



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm
Phone: 9366 1310, Fax: 9366 9359
Email: stalbanssouth@cam.org.au
Website: www.holyeuchariststalbans.org



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

16 & 17 DECEMBER 2023

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Parish Priest & Mission Leader

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Priests in Residence

Fr Joseph Xuan Hieu Nguyen CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P. Meat

MASS TIMES

- ♦ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
- ♦ **Saturday:** 6:00pm
7:30pm Vietnamese
- ♦ **Sunday:** 8:45am, 10:00am,
6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

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

SOCIAL OFFICE/ (JP SERVICE)

Contact: Son Nguyen

Phone 9366 1310

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm.

FOODBANK open Fridays

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

RCIA: Please contact Br. Anthony Gatt on 0419 115 692 or call the Parish Office for more details.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preca Centre, 29 Rosslare Parade,
St Albans – Ph: 9356 0734

between 7pm-8pm

Email: stalbans@preca.org.au

THANK YOU

Dear Parishioners, especially our amazing Volunteers,

The word “thank you” is not enough to cover all you have contributed to our Parish life. Each one of you has made this Parish family come alive. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to express my gratitude to each one of you.

To our Readers, Commentators, Ushers, Collectors, Special Ministers. Thank you for your constant contribution.

To our terrific choirs, your voices lift up our hearts and souls to praise our God. Thank you for your time and gift.

To our constant cleaners, thank you for all your time and for your hard work. You make the house of God a beautiful place for our worship.

To our different communities, you bring diversity into this Parish life. You are enriching this parish life in so many different ways. Thank you.

To our leadership team, many thanks for all you do! We could not get along without you. Our teamwork makes our dream work!

To our steering committee, a huge thank you for all your time and for your hard work. Your vision is very important to our parish family. The many projects could not be done without you.

To our counting team and finance committee, thank you for your time and honesty. Your work helps the Parish Mission Statement to become active.

To our fundraising team, especially to those who helped to sell the raffle tickets (particularly Tammy) and those who bought the tickets, many, many thanks!

To our Loaves and Fish (foodbank) volunteers, your wonderful work means a lot to the poor and homeless. Yes, a big thanks.

To our Vincent de Paul Group, your time and help are significant to those who are in need. Thank you.

To our Preca Centre Brothers, your continued support for our children, especially preparation for the sacraments and the RCIA is much appreciated.

To our contributors who give donations, especially those who each week contribute by thanksgiving envelopes. Your generosity keeps our mission and parish viable.

All our volunteers work is greatly appreciated. I pray that our Loving God will bless you and your family.

I wish you a holy and blessed Christmas.

With my grateful thanks.

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

♦ Reconciliation – 2nd Rite

* English - Wednesdays,

20th December 2023 @ 7.00pm

* Vietnamese - Thursdays, **21st December 2023 @ 7.00pm**

♦ Christmas Eve – Sunday, 24th December 2023

* 6:00pm in English

Choir - Samoan Choir

* 8:00pm in Vietnamese

* 12:00am in English (*midnight*)

♦ Christmas Day – Monday, 25th December 2023

* 10:00am - English

Choir - St Francis Choir

* 12:00pm - Vietnamese

* 2:00pm - South Sudanese

♦ Dawn Masses

* **16th – 24th December 5.00am**

Please note All Weekend Masses at normal times during the Christmas week. Thank you



First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

He has sent me to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps Luke 1:46-50,53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her nothingness;

henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,

on those who fear him.

My soul rejoices in my God.

He fills the starving with good things,

sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,

remembering his mercy.

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel John 1:6-8,19-28

'There stands among you the one coming after me'

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The first section of today's gospel reading comes from the prologue of John's gospel and offers comment on the identity of John the Baptizer. The second section revolves around a question that has already been answered in the prologue. In other words, the reader knows the answer to the question posed by the characters in the second section. The prologue presents John the baptizer as one "sent from God". He is not "the light"; he is rather a "witness" whose role is to testify to "the light". The true light [Jesus] was "coming into the world". As we proclaim Jesus as "the light", we might take time to appreciate the wonder and the properties of the material reality that informs this metaphor.

