

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) 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 (Ps 121)

ANTIPHON: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

LECTOR: I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house." And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

LECTOR: It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **R.**

LECTOR: For the peace of Jerusalem pray: "Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!" **R.**

LECTOR: For love of my brethren and friends I say: "Peace upon you!" For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **R.**

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

NEXT WEEK (2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A) Isaiah 11:1-10; Ps 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

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Christmas
Cards*



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*Exciting news
is coming*



30 November 2025 1st Sunday Advent Year A

"Stay awake!" It's not exactly the most comforting advice for people who might already be tired at the end of a long year – especially as we join the throngs flocking to shops for the usual Christmas spend-up. Yet that's the cry that greets us on this first Sunday of Advent. The season opens not with tinsel and cheer, but with Jesus telling his disciples to be alert, watchful, and ready for something new.

Isaiah paints a hopeful picture of what this newness might mean: nations streaming to the mountain of the Lord, swords beaten into ploughshares, war replaced with peace. After a year marked by wars, famine and political mayhem, this is a vision for which we would be prepared to stay awake. The psalm aptly echoes our present longing, calling us to pray for peace in Jerusalem and to rejoice at the prospect of God's house filled with pilgrims.

And then comes Jesus' story about Noah's day. People were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, carrying on with ordinary life. Nothing wrong with that, of course—except that they were asleep to the bigger picture. When the flood came, they weren't ready. Jesus says the same will be true of the coming of the Son of Man: two people at work side by side, one ready, one not. So: "Stay awake."

Paul, writing to the Romans, makes it even plainer: "You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep." His message feels urgent, like an alarm clock going off before the dawn. We wake with a start and

wonder, "Is it too late?"

It's tempting to hear this only as a warning about the end of the world and a possible pending judgement for our sins. But Advent is not about dire predictions or even more dire penitential practices. Advent invites us to hear this biblical message in a gentler, more everyday tone. Stay awake to what God is doing in your life right now. Stay awake to the small gifts that slip past us when we're on autopilot. Stay awake to the people around you who might need attention, kindness, or encouragement.

Advent is a season that sneaks up in the middle of ordinary life. The shops have been in Christmas mode for weeks already. Work deadlines pile up. Social calendars start filling. Christmas lunch planning is pressing. And in the middle of all that noise, the church whispers, "Wake up. Pay attention. Something new is coming."

Staying awake doesn't require us to drink more coffee or get less sleep. It means living with our eyes wide open – choosing not to drift through December in a haze, but to notice where God's peace, hope, and joy are breaking in. Advent asks us to be watchful people, ready to catch glimpses of God's kingdom in unexpected places: in conversations with friends, in moments of silence, even in the messy, imperfect preparations for Christmas.

Damian Coleridge
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Memorare of St Joseph for protection from COVID Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

PRAYER FOR NEEDED RAIN Heavenly Father, maker of all things and protector of your people, look upon us in your love and give us your help. Open the heavens for us and give us the rain we need. Teach us to live for you and to share your gifts with others. Father hear us in our need, for we come to you through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES See noticeboard for details.

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS Here is an opportunity to fill in the blanks

Saints and Masses this Week **Tuesday** 2 December – ADVENT wk1, **Wednesday** 3 December – St Francis Xavier, **Thursday** 4 December – ADVENT wk1, **Friday** 5 December – ADVENT wk1, **Saturday** 6 December – Votive BVM4 ADVENT, **Sunday** 7 December – ADVENT 2A

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Tree Christmas is rapidly approaching and so is the need for our support for those in need. This is a good time to start exercising this charity by buying one extra item for contributions to the StVdeP giving tree.

The Promise Advent Reflection Booklets Available in the foyer; take the opportunity to grown in both faith and prayer. The numbers are limited, so grab them while they are still there.

First Thursday Anointing Mass 9:30am Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

First Thursday Baptism Preparation 7:30pm at the presbytery. No bookings required; one session that lasts about an hour; attendance is essential for documentation and before tentative or actual booking.

First Friday Exposition and Adoration Exposition, silent prayer following the First Friday Mass. Exposition with special prayers at 6pm.

First Saturday Devotions 9:30am Following Saturday morning mass we will begin First Saturday devotions praying for the entire parish and its members.

Parish Working With Children Check and Police Check Databasing As we enter this technological age, and one devoid of trust by society, we need to go to electronic records of WWCC and Police Checks. If you have already a current Check the office needs your name, card/letter number, expiry date of check, and a copy of that card/letter. If you need to obtain one, let us know and we will assist you with information needed and we pay the costs.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR

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Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Nagle (Thurs)

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT	9am at St Mary's	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	
SAT VIGIL	6pm at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUNDAY	8:30am Tallarook 10am at St Mary's	M Winnell	M Flynn
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
M Winnell	S Anderson	M Winnell	S Royals S Liddell
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
D Ring	G Quillinan	C. Spykers W. Spykers	J. McMahon C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$444

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 30/11-6/12: Robert King, Emma Bohlmann, Margaret Roberts, John Sullivan, Fr John Williams, Rene Rourke, Ellen Rourke.

ILLNESSES: We pray for: John McMahon, Peter Matthews, Ellen Ashkar, Peter Gough, Colin Cooper, Milly Brock, Jeremey Stokes, Pete Dillon, Souraya Bacash, and all who are suffering from the Corona Virus and all those unwell at the present time, who receive support from our prayers.

6/7 Dec 2025

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: E Devanney
LECTORS	Sat: C Smith	Sun: A Allison S Anderson
MASS PREPARATION	Sat: C Smith	Sun: C Crowe

COUNTERS: C Mansbridge C Spykers