



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 which, includes the eight clan groups.

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.

Third Sunday of Advent ~ Year A

Sunday 14 December 2025



Readings for this
week:

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



Readings for next
Sunday:

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

FIRST READING

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**



It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

REFLECTION

The Third Sunday of Advent invites us into a quiet but confident joy. In the first reading from Isaiah, we hear promises of restoration: the desert will bloom, the weak will be strengthened, and fearful hearts will find courage. Isaiah reminds us that God is already at work transforming what seems barren in our lives. Joy grows when we trust that God's grace is greater than our limitations. The second reading from James calls us to patience. Like farmers waiting for the rains, we are encouraged to stand firm, even when God's timing feels slow. Advent joy is not loud or rushed; it is steady, rooted in hope, and willing to wait for God's presence to unfold. In the Gospel, John the Baptist questions whether Jesus is truly the one to come. Jesus responds by pointing not to grand declarations but to simple signs of healing and mercy. God's work is often gentle, almost hidden, yet unmistakably life-giving. All these readings remind us that joy comes from recognizing God's quiet action in our lives. Advent invites us to trust, to wait, and to let our hearts bloom with hope as we prepare for Christ, who comes with healing and peace. God Bless always, Fr Vijay



REGULAR MASS TIMES

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

Thoon Mass – Third Sunday of each month, 12 noon

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Kevin Donnelly, Monsignor Frank Marriott,
ANNIVERSARIES: Leo Donohue, Catherine Dundon, James Hurley, Bill McCabe, Linda Hill, Mary Dore, Betty Stapleton, Harold Currie, Pat Williams, John Clancy, Kingston Smith, Christopher Smith and Edna Pangbourne
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Elizabeth Waters, Anne Ryan, Brigid Chalmers, Duncan Carradice and Margaret McCrohan



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ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

Once again, the Benalla Conference has been humbled by the generosity of our Parishioners.

We have received \$3405 over the past two weekend Masses – an amazing amount!

This has enabled us to provide around 80 Hampers – food cards, cake/biscuits & a gift for U12s.

The Benalla Conference wishes you and your families a blessed Christmas and a happy, safe and healthy 2026.



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.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Tuesday 16th to Friday 19th Dec 7pm and
Monday & Tuesday 22 & 23 Dec 7pm

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERING

Christmas Mass Volunteer Sheet will be in the narthex to write your name down. Please write your name if you would like to volunteer at this time. If you are a new volunteer, please add your phone number or call the parish office on 57622060



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Carols 6.00pm
 Christmas Eve 6.30pm Wed, 24th Dec
 Christmas Eve 9.00pm Wed, 24th Dec
 Christmas Day 9.30am Thurs, 25th Dec

THE PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you everyone who attended and to the volunteers! Good food, great company and a visit from Father Christmas!



WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
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
20 Dec	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Shirley Kearney	Cath Duncombe	Janene Humphries	K Elliott & Volunteer
21 Dec	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Lisa Raschke	Richard Rubira	Joan Berry	W Rettke



We are committed to the NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

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