In the face of less than friendly questioning, John the baptizer responds simply and honestly to questions about his identity. The questions in this second section of the reading are relentless and John's responses are unambiguous. He is not the Messiah/the Christ, the Anointed of God. He is not the prophet Elijah that some identified with God's messenger of Malachi 3:1-3 who would return and restore the "descendants

of Levi” He is not the prophet-like-Moses of Deuteronomy 15. He states his identity with reference to the words of the prophet Isaiah: he is the voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting God’s people to prepare the way for God’s advent, God’s coming.

John knows who he is. He understands the parameters of his mission and he points his questioners in the direction of the truth. His role is pivotal in the story of God’s saving action and in the unfolding of the drama of the fourth gospel. It is worth asking how we might answer the question that the priests and Levites put to John on behalf of the Jerusalem “Jews”: “Who are you?” If we can honestly answer that question, if we can admit who we are with all our strengths and weaknesses, if we can know our place in the scheme of things and own it in all humility, then we are probably in a good position to recognise and, like John, witness to the “one who is coming”, the light of the world, the revelation of God, the Word who became flesh and tented amongst us. For many of us, pandemic time has sharpened our awareness of who we are and how we are called to be.

Caution is in order regarding this reading: not only the opponents of Jesus but most of the actors in the gospel drama are Jewish. The group of characters specifically named as “the Jews” includes some influential members of the Jewish religious leadership, but cannot be identified with them because it comprises a more extensive group who are consistently in conflict with Jesus. It would be a serious disservice to the gospel to condemn the Jewish people on the basis of this and similar stories of Jewish opposition to Jesus.

By Veronica Lawson RSM

“rejoice” for “indeed the Lord is near.” **Philippians 4:4**

The Bethlehem Candle, otherwise known as the Shepherd Candle, this third

candle of Advent reflects the joy that comes through Jesus’ arrival in our world, and through the salvation he has gifted us. *Do not be afraid I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people* Luke 1:10

THE ISRAEL – GAZA WAR

The Secretary General of the United Nations **Antonio Guterres** is to be congratulate for his effort to bring peace to the Holy Land and Gaza. He implemented **Article 99** which allows the secretary-general to “bring to the attention of the **Security Council** a resolution calling for a ceasefire between Israel, Hamas and their allies.

This was vetoed by the United States; however, the Secretary General then called for a General Assembly and put the same resolution. The **UN general assembly** voted overwhelming in favour of a resolution demanding an **immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza; 153 countries** including Australia voted in favour, 10 voted against including the US. Unfortunately, this resolution is not binding, however it sends a strong message to the world.

Pope Francis on Sunday reiterated his plea for an end to hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians, and called for **"much more" humanitarian aid** for Gaza. **"Enough, enough brothers, enough"**, Francis said, adding the wounded in the Gaza Strip needed to be taken care of immediately and the protection of civilians assured. He also said hostages held by Hamas must be freed.

FOSSIL FUELS



In his *Laudate Deum* letter written with a view to the Cop 28 meeting, Pope Francis wrote:

*“the necessary transition towards clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy, and the **abandonment of fossil fuels**, is not progressing at the necessary speed.”*



Background: For more than a century, burning fossil fuels has generated most of the energy required to propel our cars, power our businesses, and keep the lights on in our homes. Even today, oil,

coal, and gas serve about **80 percent** of our energy needs. And we’re paying the price. Using fossil fuels for energy has exacted an enormous toll on humanity and the environment—from air and water pollution to global warming. That’s beyond all the negative impacts from petroleum-based products such as plastics and chemicals. **It’s time to move toward a clean energy future.**

There are ways we can all reduce the carbon emissions produced as a result of how we work, live, and travel.

1. Reduce car travel by taking public transport, cycling, or walking.
2. Travel and holiday locally instead of flying overseas.
3. Eat local produce and increase consumption of fruit and vegetables.
4. Source green power at home and investigate installing solar panels.
5. Minimise waste and incorporate **recycling** and composting practices in the household.

While your daily coffee may not seem like a huge environmental issue, you need to remember: **Australia uses 1 billion disposable coffee cups every year!** And that’s just coffee cups!

By Fr. Patrick Corbett, CSsR

Preca Brothers kindly ask parents that like to have their children to be part of the **Christmas Eve Mass Role Play, Sunday 24th December** to register after weekend masses with the Preca Youth at the foyer. They can contact Br Tony 0419115692 or for (Vietnamese) Phung on 0434728620. Parents are asked to bring their children for the rehearsal on the 16th December 10am at HE Church. They will be asked to get their children dressed in their character on Christmas Eve Mass.

