

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction & Warburton



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

24 December 2023

Readings

Next Week

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Ps 104:1-6, 8-9

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk 2:22-40

in a nutshell

A Dwelling Place for God. King David wanted to build a fine temple in which God would dwell among the people. But God did not choose a building made of stones and mortar for a dwelling place but the womb of the virgin Mary. God continues to dwell among us in Mary's son, Jesus Christ, whose body is the church. Let us pray for a deepening of faith this Christmas that we, like Mary, may continue to give Christ to the world.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, Margaret Moore, Pauline Bennett.

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

of special note

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

More information 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.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
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

Sunday Mass

Warburton: Saturday—4:30pm (EST)

7:00pm (EDST)

Yarra Junction: Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am Yarra Junction

First Friday—11:30am Warburton

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:00pm-6:45pm

Thursdays at Yarra Junction

First Thursday at Warburton

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Thursdays at Yarra Junction

First Thursday at Warburton

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.sjyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarra

Email: moutevelyn@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
Mary Ryan
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Working With Children

There are a number of parishioners whose Working With Children Check has expired. Could you please check your cards and update if necessary.

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday please

mountevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Parish Meetings: Wednesday, 7 February

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

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

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

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

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

January 1 2024—Mary, The Holy Mother of God

11:00am—St Marys

Parish Notices

Mass Attendance Fourth Sunday Advent & Christmas

As you know, Christmas falls on Monday this year. This makes the Christmas Vigil fall on Sunday night. Christmas is one of two Holy Days of Obligation meaning that we are obliged to go to Mass as we do on every Sunday. This means that we are obligated to go to Mass once for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and once for Christmas (yes, twice this weekend!). The Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent are Saturday night and Sunday morning, which serve for our Sunday obligation. The Sunday evening and Monday morning Masses will be for our Christmas obligation. Please ask father if there is any confusion.

Christmas Eve at Yarra Junction

Carols will be sung starting at 6:30 followed by the Vigil Mass. Stay and join other parishioners and visitors after Mass for a quick cuppa and some festive treats.

January Holidays

As Fr Michel will be taking a break, there will be no weekday masses or adoration during the weeks beginning 8th & 15th January 2024. Weekend masses remain as usual with Fr Michel celebrating them. Janine will be out of the office until the week beginning 15 January.

Unexpected Maintenance Expenses—Donations needed!

Due to plumbing leaks and repairs needed to toilets we have a bill of \$5387.00. This is a major and unexpected expense to the Parish. Also needing repairs was the security lighting at Warburton at a cost of \$902.

If you can donate towards covering these expenses it would be appreciated. Contributions can be made via direct debit using the bank details listed below (use the reference 'repairs') or by cash/cheque in an envelope marked repairs. Thanks to those who have contributed to this appeal: **donations to date \$1620**

Sacred Heart Parish Church BSB# 083347 Account number 670642723

Church Flowers—Donations

Donations can be made at any time in envelopes marked 'Flowers' or 'Altar Society'

Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration: The Blessed Sacrament is that place which makes a Catholic Church different from every other place in the world; which makes it, as no other place can be— holy. (St. John Henry Newman)

Confession: Through this Sacrament Christ remains an abiding, healing Presence in his Church. He meets our individuality and frailty with his love and reconciliation, and shares with us what He has won for us by the bitter pain of his Passion. (Fr. Antony Jones).

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration. Friday mornings 8:00am Mount Evelyn

Stewardship Corner

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli's request for Ukraine

Cards and envelopes are available in the foyer for donations or you can use the bar code to contribute online. More information is available in the foyer.

St Mary's Prayer Group— Now Every Week

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

Parish Sacramental Program

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. Please note classes are held at St Mary's.

Christmas cracker worthy!

Why don't you ever see Santa in the hospital?
Because he has private elf care!

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

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsil-itis!

What's the best thing to put in your Christmas dinner?
Your teeth!

Readings Reflection

[The Mystery Kept Secret](#)

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3–9).

Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13–14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible.

