

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

21 December 2025

readings

Next Week The Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Ps 127:1-5

Col 3:12-21

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

in a nutshell

A Man of Honour. Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on Joseph, the husband of Mary, who played such an important role in God's plan for salvation. Joseph was a man of honour who combined respect for the law with compassion for Mary. He was open to hear God's word to him. He is an example for us all.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, And For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation.
The Christmas Mass schedule is inside.

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Psalm Response

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

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

Weekly Schedule St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass
Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass
Wednesday—9:00am
First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation
Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm
Mount Evelyn: Saturday
11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition
Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings
Please contact the office

Baptisms
Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School
St Josephs
Principal: Nick Boyhan
Website:
www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

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

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley

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 to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

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

Parish Meetings: February 11
6:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarvalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



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

Holy Day of Obligation

Christmas Day is a holy day of obligation which means everyone is required to attend Mass on this day. The schedule of Masses for both parishes are listed above

Christmas Flowers

Donations towards flowers for Christmas week masses would be appreciated.

Fourth Week of Advent—Love

"A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today."

Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi Te Deum* n120

Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod for 2026

Last weekend Archbishop Comensoli announced the calling of an Archdiocesan Synod to be held in 2026. A copy of his letter is available in the foyer. At this stage, this is simply the formal announcement of the Synod itself. During 2026, we will provide clear details regarding the purpose, process, and how this important journey for the People of God in Melbourne will unfold. He asks sincerely for your prayers as we begin to prepare for this important undertaking. He also asks for your ongoing support, so that this Synod may be for our Archdiocese a time of deep listening, renewed faith, authentic encounter and, God willing, rich fruit and flourishing.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration: This is the wonderful truth, my dear friends: the Word, which became flesh two thousand years ago is present today in the Eucharist. Let us deepen through Adoration our personal and communal contemplation. (Pope St. John Paul II)

Confession: The lofty, sublime kind of experience of sitting in Jesus' person, hearing Confessions and seeing mercy come to life is truly a privilege -- a beautiful and humbling one, at that. Being a mediator of God's grace, of the love of Christ and of God's mercy, I would describe as a very great privilege. There's an awesomeness to realise that God is working through me. (Father Toledo)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."

MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

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.

Caritas Australia: Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas.

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity.

Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>

This week's Joke!

What's the difference between Santa and a knight?
One slays the dragon, the other drags the sleigh.

How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?
He was hooked on trees his whole life.

What is a bird's favourite Christmas story?
The Finch Who Stole Christmas.

Readings Reflection

God Is with Us

The mystery kept secret for long ages, promised through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, is today revealed (see Romans 16:25–26).

This is the "Gospel of God" that Paul celebrates in today's Epistle—the good news that "God is with us" in Jesus Christ. The sign promised to the House of David in today's First Reading is given in today's Gospel. In the virgin found with child, God Himself has brought to Israel a savior from David's royal line (see Acts 13:22–23).

Son of David according to the flesh, Jesus is the Son of God, born of the Spirit. He will be anointed with the Spirit (see Acts 10:38), and by the power of Spirit will be raised from the dead and established at God's right hand in the heavens (see Acts 2:33–34; Ephesians 1:20–21).

He is the "King of Glory" we sing of in today's Psalm. The earth in its fullness has been given to Him. And as God swore long ago to David, His Kingdom will have no end (see Psalm 89:4–5).

In Jesus Christ we have a new creation. Like the creation of the world, it is a work of the Spirit, a blessing from the Lord (see Genesis 1:2). In Him, we are saved from our sins, are called now "the beloved of God."

All nations now are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to enter into the House of David and kingdom of God, the Church. Together, through the obedience of faith, we have been made a new race—a royal people that seeks for the face of the God of Jacob.

He has made our hearts clean; He has made us worthy to enter His holy place, to stand in His presence and serve Him.

In the Eucharist, the everlasting covenant is renewed, the Advent promise of virgin with child—God with us—continues until the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20; Ezekiel 37:24–28).

[Dr. Scott Hahn
stpaulcenter.com](https://stpaulcenter.com)

Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive and Bear a Son

Today we are celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent, while preparations are well under way for the feast of Christmas. The Word of God in the liturgy helps us focus our attention on the meaning of this fundamental saving event, which is at once historic and supernatural.

“Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”: God-with-us (Is 7:14). Isaiah’s prophecy is of capital importance in the economy of salvation. It assures us that “God himself” will give King David a descendent as a “sign” of his fidelity. This promise was fulfilled by Jesus born of the Virgin Mary. Thus to benefit from the meaning and gift of grace of Christmas, now at hand, we must hasten to the school of Our Lady and her husband Joseph whom we contemplate in ecstatic adoration of the newborn Messiah in the manger.

In today’s Gospel passage, Matthew highlights the role of Joseph whom he describes as a “just” man (Mt 1:19), and thus emphasizes his unreserved devotion to fulfilling God’s will. Precisely because of this inner righteousness, which in the ultimate analysis coincides with love, Joseph does not decide to reject Mary when he discovers she is with child. He resolves to “send her away quietly” (Mt 1:19), but the angel of the Lord tells him not to fear, and to take her as his wife.

Another essential aspect of St Joseph’s personality emerges here: he is ready to listen to God in prayer. He learns from the angel that “it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her, [Mary]” (cf. Mt 1:20), according to the ancient prophecy: “Behold, a young woman shall conceive ...”, and he is quick to accept God’s plans that surpass human limitations.

In sum, Joseph can be described as an authentic man of faith like his wife Mary. Faith combines justice and prayer; this is the most appropriate attitude with which to encounter the Emmanuel, God-with-us. Indeed, believing means living through history open to God’s initiative, to the creative force of his Word who became flesh in Christ, uniting himself to our humanity forever. Thus, the Virgin Mary and St Joseph help us to celebrate fruitfully the birth of the Redeemer.

Pope St John Paul II, Fourth Sunday of Advent Angelus

464 The unique and altogether singular event of the Incarnation of the Son of God does not mean that Jesus Christ is part God and part man, nor does it imply that he is the result of a confused mixture of the divine and the human. He became truly man while remaining truly God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. During the first centuries, the Church had to defend and clarify this truth of faith against the heresies that falsified it.

469 The Church thus confesses that Jesus is inseparably true God and true man. He is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother:

“What he was, he remained and what he was not, he assumed,” sings the Roman Liturgy. And the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom proclaims and sings: “O only-begotten Son and Word of God, immortal being, you who deigned for our salvation to become incarnate of the holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, you who without change became man and were crucified, O Christ our God, you who by your death have crushed death, you who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us!” (Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, Troparion O monogenes)

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church