CONGRATULATIONS and thank you

Holy Eucharist Parish Raffle

Draw 15th December 2023

1. - HR-V Honda car

Ticket # 4348 - Eduardo Cablao

**2. - flight voucher
(\$2,500),**

Ticket # 3341 - Ed Cablao

3. - iPhone 15 6.1

Ticket # 3479 - Nga

**4. - Harvey Norman
voucher(\$1,000)**

Ticket # 4728 - T.K. Huynh

5.- Gift voucher(\$500)

Ticket # 2387 - Philia Ikenasio

**Warmest congratulations to all
our RAFFLE WINNERS.**

**To the Holy Eucharist Fund-
raising Team, words can not
express how grateful we are
for all the great effort you have
put into this very first fund-
raising for the Church Pro-
jects. Thank you to everyone
who have helped with selling
and buying the Raffle. Your
generosity and support have
not gone unnoticed.**

**Last but not least a massive
congratulations Tammy for a
successful outcome for the 1st
Fundraising. You are a bless-
ing to Holy Eucharist Parish.**

Week starting 20 December
2023 Group 10 - Ed & Joh
Cablao & Family, Jinky Mon-
teros & Family

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues 9:00 AM, 19-12-23

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 20-12-23

Reader Carmen Camilleri
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri

Thurs 9:00 AM, 21-12-23

Reader: Tammy Pham
Eucharistic Shirley Krizmanic

Fri 9:00 AM, 22-12-23

Reader Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 23-12-23

Lit. Coordinator: Reno Attard
Commentator: Violeta Montoro
Readers: St Francis Choir
St Francis Choir
Eucharistic Min. Anthony Naidu
Josephine Cassar
Reno Attard

Sun 8.45 AM, 24-12-23

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen
Commentator Shirley Krizmanic
Readers: Helen Maddela
Salve Nidea
Eucharistic Min: Wilma Marmur
Mini Eddy
Monica Lomen

Sun 10:00AM, 24-12-23

Lit. Coordinator: Saua Tufuga
Commentator: Susan Hallorina
Reader: Christine Pedroso
Rita Martin
Eucharistic Min. Saua Tufuga
Br. Tony Gatt
Br. Noel Debono

Sun 6.00PM, 24-12-23

Lit. Coordinator Rod Lalunio
Commentator Lani Laririt
Reader Larnie Mendoza
Rod Lalunio
Eucharistic Min. Rod Lalunio
Br. Noel Debono
Lani Laririt

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 23rd December 2023

♦ 6.00pm – St Francis Choir

Sunday 24th December 2023

♦ 8.45am - Charlie Schembri

♦ 10.00am - ????

♦ 6.00pm - Samoan Choir

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Kathleen Canning, Marlene Ferdinand,
Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace,
Arnord Fernandez, Toni Antonowicz,
Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Stella
Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Deceased

Bernie Boeling, Peter Duong Van Nham

Death Anniversaries

Ivica Krizmanic, Emile Ranasinghe,
Mary Ellawala, Maria Nguyen Thi Dao,
Joseph Formosa, Hoang Family
(Fanxico, Maria, Maria & Teresa) &
Nguyen Family(Joseph, Anna & Maria),
Nazareno & Josephine Spiteri, Antonio
Mifsud, Philip Gauci, Joseph, Frank &
John Xerri, Cornelio Maddela, Grazio
(Horace) Camilleri, Joseph & Franc
Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, Mac-co Ngo
Van Tinh, Lucia Huynh Thi Kim
Hue, Phero Ngo Minh Truong, Maria
Huynh Thi Thanh Kieu, Phero Le
Nghia, Matta Le Thi Linh, Phero Le
Quang Tuan, Theresa Nguyen Ngoc
Giang Thu, Dominico Le Ngoc Son,
Maria Tran Thi Huong Mary Camilleri,
Richard & Connie Curmi, Iro & Jessie
Vella, Angela Chircop, Peter Disco,
Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat
& Galea family, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thu-
ong, Duong Family, Do Family, Vin-
cent Duong Kham Su, Michael Al-
phonsus Schiller, Mollie Rice (Marie),
Raymond Abela and All Souls

SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is
committed to the safety,
wellbeing and dignity of all
children, young people and
vulnerable adults.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

VOCATION VIEW

There was a man sent by God, who
came as a witness to testify to the
Light, so that through this person all
people might believe. Is your name
in the Gospel today?

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