



ST JOSEPH'S Parish of Benalla



WE THE PARISH OF BENALLA ARE WORKING TOWARDS
BEING A WELCOMING, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY, WHICH
ENCOURAGES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN OUR LIFE.
RECOGNISING AND RESPECTING THE UNIQUENESS OF
EACH INDIVIDUAL, AS WE JOURNEY IN LIVING OUT JESUS'
GOSPEL MESSAGE.

We acknowledge the custodians of the land of the Yorta Yorta Nation w

We also acknowledge the Taungurung clan of the Kulin Nation whose lands are within our parish.

We remember their ancestors with respect and commit ourselves to a better future through reconciliation and justice.

Second Sunday of Advent ~ Year A

Sunday 7 December 2025



Readings for this
week:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12



Readings for next
Sunday:

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

FIRST READING

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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. **R.**

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

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. **R.**

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.**

SECOND READING

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

REFLECTION

The readings for the second week of Advent speak gently but clearly: God is coming, so prepare your heart. In Isaiah, we hear the comforting words, "Comfort, give comfort to my people." God reminds us that He draws near not with anger, but with tenderness. Like a shepherd, He gathers us close and guides us with care. This is the kind of God we wait for—one who brings healing, not fear. In the Gospel, John the Baptist appears in the wilderness calling people to repent. His message is simple: clear a straight path for the Lord. Advent invites us to do the same. We prepare not by doing extraordinary things, but by honestly looking at our hearts and removing what gets in the way—pride, hurt, impatience, or fear. Peter reminds us that God's timing is different from ours, but His promise is sure. We are called to live in peace, trusting that God is patiently working in us. As we light the second candle, we ask for the grace to welcome God's comfort and to make room for His peace. May this week help us prepare a simple, open, and ready heart for the One who is coming. God Bless always, Fr Vijay Fr Vijay



REGULAR MASS TIMES

Weekend – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30am Weekdays – Tues to Fri 9.15am

Thoon Mass – Third Sunday of each month, 12 noon

Parish Priest: Fr Vijay Bandanadam, Parish House: 42 Arundel St, Benalla 3672. Fr Vijay's Mobile: 0435 006 171 Parish House Phone: 5762 2060

www.catholicparish.app>benalla Office Email: benalla@sandhurst.catholic.org.au, Fr Vijay's Email: frbasuoss@gmail.com

For donations/planned giving bank transfers BSB: 083543 Account No: 457724666 Reference: Your name



WELCOME BACK FR VIJAY and CHRISTMAS PARTY

This Sunday 7th December, Parish Christmas Party 5.30 – 7.30pm, On The Parish Lawns. Food Provided, Soft Drinks, Christmas Carols, Father Christmas, Fun For All, Everyone Welcome!

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Monsignor Frank Marriott, Peter Sireh (brother of Fr Paul Sireh), Michael Dwyer & Edward Dennett (Husband of Connie Dennett)

ANNIVERSARIES: John Ellis Mark Bridgfoot, Doreen Robertson, Joan Shallue, Brian Dwyer, Sylvia Smith, Merlyn Da Pos, Harold Balcombe, June Cain, Neville Colville, Jim Smith, Mick Gilbert and Jennifer Knight
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Elizabeth Waters, Anne Ryan, Brigid Chalmers, Duncan Carradice, Margaret McCrohan and Shirley McGill



Subscribe and receive Parish Bulletin, Newsletter & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

Over the next two weekends (Nov 29&30, Dec 6&7) SVDP Benalla

Conference will be holding their annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Donations can be made in a variety of ways: cash (in an envelope or via QR Code), gift card to Toyworld or Sportspower or buy a toy. Please place your donation in envelopes on 2nd collection for the next 2 weeks. We thank you for your continued support of the Benalla Conference.

