

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

7 December 2025

readings

Next Week
Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6, 10
Ps 145:6-10
James 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11

in a nutshell

God's Kingdom is Near. John the Baptist urged the people to prepare for the coming of the kingdom by repenting of their sins. Their baptism by John in the Jordan River was an important ritual act of sorrow. But they also had to express their sorrow by reforming their lives. The sacrament of reconciliation, and right living, are excellent means through which we can prepare for the feast of Christmas.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Pauline Bennett, 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

Stewardship envelopes are now available in the foyer.

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard in the joy of your heart.

Psalm Response

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness
of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.

Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his
paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from
God.

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/upperyarraalley> 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

Mass Monday 8 December

There will be a mass at St Mary's at 9:00a.m. for the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception.

Mass—Wednesday

The 9:00a.m. Mass on Wednesday will be a whole school mass to celebrate the end of the school year.

Christmas Flowers

Donations towards flowers for Christmas week masses would be appreciated.

Sacred Heart Warburton Update

Demolition of the church in Warburton is moving forward. Preparation of the site with the erection of safety fencing is scheduled for Friday November 28th/Monday December 1. Removal of Asbestos is scheduled for the first week of December and the demolition the following week, weather permitting.

Second Week of Advent—Peace

Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words.

Pope Leo XIV, Audience to the Members of the Diplomatic Corps, May 2025

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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The faith of the Church is this: that one and identical is the word of God and the Son of Mary, Who suffered on the Cross, Who is present in the Eucharist, and Who rules in heaven. (Pope Pius XII)

Be a person of steady and regular prayer; don't allow your relationship to the Lord to fall into disrepair. Avail yourself regularly of the sacrament of reconciliation; bring your sins before Christ and seek his forgiveness. Don't let grudges and resentments fester; keep your relationships in good repair. Following the Christian spiritual tradition, regularly "remember your death." (Bishop Robert Barron)

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.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

Please pick up your envelopes for the next 12 months.

Stewardship Corner

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

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/>

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

An exciting joint venture for our parish – an opportunity to get involved.

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 church meeting room at St Mary's. Contact James Nolet: jnolet@iinet.au mobile: 0407406384. More info: <https://familyvoice.org.au/voice-for-change>

This week's Joke!

What does a cloud wear under his raincoat?

Thunderwear!

Readings Reflection

Kingdom Come

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today's First Reading and Psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David—a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel—but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God's oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise" (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1–2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5)—children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings—making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](mailto:Dr.Scott.Hahn@stpaulcenter.com)
stpaulcenter.com

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Lk 1:28).

[NOTE: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is Monday, 8 December]

We address the Virgin Mary several times a day with these words of the Archangel Gabriel. Let us repeat them with fervent joy today, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, remembering 8 December 1854 when Blessed Pius IX proclaimed this wonderful Dogma of the Catholic faith in this very same Vatican Basilica.

How great is the mystery of the Immaculate Conception that the Liturgy presents to us today! A mystery that never ceases to invite the contemplation of believers and inspires the reflection of theologians. The theme of the Congress that has just been mentioned: “Mary of Nazareth welcomes the Son of God into history”, has fostered a deep examination of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary as a presupposition for receiving in her virginal womb the Word of God Incarnate, the Saviour of the human race.

“Full of grace”, “κεχαριτωμενη”: in the original Greek of Luke’s Gospel, the Angel greets Mary with this title. It is the name that God, through his messenger, chose to use to describe the Virgin. This is how he had always seen and thought of her, *ab aeterno* (from all eternity).

In the hymn of the Letter to the Ephesians just now proclaimed, the Apostle praises God the Father “who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (1:3). What a special blessing God addressed to Mary from the beginning of time! Mary was truly blessed among women!

The Father chose her in Christ before the creation of the world, so that she might be holy and immaculate before him in love, preordaining her as the first fruits of filial adoption through the work of Jesus Christ.

The predestination of Mary, like that of each one of us, is linked to the predestination of the Son. Christ is that “seed” that was “to bruise the head” of the ancient serpent, according to the Book of Genesis; he is the Lamb “without blemish”, immolated to redeem humanity from sin.

With a view to the saving death of the Son, Mary, his Mother, was preserved free from original sin and from every other sin. The victory of the new Adam also includes that of the new Eve, Mother of the redeemed. The Immaculate Virgin is thus a sign of hope for all the living who have triumphed over Satan by the blood of the Lamb.

Today let us contemplate the humble young girl of Nazareth, holy and blameless before God in love, in that “love” whose original source is God himself, one and triune.

How sublime an act of the Most Holy Trinity is the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of the Redeemer! Pius IX, in the Bull *Ineffabilis Deus*, recalls that the Almighty “by one and the same decree had established the origin of Mary and the Incarnation of divine Wisdom” (*Pii IX Pontificis Maximi Acta, Pars prima*, p. 559).

The Virgin’s “yes” to the announcement of the Angel fits into the reality of our earthly condition, with humble respect for the divine will to save humanity not from history but in history. Indeed, ever preserved free from all taint of original sin, the “new Eve” benefited uniquely from the work of Christ as the most perfect Mediator and Redeemer. The first to be redeemed by her Son, she shares to the full in his holiness; she is already what the entire Church desires and hopes to be. She is the eschatological icon of the Church.

Consequently the Immaculate Virgin, who marks “the very beginning of the Church, Bride of Christ, without spot or wrinkle, shining with beauty” (Preface), always precedes the People of God in the pilgrimage of faith, bound for the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Mary’s Immaculate Conception the Church sees projected and anticipated in her most noble member, the saving grace of Easter.

In the event of the Incarnation the Church encounters Christ and Mary indissolubly united: “he who is the Church’s Lord and Head and she who, uttering the first fiat of the New Covenant, prefigures the Church’s condition as spouse and mother” (*Redemptoris Mater*, n. 1).

To you, Virgin Immaculate, predestined by God above every other creature to be the advocate of grace and model of holiness for his people, today in a special way I renew the entrustment of the whole Church. May you guide your children on their pilgrimage of faith, making them ever more obedient and faithful to the Word of God. May you accompany every Christian on the path of conversion and holiness, in the fight against sin and in the search for true beauty that is always an impression and a reflection of divine Beauty.

May you obtain peace and salvation for all the peoples. May the eternal Father, who desired you to be the immaculate Mother of the Redeemer, also renew in our time through you, the miracles of his merciful love. Amen!

Pope St John Paul II, Homily on the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2004