

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction & Warburton



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: 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

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 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.sjyarrarjunction.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

moutevelyn@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

Parish Notices

Special Collection—9/10 December

Melbourne Overseas Mission

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.

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**

Church Flowers—Donations

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

St Vincent De Paul Society Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your generous Christmas Appeal donations of \$370

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, 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

"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.

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.

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.

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 – 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

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.