



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH
1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm
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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

5 & 6 DECEMBER 2020

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Mission Leader

Fr Peter Danh CSsR

Parish Priest

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Assistant Parish Priest

Fr Vinsensius (Lovin) Lolo CSsR

Fr Oche Matutina CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Acting Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P. Meat

Novena

5pm on 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month

Mass Times

- ♦ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
 - ♦ **Saturday:** 6:00pm
 - ♦ **Sunday:** 9:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm
- 12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

- 1st & 2nd Sun Sudanese Mass - 3.00pm
- 3rd Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
- 4th Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

SOCIAL OFFICE

Contact: Son Nguyen & Tammy Le
Phone 9366 1310
Tuesday & Friday 10:00am – 3:00pm.

FOODBANK open Fridays
10.30am until 2.00pm. More details
call Charlie 03 9366 1310.

St Vincent de Paul: Call Centre is
now open. Please contact 1800 305
330. Thank you.

PIETY STALL

6:00 pm - Janie Gatt, 9:00 am Mini
Eddy, 10.30am – Helen Maddela,
6.00pm—Lily Disc

2nd Week of Advent Year B

Tues 9:00 AM, 8-12-20

Reader Xuan Duong

Wed 9:00 AM, 9-12-20

Reader Carmen Camilleri

Thur 9:00 AM, 10-12-20

Reader Volunteer

Fri 9:00 AM, 11-12-20

Reader Helen Maddela

Sat 6.00 PM, 12-12-20

Lit. Coordinator:

Reno Attard & Charlie Pace

Commentator Anthony Naidu

Reader Violeta Montoro

Miriam Vella

Extraordinary Min:

Violeta Montoro

Anthony Naidu

Sun 9.00 AM, 13-12-20

Lit. Coordinator Volunteers

Commentator Wilma Marmur

Reader Mini Eddy

Fred Storace

Extraordinary Min

Wilma Marmur

Antonia Fratric

Sun 10:30AM, 13-12-20

Lit. Coordinator: Saua Tufuga

Commentator Cristina Pedroso

Reader Rita Martin

Ed Cabla

Extraordinary Min

Saua Tufuga

Rita Martin

Sun 6.00PM, 13-12-20

Lit. Coordinator Lani Laririt

Commentator Lani Laririt

Reader Volunteer

Volunteer

Extraordinary Min

Volunteers

**Readers/Special Ministers contact
the Office please for your availabil-
ity during the Months of Decem-
ber & January 2021.**

GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS!

Dear Parishioners,

With gratitude to our God, we
can have 150 people in our
Church until further notice.

English Masses:

* **Weekday Masses: 9am from
Tuesday to Friday**

**Please arrive at least 15 minutes early
to have your name noted in the 150
attendees.**

* **Weekend Masses**

Saturday: 6pm

Sunday: 9am, 10.30am, 6pm

**Please contact the Parish Office to let
us know that you would like to attend.**

OBSERVE THE FOLLOW- ING GUIDELINES

For the safety of everyone

- ◇ Please use the hand sanitizer pro-
vided and keep social distancing at
all time.
- ◇ Everyone over 12 years of age,
please wear face coverings/masks
at all times.
- ◇ When a cantor is singing or a
reader/commentator is reading,
the face covering/masks may be
lowered, but must be worn at all
other times.
- ◇ Please find a mark on the pew to
sit when you enter inside the
church.
- ◇ Rite of Peace, please avoid shak-
ing hands but instead say "Peace
be with you" and offer a smile,
wave, nod or bow.
- ◇ Please observe social distancing at
Holy Communion, which will on-
ly be given in the hand.
- ◇ If you feel unwell, please do not
attend the Mass you are registered
for and advise the Parish Office,
so as to allow someone else on
the waiting list to attend.

Thanks for your collaboration.

God bless and protect us always.

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Did You Know?

Before Isaiah, the prophet Jeremiah had warned the people that their behaviour towards God would bring his wrath on them. God allowed the King, the temple and their way of life to be swept away and the people to be taken into slavery in Babylon.

In chapter 40, Isaiah tells the people that they can return and be comforted by God who forgives and accepts them.

He uses the images that the people would be familiar with. The old concept was of God as a warrior who rides in from the desert supported by his armies and delivers his people. Whereas the path is the highway made straight for God to return to his people on, a processional way for a king.

REFLECTION

What are the valleys in my life that need to be filled up so that I can prepare for the Lord's coming at Christmas?

What are the mountains in my life that need to be torn down so that I can prepare for the Lord's coming at Christmas?

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Did You Know?

Peace comes to those who return to God with humble prayer and are forgiven completely. The forgiven sinner is one who bears fruit in his/her life.

REFLECTION

In what ways have I experienced the Lord's kindness this week?

In what ways can I show the Lord's kindness to others?

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Did You Know?

