

THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

15 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

Zeph 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for
among you is the great and Holy One of
Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust,
I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength,
my song, / he became my saviour. / With
joy you will draw water / from the wells of
salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to
his name! / Make his mighty deeds known
to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his
name. **R.**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done
glorious deeds, / make them known to all the
earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for joy /
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the
Lord is very near. There is no need to worry;
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,
and that peace of God, which is so much greater
than we can understand, will guard your hearts
and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

Phone: 95238407 / 95285988

Mail: PO Box 664, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

Email St Joseph's: elsternwick@cam.org.au

Email Holy Cross: caulfieldsouth@cam.org.au

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: M Ellis

Lector - Sunday: La Bonne family

Counters: No counting

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: S McMillan

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 22 Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent

First / Second Rite of Reconciliation

Tuesday 17 December, 7:00pm at St Anthony's Church

• The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Saturday, 21 December, 5:30pm at St Joseph's Church

• The 1st Rite of Reconciliation

It's a good time to reconcile with God and one another before Christmas! Allow God to forgive you.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Phil 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Isa 35:4)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: **Richard Grant, Paulette Dobbin, Eamonn Whelan, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny**

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary & Remembrance: **Peter Glynn**

The Christmas Travelling Crib



Thank you everyone for a loving welcome to the Holy Family and the Crib. May your family prepare for the coming of Jesus in the flesh, born Saviour of the world.

Advent Scripture Reflection

'Advent Scripture Reflection' sessions at 7:00pm on Mondays, at St. Anthony's Church. All Welcome!

Carols by Candlelight for all 3 Parishes

Sunday, 15 December, immediately after the 5:00pm Mass at St Anthony's Parish Hall.

All are welcome. Bring a plate if possible.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

For those who want to become Catholics, RCIA sessions are held on Thursdays, 6.30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Rd, Elsternwick.

Children's Liturgy

We officially started our Children's Liturgy Programme on the 1st Sunday of Advent at St Joseph's Church. The Gospel of the day is read and explained at a level that the children can understand.

Please feel free to accompany your child/ren to the session. If you would like to assist in the programme, kindly contact the Parish Office.

**JUBILEE YEAR
OF HOPE 2025**



On Sunday 24 November 2024, on the solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe, young people

and families from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne came together in joyous celebration at St Patrick's Cathedral to give thanks for the 'Year of Prayer' that is almost over.

Now, we look with anticipation to the launch of the 2025 Jubilee Year on 29 December. Stay tuned for more info.



St Vincent de Paul Society
CAULFIELD SOUTH & ELSTERNWICK *good works*

**Now available for sale
after weekend masses:**

- 2025 Columban Calendars: \$10.00 each
- Christmas Cards: \$5.00 (Pack of 5)

Update: Proposed Amalgamation of St Joseph's, Elsternwick and Holy Cross, Caulfield South

1. Information Session

An additional session has been organised for those who could not attend the 1st one held at St Joseph's on 10 November.

REMINDER: The 2nd Information Session will be held at Holy Cross Hall immediately after 9am Mass this Sunday, 15 December 2024.

Parishioners are invited to come together to discuss the proposed amalgamation, and ask any questions they may have regarding the process.

2. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

A list of FAQs have been compiled to address queries received to date and will continue to be updated.

Please feel free to speak with Fr Leenus, the Parish Office or any of our PPC and PFC members if you have any questions.

Additionally, you may send us an email or continue to use the 'Questions / Concerns' boxes.

3. Additional Information

Speaker notes from the announcement weekend, the FAQs and all updates will be posted at the back of the church.

Extra copies of the FAQs and other relevant information are available at the church foyers, if you wish to take a copy home to read. We will also post some information on our websites starting this weekend.

As we move through this process, we will continue to engage with all of you and provide related information.

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C - Count it all joy

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is a special Sunday among its four Sundays. It is called "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete is a Latin word meaning "rejoice." So, today is Rejoice Sunday. And to symbolise this joy the third candle of the Advent Wreath is rose in colour.

