

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

22 December 2024

Readings

Next Week

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1 Sam 1: 20-22, 24-28

Ps 83: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10

1 Jn 3: 1-2, 21-24

Lk 2: 41-52

in a nutshell

Blessed is she who believed. From Bethlehem, the least of the clans of Judah, and from a peasant girl, Mary, one of the least of the Jewish people, God prepared a body for Jesus, the saviour of the world. As we rejoice in the saviour who has come to visit us, we also join Elizabeth in praising Mary for her faith, her love and her obedience.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Harry & Dorothy Heering, Jim & Pat Henshaw, Fr Pat Purcell
For those who have died recently: Maria Beutelschuess, and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

Last Call: If you haven't yet turned in a census card, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your help in keeping our records up to date.

Note Information Inside

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday—6:30pm (EST)

5:00pm (EDST)

Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—6:00pm

Thursday—9:00am

Friday—9:00am

Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm

Tuesday—5:10pm-5:40pm

Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition

Tuesday 5:00pm

Friday 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH



Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church leaving the front for the truly disabled.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's
Conference 0427 874 374 or Alan Somers
0419 134 300

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday
please: moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese
visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee on first and third Saturdays of the month at 8:00 –10:00 am. Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church.

December 21

Parish Meetings: Tuesday,

Finance Committee 7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm
Parish Council 8:00pm

Parish Notices

Christmas: A Holy Day of Obligation

A Holy Day of Obligation means that it is a day that everyone is obliged to attend Mass. The schedule of Masses for both parishes:

Please note as the Christmas Vigil will take the place of Adoration and Tuesday evening Mass this week Adoration will not be held.

Christmas Mass Times – Mount Evelyn

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 5:00pm (Carols from 4:40pm)

Midnight Mass – 12:00am (Carols from 11:30pm)

Christmas Day – 10:30am

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm Yarra Junction (Carols from 6:30pm)

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

Office Hours—December/January

As the office will be closed for the Public Holidays, Janine's last day of the year will be Thursday 19 December and will return on Wednesday 15 January. Fr Michel will be taking holidays on the weeks beginning 13 & 20 January therefore there will be no weekday masses or Adoration. Fr Michel will be here for Sunday Masses.

Parish Census—Have You Returned a Card?

Thank you to the **45** people/families who have returned the census card. If you consider yourself a parishioner of St Mary's we would appreciate that you return the census card ASAP if you have not already done so. These cards allow us to update our data base and give us a more accurate count of our parishioners.

SVDP—Piety Stall

Now in stock the 2025 Columban Art Calendar which includes beautiful artwork, liturgical information and feast days at \$11.00 each. We also have a stock of Christmas Cards in packs of 5.

Giving Tree—GIVE TODAY

St Vincent de Paul Society will be having a giving tree this year. While we will still be assisting people in need, instead of presents we will be giving them gift vouchers so they can get what they need as many have found this year very unpredictable. You are invited to make a donation of a gift voucher or make a cash donation by placing it in an envelope and placing in the box in the foyer by 16th December.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We are as privileged in being called to adore Him today as were Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi then, because here Jesus continues His incarnation on earth. Here is His glory hidden under the form of a little bread, for our salvation. Here Jesus loses His Heart to us in love. (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

The regular Penitential Rite at Mass should remind us of the need for that special encounter with Christ, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through this Sacrament Jesus remains an abiding healing Presence in his Church.

Adoration: Tuesday 5:00pm, Friday 8:00am. Yarra Junction Thursday 6:00pm (first Thursday Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

Supporting the Parish

There are a number of ways to contribute to the financial viability of the Parish:

- Cash donations and envelopes in the labelled boxes in the narthex
- Tap and Go terminals
- Via the QR code in the bulletin
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Church:** 648531736, **Presbytery:** 649237379

Sacramental Program 2025

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact Anne at annevan.tilburg@gmail.com Lessons will begin Sunday 2nd March after 10:30 Mass for First Communions and Tuesday 4th of March at 5pm for Confirmation.

Christmas Concert at Kew

Traditional carols — Choir Motets & Noels for organ at Sacred Heart Church, 116 Cotham Rd, Kew. Recommended donation is \$15pp. Friday, 27 December at 7:30pm. See notice on bulletin board.

Something to bring a smile!

As a band of possums had become quite a problem, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their possum infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the possums were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist Church, the possums had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the possums drown themselves. The possums liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many possums showed up the following week.

The Lutheran Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their possums and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the possums were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the possums with alcohol. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunken possums can do

But the Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy! They baptised all the possums and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Readings Reflection

[A Mother's Greeting](#)

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer:

He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler . . . whose origin is from . . . ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king (see Ruth 4:11–17; 1 Samuel 16:1–13; 17:1; Matthew 2:6).

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever (see 2 Samuel 7:12–13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11–12).

Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom (see Isaiah 9:5–6; Ezekiel 34:23–25, 30; 37:35). He is "the shepherd of Israel" sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us."

Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh" (see also Psalm 2:7). He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Psalm 110:4; Genesis 14:18–20).

All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle (see Psalm 2:7). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading—"she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

Bethlehem, A Symbol of Peace

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Lord's Birth is at hand. With the words of the Prophet Micah, the Liturgy invites us to look at Bethlehem, the little town in Judea that witnessed the great event: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, / too small to be among the clans of Judah, / From you shall come forth for me / one who is to be ruler in Israel; / Whose origin is from of old, / from ancient times" (Mic 5:1). One thousand years before Christ Bethlehem had given birth to the great King David, with whose presentation as an ancestor of the Messiah the Scriptures agree. The Gospel according to Luke tells that Jesus was born in Bethlehem because Joseph, Mary's husband, being "of the house and lineage of David", was obliged to go to that town for the census, and in those very days Mary gave birth to Jesus (cf. Lk 2:1-7). In fact, Micah's prophecy continues precisely by mentioning the mysterious birth: "Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time / when she who is to give birth has borne, / And the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel" (Mic 5:2). Thus there is a divine plan that apprehends and explains the times and places of the coming into the world of the Son of God. It is a plan of peace, as the Prophet announces further, speaking of the Messiah: "He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, / in the majestic name of the Lord, his God; / And they shall remain, for now his greatness / shall reach to the ends of the earth; / he shall be peace" (Mic 5:3).

Precisely this aspect of the prophecy, that of messianic peace, leads us naturally to emphasize that the city of Bethlehem is also a symbol of peace, in the Holy Land and in the world. Unfortunately, in our day, it does not represent an attained and stable peace, but rather a peace sought with effort and hope. Yet God is never resigned to this state of affairs, so that this year too, in Bethlehem and throughout the world, the mystery of Christmas will be renewed in the Church. A prophecy of peace for every person which obliges Christians to immerse themselves in the closures, tragedies, that are often unknown and hidden, and in the conflicts of the context in which they live, with the sentiments of Jesus so that they may become everywhere instruments and messengers of peace, to sow love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury, joy where there is sadness and truth where there is error, according to the beautiful words of a well-known Franciscan prayer.

Today, as in the times of Jesus, Christmas is not a fairy-tale for children but God's response to the drama of humanity in search of true peace. "He shall be peace", says the Prophet referring to the Messiah. It is up to us to open, to fling open wide the doors to welcome him. Let us learn from Mary and Joseph: let us place ourselves with faith at the service of God's plan. Even if we do not understand it fully, let us entrust ourselves to his wisdom and goodness. Let us seek first of all the Kingdom of God, and Providence will help us. A Happy Christmas to you all!

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 20 December 2009