The Letter of St Peter is said to have been written by the Apostle Peter. The letter is addressed to the suffering churches in Asia Minor who would have been officially and socially persecuted. Officially the Christians would have been taken to court and even executed. Socially they were outcasts.

One of the things that the Christians of the day believed was that the Lord would return in their lifetimes. That is why the reading speaks of the end times coming.

REFLECTION

How can I use the time wisely given to me this Advent to prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas?

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Did You Know?

Mark is the only one of the evangelists that speaks of the Gospel (Good News). He commences his Gospel by proclaiming that Jesus is that Good News. Mark takes us back to Isaiah in preparing the reader for John the Baptist and then quickly takes us to how John is the one preparing the people for Jesus.

John the Baptist immediately steps aside for Jesus who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION

How can I be God's faithful messenger this week to help people prepare for the coming of Christ?

FOSTER YOUR DESIRE FOR CHRIST IN ADVENT

I once informed my mother that I would be coming home from college at a particular date. Being the crazy college student that I was then, I changed my mind and returned home a day later without informing her of the change. I never thought it was a big deal until I learned later that she had taken time off from work on the day I was expected to return just to prepare my favorite meal for me. She also did not sleep that night as she kept waiting and listening for me to arrive at the house. I really felt bad about my behavior and I learned to communicate my plans better.

But her sleepless vigil for my return and her preparing my favorite meal taught me that waiting or watching for someone always was not something that was done automatically. Before we can wait for someone without becoming weary, we must have a deep love for the person always. Secondly, we must be ready to do and to endure things that would please the person. When these two conditions are met, we have an intense desire for that person and this is what makes us watch and wait for the person always. We just cannot wait for someone endlessly if we do not have this intense desire for that person.

Prophet Isaiah begs God to intervene because, even after returning to their homeland from exile, the Israelites were still being unfaithful to God. They cloaked their infidelity by their rituals and religious formality. We easily sense the prophet's desire for God's intervention, 'Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down.' This desire is also accompanied by a prayer for them all to live a life that is pleasing to God, 'Would that you would meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways.' His desire for God's intervention is rooted in this readiness to live a life pleasing to God.

The season of Advent calls us to watch and wait always for the glorious return of Christ in obedience to Jesus' words to us, 'Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.' But because our watchfulness for

Him cannot be automatic, Jesus also gives us all work to do for Him so as to please Him and thus grow in our desire for Him, 'He places His servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.' To the extent that we work for His pleasure, our desire for Him will be intense enough to endure the long wait for His return.

But what is this work that Jesus has given us all to do for His pleasure alone by which we also nurture our desire for Him? There are three interrelated things that He asks from us.

The first work is to be faithful to the duties and obligations of our state of life. Whether we are married, single, priests, religious etc., we embrace these as a sign of our love for Jesus and so as to please Him. We do not break our commitments to others and we do not shirk our duties and obligations. By the grace of God, we strive constantly to become the mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, priests and religious that God calls us to be. Just think of all the unbearable pain, wasted time and resources, and spiritually broken lives in the Church because of the infidelity of a few of the clergy to their commitments to priestly celibacy.

The second work is that we become holy like Christ as we fulfill the duties of our state in life. Every vocation in the Church is call to deeper participation in the Christ's holiness. We embrace this call to holiness through our vocations not trusting in our effort and resources but based on the promise that God who has called us to both our earthly and heavenly vocation will 'keep us firm to the end, irrepensible on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1Cor 1:8)

The third work is that we strive to help others to grow in holiness too. In the words of the Catechism, 'The two sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony are directed towards the salvation of others; if they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God.' (CCC#1534) This role of Christian vocation in the salvation of others explains why no serious and honest disciple of Jesus, who genuinely cares for the salvation of souls, can ever propose or support 'same-sex' marriage.

Our world may scoff at these works that please Christ because they think that it is impossible. They will point to the many scandals in the Church and the failures of both lay and ordained in living up to these standards. This is because they have no faith or hope in the glorious return of Christ. They neither know Him nor do they see any need to watch and wait for Him. We must not be deterred by all these because, as we wait for Him, we are certain that He will give us all that we need to do what is pleasing to Him till He returns, 'We are not lacking in any spiritual gift as we wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Our watching and waiting for Him is itself a source of graces for us too.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, if we are getting wearied of the long wait for the Lord Jesus' return or if we are weighed down by our own sinfulness and burdens, let us be consoled by this fact: 'God is faithful, and by Him we were called to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.' We are not the ones calling ourselves to heaven; our ever-faithful Father is the one

inviting us and He will give us all that we need for full communion with Christ His Son in heaven.

But heaven too is not automatic. God will only give us what we love and desire the most. He will give us only what we are willing to labor and sacrifice for. He will give us that thing that has given us greatest pleasure here on earth. We cannot hope to enter into heavenly union with His Son Jesus Christ when we do not desire Him above all things and we are not ready to please Him in all things.