Advent and Christmas Prayer and Reflection 2025

In Sandhurst tradition, the Diocese has produced a series of leaflets to guide prayer and reflection over each week of Advent. This year, the six-part reflection series invites reflection and prayer based on the scriptures of Advent and Christmas Year A, and on Dilexi Te, Pope Leo's XIV's Apostolic Exhortation to all Christians on 'Love for the Poor'. Please find Advent & Christmas Prayer & Reflection leaflets in the narthex.



Steam It Up CARPET CLEANING Jason Blyss 0407438219	 Goulburn Murray Credit Union 30–32 Bridge Street PH 5762 3380	 SMITH DOSSER Accountants Income Tax Returns Business Advisers 107 Bridge St Benalla Ph 5762 1588
MAHERS TREE SERVICE JOHN MAHER M: 0413 842 525 MTS COMPLETE LANDSCAPING DANIEL MAHER M: 0412 083 618	HAIR Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 6006 <i>Manor</i>	 Currie ELECTRICAL Expert Electrical Services in Benalla Ph 0408 572 766
COOKS Kerb Concrete Excavation PHIL & DEBBIE COOK 0409 950 046		 N.J. TODD Funeral directors Phone: (03) 5762 2461 FEEHAN FAMILY Est. 1938- AFDA Member 81 Baddaginnie Road, Benalla



I BELIEVE...

A FOUR-PART REFLECTION ON THE NICENE CREED CELEBRATING 1700 YEARS IN 2025 (Parish copy in the narthex)

In 2025 the Christian world marks 1700 years since church leaders met at Nicaea (Iznik in present day Türkiye) for the first ecumenical council. The Nicene Creed, which we pray every Sunday, sprang from this Council. This Creed was the first universal expression of Christian faith and identity. If you would like a printed copy, please call or message Michelle on 0419 390 624 or call parish office 5762 2060.

The "Nicene Creed: I Believe" is a resource in booklet form, developed by the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Life Team and approved by Bishop Shane Mackinlay. The resource offers a four-part reflection on the Nicene Creed and includes: historical background; insights from Scripture and Christian teachers; everyday life reflections; prayer; and responses to questions that sometimes leave us asking, "Why?"

This resource may be helpful for lifelong Catholics revisiting the deeply held beliefs that shape their lives, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) participants and the newly baptised, those receiving further Sacraments, young adults and those committed to ecumenical dialogue. Individuals may read and reflect at their own pace, or a small group could meet to share and discuss their reflections on each part of the resource.

Our thanks go to: Lyn Breen (parishioner at St Monica's Kangaroo Flat in the Cathedral Cluster of Parishes, Bendigo who holds a Master of Theology, Master of Arts (Christian Spirituality) and Graduate Diploma in Ignatian Spirituality, for her work in preparing the text for this resource.

To download go to: <https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/2958-the-nicene-creed-i-believe> OR QR CODE ABOVE Parish copy in the narthex.

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
6 Dec	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Clare O'Brien	Vince Brannigan	Kath Elliot	Charlee & Kevin
7 Dec	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Oliver Raschke	Marg Daw	Loiuse Beling	P & J O'Brien
13 Dec	6.00pm	Ryan Miguel	Anna Wise	Clare O'Brien	Cath Duncombe	K & S Chacko
14 Dec	9.30am	Max Rankin	Anne McLeod	Wendy Rettke	Oliver Raschke	T & N Pelly



St Joseph's Parish is a Child Safe Parish, and we are committed to the wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

The Diocese of Sandhurst Safeguarding Committee is part of the structure under the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, which is designed to be implemented by Catholic entities across Australia. Any questions, queries, comments or suggestions are welcomed by the Safeguarding team who can be contacted through the Parish House by phone or email. St Joseph's Parish Child Safe Officers - Xavier O'Kane and Cath Duncombe 0423 203 154

Parish Priest: Fr Vijay Bandanadam, Parish House: 42 Arundel St, Benalla 3672. Fr Vijay's Mobile: 0435 006 171 Parish House Phone: 5762 2060

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