

THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

1 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14. R. v. 1

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord,
teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your
truth, and teach me: / for you are God my
saviour. **R.**

2. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows
the path to those who stray, / he guides the
humble in the right path; / he teaches his way
to the poor. **R.**

3. His ways are faithfulness and love / for
those who keep his covenant and will. / The
Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him; /
to them he reveals his covenant. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 3:12–4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the



whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the

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

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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: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

Counters: M Beaumont & E Ambrose

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: D Sarah

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

Tue 3 Dec: St Francis Xavier

Sat 7 Dec: St Ambrose

Sun 8 Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



Our Perpetual Adoration Chapel was built to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church in 2018. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 24:1-3)

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Not let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 84:13)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary & Remembrance: **Ricky Thurgood**

Parish Websites

St Joseph's: www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Holy Cross: www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Although we are partnered parishes, we will for the time being, maintain two separate websites. Most information will be replicated. When you visit our website, you can **subscribe** to our weekly News Bulletin via the 'News' tab, or contact the Parish Office if you need assistance.

The Christmas Travelling Crib

The Baby Jesus needs to come to your house today. If you receive Him (God's Son becomes one of us), you and your family will receive a Special Blessing! Come together and pray in faith before the Crib.

Put your name down and pick up the crib on the day you have chosen. Contact Fr. Pat if you have any queries.

Advent Scripture Reflection

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

Children's Liturgy

We officially start our Children's Liturgy Programme this 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 like to assist in the programme, kindly contact the Parish Office.

Young Adults Hosting Mass

The next Mass hosted by the Young Adults of our 3 Parishes will be on Saturday, 7th December at 6.30pm at St Joseph's, Elsternwick.

After the Mass there will be a social gathering at the Presbytery. All welcome.

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.



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

Now available for sale
after weekend masses:

2025 Columban Calendars: \$10.00 each

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.

The 2nd Information Session will be held at Holy Cross Hall immediately after 9am Mass on 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.

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 information please contact us on 9401 6336 or 0432 087 494.

First / Second Rite of Reconciliation

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

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

1st Sunday of Advent, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

The Liturgical Season of Advent is here again. Let this be for us a fruitful season, a time of spiritual renewal that will help us welcome the Lord personally. May it be a sacred time of preparation to receive the Lord whether at Christmas, at his second coming at the end of time or even daily as Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist.

It is important to give our quality time so as to do justice to this time of spiritual preparation. I am sure everyone will agree with me in saying that December is one of the busiest times of the year; we can hardly spare our quality time for anything spiritual.

During this season of Advent let's give special attention to making the four main themes of Advent Season come true. These are Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. Looking at the world of today one could easily be put off, for there seems to be hardly any reason for Hope; Peace seems to be just a dream; amidst all the chaos we can hardly experience true Joy, and true Love seems to be overtaken by hatred and greed. But let's not fall prey to these negativities.

There is still a lot of goodness within everyone and in the society. Let the symbolic lighting of each candle of the Advent Wreath remind us of the power of light which dispels the darkness. When looking forward to the coming of the Messiah there should be no room for despair, but only hope. Hopeful waiting for the Lord will make our lives more meaningful and fruitful.

An old Advent prayer says. "Give us grace that we may cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light." Yes, that reminds us of the opportunity we have for the Sacrament of Reconciliation: at Glen Huntly on Tuesday, 17th December at 7pm and at Elsternwick on Saturday, 21st December at 5.30pm.

If we truly want to prepare ourselves for the Lord, then do not wait until Christmas. However busy we maybe during this Advent let's dedicate some of our time for the Lord, so that he can bring in the light we truly need. Give God a chance, and let hope, peace, joy and love fill our lives now and always!

Fr Leenus



Johnny tried to buy a toy car with monopoly money at the store. The cashier said, "There's no way I can take this. It's fake money." Johnny said, "Well, your cars are fake too."



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.

Carols by Candlelight for all 3 Parishes

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

We are looking for Christmas themed solo or group performances with up to 5 minutes per performance which can be music, singing, dancing, etc.

To register your participation, please contact the Parish Office.



ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Fr Michael Trainor as our reflection writer. Fr Michael is senior lecturer in biblical studies with the Australian Catholic University and parish priest of Lockleys in the Archdiocese of Adelaide. His area of specialisation is the study of the New Testament and its relevance for our contemporary world, ecology and pastoral life.

We are very grateful and thank Dr Rosemary Canavan for her insightful reflections on the readings during the past liturgical year.

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Breaking Open the Word

STAY AWAKE!

On this First Sunday of Advent we come into a new liturgical year with the Gospel of Luke, penned for urban Greco-Roman followers of Jesus, possibly living in Rome in the late first century of the Christian Era, around 85CE.

Today's Gospel proclamation comes from a particular literary style, called 'apocalypticism'. It is a style not to be taken literally. It is more like theological poetry intending its listener to recognise images that come from the writings and prophets of the First ('Old') Testament. Its fundamental insight is a reminder that, despite all the calamity and upheaval present in the world, God is present and liberating. Rather than being overwhelmed by global tragedies and disasters, Luke's audience is encouraged to 'stand erect ... with heads held high' and recognise that freedom and release are near. Jesus followers are to be confident in God's presence and care of them, themes that Luke will repeat throughout the year.

Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by global events. At the beginning of this new liturgical year, today's Gospel proclamation is timely. It is a reminder that a different, divine power is at work. Hence, Luke's injunction, 'Stay awake'. We need this reminder. We can forget or be lulled into a form of spiritual forgetfulness by the unimportant or ephemeral. Advent becomes this precious moment to allow ourselves to view the world with faith and confidence in the continual care of God.

Fr Michael Trainor