Mary is hailed as the "daughter Jerusalem," called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (see Zephaniah 3:14–17).

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High"—an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18–19).

He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end.

He is to rule over the house of Jacob—the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1–5).

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience—that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

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

By the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man

Let us now glance at the way Luke portrays the conception and birth of Jesus—not in order to offer here any interpretation of that text, with its wealth of allusions, but simply so as to understand the particular contribution it makes to the statement in the Creed...Luke lets the words of the angel express the mystery of the Trinity and thus gives this event the same theological center to which the whole of salvation history is related in the Creed. The child who is being born will be called Son of the Most High, Son of God; the Holy Spirit, as the power of the Most High, will bring about this conception in mysterious fashion; thus, the Son, the Father (indirectly), and the Holy Spirit are all mentioned. For the way that the Holy Spirit will come upon Mary, Luke uses here the word “overshadow” (verse 35). He is thereby alluding to the Old Testament story of the holy cloud that rested over the Tent of Meeting to show when God was present. Thus Mary is characterized as the new holy Tent, the living ark of the Covenant. Her Yes becomes the place of meeting that offers God a dwelling place in the world. God, who does not live in stones, does live in this Yes that has been given with body and soul; he who cannot be contained within the world can come to dwell in his entirety within one person. There are several traces in Luke of this theme of the new temple, of the true ark of the Covenant, especially, for instance, in the angel’s greeting to Mary: Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you (1:28). Nowadays it is hardly disputed that this saying of the angel, as Luke has transmitted it, takes up the oracle of promise in Zephaniah 3:14, which is addressed to the daughter of Zion and proclaims that God will dwell in her midst. Thus, this greeting presents Mary as the daughter of Zion personified and, at the same time, as the divine dwelling place, as the holy tent above which hangs the cloud of God’s presence. This idea was taken up by the Fathers and also influenced early Christian iconography. Saint Joseph is designated as high priest by his sprouting staff and as archetype of the Christian bishop. Mary, however, is the living Church. The Holy Spirit is coming down on her, and thus she becomes the new Temple. Joseph, the righteous man, is appointed steward of the mysteries of God—the head of the house and guardian of the sanctuary constituted by the bride and the Logos within her. Thus he becomes the image of the bishop, to whom the bride is entrusted; she is placed, not at his disposal, but in his safekeeping. Everything here is ordered with respect to the trinitarian God, but for that very reason his presence with us in human history, in the mystery of Mary and the Church, is especially clear and comprehensible. There is one other point in Luke’s story of the Annunciation that seems to me important for the question we are considering. God asks man to consent. He does not simply dispose things as he wishes through his own power. In this creature, man, he has created a free being to stand over against him, and he now has need of the freedom of this creature, that his Kingdom may truly come to be, that Kingdom which is based, not upon external power, but upon freedom. In one of his sermons, Bernard of Clairvaux has depicted in dramatic fashion this waiting of God and the waiting of mankind:

The angel awaits your answer, for it is time for him to return to the One who sent him.... O Lady, answer with the word that earth and hell and, yes, even heaven are waiting for. Just as the Lord and King yearned for your beauty, so equally now he longs for you to respond with your agreement.... Why are you hesitating? Why are you fearful?... Behold, the One for whom all peoples are longing stands without and knocks on the door. Ah, what if he were to pass on because you hesitated.... Stand up, hasten, open up! Stand up in faith, hasten in your devotion, open up by your assent!

Without the freely given assent of Mary, God cannot become man. Certainly, this Yes Mary says is wholly by grace. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, whereby she was freed from original sin, has in fact just exactly this as its sole significance: that no human being can set in motion the process of salvation by his own powers alone, but that his Yes is wrapped around and supported within by that divine love which comes first and before all else and that already surrounds man before he is even born. “All is grace.” Yet grace does not remove freedom; rather, it brings it into being. The entire mystery of redemption is present in this story and is summed up in the figure of the Virgin Mary: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word”

Pope Benedict XVI, God is Near Us: The Eucharist, the Heart of Life