To "Rejoice always" is St Paul's advice taken from today's second reading. It is in fact almost a command or an obligation. We are supposed to be joyful at all times and in all circumstances, not only when things are going well with us.

It is very hard to rejoice in times of hardships and pain. It sounds absurd to rejoice in times of sorrow. But, we have the example of St. Paul himself who wrote about rejoicing, at a time when he was in prison cell, because, joy is not absence of hardships or pain.

Leo Buscaglia, a writer tells us about an incident. One day his father came home crying and said that he had lost all his money because his business partner had cheated him and ran away with all their savings. Hearing this, the author's mother went to the town, sold her expensive jewellery, and bought food for a sumptuous meal for the family. People criticized her for reckless spending at a time of hardship, misery and pain. But she replied them saying "the time for rejoicing is now, when we need it most." Her courageous act gave the family the hope they needed to face the future with confidence and to trust that God is in control.

Today we have lit the rose candle, but that does not make our lives rosy. But it sure points towards Jesus, who can make our lives more than rosy. He is sufficient reason for us to rejoice in our bad times as well as in good. But the stern call of John the Baptist to repentance does not seem to fit on this Rejoice Sunday. Believe it or not, John the Baptist is the patron saint of spiritual joy. After all, he is the one, who leapt for joy in his mother's womb at the presence of Jesus, who was then not yet born.

Let's be rejoicing looking forward to Jesus' advent.
Fr Leenus.

Why didn't Noah go fishing?

Because, he only had two worms.



Christmas 2024 & New Year 2025

St Joseph's, Elsternwick
Holy Cross, Caulfield South

1st Rite of Reconciliation - Saturday 21 December

St Joseph's	Reconciliation 5:30pm
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Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24 December

St Joseph's	Carols 6:00pm, Vigil Mass 6:30pm
Holy Cross	Carols 8:30pm, Vigil Mass 9:00pm

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25 December

Holy Cross	Mass 9:00am
St Joseph's	Mass 10:30am

New Year's Day - Wednesday 1 January

Holy Cross	Mass 9:00am
St Joseph's	Mass 10:30am

Merry Christmas & Blessings in the New Year

St Anthony's 32nd Christmas Day Dinner

Christmas can be a difficult time for some people and this year the economic climate is a concern for many.

And so, more than ever, we ask you to reach out to those who need our help.



We will be offering 3 options this year: a sit down meal; a takeaway meal; or a meal delivered to people who are housebound. Last year we served over 400 meals and so we will need lots of help.

Firstly, please start with the prayers as soon as possible.

Secondly, reach out to anyone you think might benefit from this dinner and give them a yellow invitation.

Thirdly, think about practical help, especially with volunteering and complete a green form accordingly.

Both yellow and green forms can be collected from the church foyers. For more info please contact us on 9401 6336 or 0432 087 494.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

SHARING THE EARTH'S GOODS

This Sunday's Gospel continues with John Baptist. His voice now becomes more demanding, urging his audience to live in ways typified by generosity, kindness and justice, themes which will appear throughout the Gospel. Those whom John addresses reflect the audience of Luke's Gospel, including tax agents and soldiers, with a focus on wealth. This will be a major theme in the Gospel.

Luke intends to speak to those who have rank and influence, to bring about change and status reversal, themes that begin here in today's Gospel. John responds to his enquirers coming for baptism about how they are to live. He encourages them to share their clothing with those who have nothing and food with those who are hungry. This presumes that his audience (and Luke's Gospel audience) have possessions and food to share. They are not impoverished. When similarly asked by tax collectors—agents of Rome's imperial household—they are told not to extract taxes beyond what is due. In other words, they are not to become wealthy at the expense of others. Soldiers (again members of Luke's community) are told to act without violence and extortion, content with their pay.

All these that John addresses are invited on to a path of economic restraint and generosity. This will allow them to be ready for the coming of the one whom John prepares his audience for, and the focus of the second half of the Gospel. Today's Gospel offers us an Advent moment to reflect on our own use of Earth's goods and possessions and how we share them.

Fr Michael Trainor