Our Eucharistic Lord gives us all that we need to really love Him above all things and in all things. He moves our wills to seek to please Him alone in all things. He does all this so that we desire Him enough to wait for Him always until the end of time or end of our lives here on earth.

Let us beg Mama Mary to help us to begin cultivating our desire for Christ today no matter what the past has been. God gave His only Son to Mary because no creature ever desired the Son of God like His immaculate mother Mary. No single person loved Jesus more, was more ready to please Him at any cost, desired Him more intensely, and waited and watched for Him more than Mary.

Indeed, Mary's waiting for her son was not automatic! This is why St. Augustine said, "The world was unworthy to receive the Son of God directly from the hands of the Father. He gave it to Mary so that the world could receive Him through her." This mother who ceaselessly watched for her Son and who welcomed Him with love beyond all telling is also our mother. There is thus no one who can better help us to cultivate that desire for Jesus that makes us watch for His return till our very last breath.

Glory to Jesus!!! Honor to Mary!!!

By FR. NNAMDI MONEME, OMV

CHRISTMAS CAROLS 2020

Christmas Carols by Candle Light at the School Oval on 19th December 2020 from 7.00pm – 9.00pm. All are welcome to join choirs from our Parish community participating in the exciting event .

Thank you

SCHOOL NEW

Acting Principal's Message

Dear Holy Eucharist Community,
Next year we have a few new staff members working at our school. Ms Carla Lolicato and Ms Helen Kennedy will be joining our community from St George Precca and Mrs Rose Barnes will be coming from Caranballac College in Point Cook. Next year, Mrs Bernadette Parnis and Mrs Gabrielle Bright will be coming back to Holy Eucharist. Mrs Parnis will be joining us from St Catherine of Sienna to take on the role as Learning and Teaching/Literacy Leader and Mrs Bright will be returning after maternity leave. I would like to welcome them to our community and hope they find their new positions rewarding.

Sadly, at the end of this year, we will be saying goodbye to a few of our staff members who will begin a new chapter in their lives. Miss Sharon Bonnici who has been a part of Holy Eucharist for 36 years, will be leaving us to retire at the end of the year. We thank Miss Bonnici for teaching many generations of children in our community and we hope that she has a good rest! Mrs Anne Ablinger who has been part of Holy Eucharist for 26 years will be leaving us to work at St Oliver Plunkett Primary School. Mrs Hannah Power who has worked at the school for 5 years, will be taking up a new role at St Mary's in Williamstown. Tamara Patel, Gwenderlin Laughlin and Golda Villegas who have been at our school for the past 2 years will also be leaving us. On behalf of everyone here at Holy Eucharist, I would like to extend my thanks to these staff member for their commitment and dedication to Catholic education and for their hard work over the years. I would like to wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours.

Today our Grade 6 students had a "Graduation Fun Day" celebration. I hope that the students had an enjoyable day. The Grade 6s will also be having a virtual Liturgy and Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday 8th December 2020. This will take place via Zoom at 6pm and will be led by Fr Vincent and the Grade 6 Leaders.

Please remember that your child has received their School Report and Assessment Portfolio today. If you wish to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact the school. All portfolios will need to be back at school by Wednesday 9th December.

Thank you for your continued patience and support throughout the year. Please remember, Be good, be kind, stay safe and God Bless.

Mr Michael Bonnici
Acting Principal

"Melbourne Overseas Missions Annual Appeal - 12th & 13th December 2020"

Thank you for your support which has, over the years, made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has been provided in clean water, health, education and improved living stands to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating. Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information or to donate

CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning: 9th Dec. 2020

Group 3 – Antonia Fratric, Wilma Marmur, Margaret Bajada, Cathy Bartolo & Wendy Forbes-Perera

CHOIR GROUPS NEXT WEEKEND

Sat. 12th Dec-6pm – Volunteers

Sun. 13th Dec-9am - Charlie Schembri

10.30am – Osana Choir

6.00pm – YFC

LET US PRAY FOR

Prayers For The Sick

Toni Antonowicz, Linda Ratbone, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Peter Disco, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Deceased

Vinh Quang Dinh, Anthony Bartolo, Anna Jarnevic

Anniversaries

Jan & Jovan Vala, Jan & Elizabet Danicek, Maria Lojdova, Joseph & Connie Aguis, Madlene & Saviour Stagno, Ignatius, Ester, Joseph Borg & family, Charlie, Mary, Ally, Peter Spiteri & family, Jessie Pace, Richard Curmi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Charlie Vella, Nazareni Spiteri, Antonio Mifsud, Philip Gauci, George & Angela Bugeja, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Mary Camilleri & Family, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Charlie Xerri, Lewis Spiteri, Raymond Abela and All Souls.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Holy Eucharist parish respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjer people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.

VOCATION VIEW: "The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness". Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?"

All information used in accordance with the terms of our privacy policy.