Also available to take home are their Christmas Catalogues.

Advent 2023 Prepare for Christmas with The Catholic Guy,

Join me and 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/>

For more information, email: info@brucedownes.org

Morning Tea after 10.30am Sunday Mass

Stay and chat over a cuppa! Consider joining the roster to assist in serving. If you are unable to serve but would like to contribute, donations of packaged biscuits would be appreciated. Contact Rachael 0437123802

Morning tea after 9:00am Mass first Tuesday of the month.

The Pontifical Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Reverend Gerard Patrick Dowling OAM DE will be offered on Thursday 7 December 2023 at 10am at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne. The Mass will be livestreamed by Tobin Brothers Funerals.

Something to make you smile!

Little Harry's family moved a lot, going from one country town to the next, one day at his new school the teacher asked Harry a question. Harry, if you have \$3.00 in one pocket and 25 cents in the other pocket what would you have? Little Harry replied, someone else's pants Miss.

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

N.B. No Morning Mass Tuesday 26 December

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

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

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

Readings Reflection

[Watch for Him](#)

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading.

In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people.

Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today—as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him?

God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see John 14:8–9). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see John 10:11–15) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him.

As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him.

So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning—repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel—to be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

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

Advent: A Presence Begun

Confronted with the externalism and distortion to which Advent and the Christmas season are increasingly subject, the Church has experienced the awakening of a lively desire for an authentic Advent based on faith. The unsatisfactory nature of all mere moods, of all mere feelings, however exquisite, has become evident, and we yearn again for the heart of the matter, for that strong solid nourishment for the spirit of which only a glimmer is left for us now in the pious, exalted sentiments we have during the “blessed and joyous Christmas season”. What, then, is the real heart of the Advent experience?

We may start with the word itself. “Advent” does not, for example, mean “expectation”, as some may think. It is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*, which means “presence” or, more accurately, “arrival”, that is, the beginning of a presence. In antiquity the word was a technical term for the presence of a king or ruler and also of the god being worshipped, who bestows upon his devotees the time of his *parousia*. “Advent”, then, means the presence begun—the presence of God himself.

Advent reminds us, therefore, of two things: first, that God’s presence in the world has already begun, that he is present, albeit in a hidden manner; second, that his presence has only begun and is not yet full and complete, that it is in a state of development, of becoming, and maturing toward its full form. His presence has already begun, and we, the faithful, are the ones through whom he wishes to be present in the world. Through our faith, hope, and love, he wants his light to shine over and over again into the night of the world.

The lamps we light on the dark nights of this winter season are both a comfort and a warning. They are a comforting assurance that “the Light of the world” has already begun to shine in the dark night of Bethlehem and that the unholy night of man’s sin has been transformed into the holy night of God’s forgiveness. They are also a warning: this Light wants to keep shining and will do so only if it shines in those who as Christians carry on Christ’s work through the ages. Christ seeks to illumine the night of the world with his light by having us be lights in our turn. His initial presence is to grow through us.

Therefore, during the holy night of Christmas, when we hear again and again the words resound: “*Hodie Christus natus est*”: Today Christ is born, it should remind us that what was begun at Bethlehem is meant to increase through our constant new beginnings and that the holy night truly can be, and is, “today” whenever man allows the light of goodness within him to shine through his self-centeredness and egoism. That night is “today” whenever the “Word” again becomes “flesh”, the reality of deeds. “The Christ Child comes” in a real sense whenever men act out of authentic love for the Lord and do not settle for a mere exchange of “gifts”.

Advent means the arrival of the Lord that has already begun but has only just begun. This also means that the Christian looks not only to the past and what has been but also to what is coming. Amid all the catastrophes of this world, he has a transcendent certainty that the seed of the Light is growing in secret, until one day the good will achieve a definitive victory and all else will be made subject to it. On that day, Christ will come again. The Christian knows that the presence of God that has now only begun will someday be a full and complete presence. This knowledge sets him free and gives him an ultimate security...

The world is not a futile commotion of drudgery and pain, for all the world’s distress is supported in the arms of merciful love; it is caught up and surpassed by the forgiving and saving graciousness of our God. The person who celebrates Advent in this spirit will legitimately be able to speak of “the joyous, blessed, and grace-filled season of Christmas”. He will know that there is much more truth to these words than is believable or imaginable to those people for whom Christmas is just a time for picturesque sentimentality or merely a sort of simplified carnival celebration.