



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A, 20-21 December, 2025

Waiting with love

As we come towards the end of our Advent journey this year, arriving at the Fourth Sunday of Advent, one of the themes that we can reflect upon is the idea of change. Our loving God often asks us to change our minds or outlook or behaviour to store up treasure for ourselves in Heaven or to have our names written in the book of life.

In our First Reading, King Ahaz is challenged to change his behaviour because his actions are not in accord with God's will. In the Gospel, Joseph had made up his mind to divorce Mary, after she was found to be pregnant; but in a dream, the angel of the Lord came to him and convinced him to change his mind. For St Paul in the Second Reading, the Romans are invited to see how they are one of the nations called to "the obedience of faith" through the apostolic mission of Paul.

We are preparing for the joy of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and of course, the birth of a child transforms lives and 'change' is hardly an adequate description of the difference a baby makes to the household and family.

The reality of the birth of the Saviour invites us to recognise how we are called to 'change'.

Our perspective and outlook can be transformed because the birth of a child invites us to recognise that we are no longer living our lives for ourselves but for another. Parents have talked to me about being tired – tired like never before – being stressed and being time-poor, but they also reflect about how the new member of the family brings joy and hope like nothing else.

Of course, Christmas is a very busy time of the year. We have to think about presents, decorations and how and where we will celebrate Christmas, but also this time of year marks the end of one calendar year and the beginning of another. Here in Australia, with summer, the heat increases, and so this season can be stressful and heated in more ways than one.

Are we open to change? Can we allow ourselves to

know that God is offering us something so precious? All too easily, we can get caught up in the silly season, but I hope and pray that each of us can take some time to recognise the difference the birth of Jesus makes in our lives and our world.

These Advent reflections are one way that the 10-year anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si'* on "On Care for Our Common Home" is being marked. Pope Francis called for a change of behaviour and perspective in the way that we treat our common home. For so long, humans, especially in the first world, have treated the environment as something to be exploited. They have acted as if this exploitation will have no consequences.

We are being challenged to recognise that these assumptions are false and that our common home cannot just be used up but must be cared for.

The birth of a child can transform the way a family functions and its priorities – and in a similar way, we are being challenged to change the way that we care for the earth.

Can we see God's grace and peace on offer at this time of year?

The answer is, of course we can, but it takes work – that is our work each Advent season – to be open to changing our behaviour, outlook, perspective and our openness so we can recognise God's grace in our lives and world.

We are invited to take up the challenge of caring for ourselves, others and the environment as we would for a newborn baby.

(by Fr Kevin Redmond SM—in *Catholic Outlook*)



Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note
Sunday 11am online
Mass is

No live-stream Mass
this weekend

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Feast of the Holy Family Year A, 2025

First Reading

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

The Lord honors a father above his children,
and he confirms a mother's right over her children.
Whoever honors their father atone for sins,
and gains preservations from them; when they pray,
they will be heard
Whoever respects their mother is like one who lay up
treasure.
The person who honors their father will have joy in
their own children,
and when they pray they will be heard.
Whoever respects their father will have long life,
and whoever honors their mother obeys the Lord;
My child, help your father in his old age, and do not
grieve him as long as he lives;
Even if his mind fails, be patient with him; because
you have all your faculties
do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not
be forgotten,
and will be credited to you against your sins; a house
raised in justice for you

also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with
love, which binds everything together in perfect har-
mony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.
And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly; teach and admonish one another in all wis-
dom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms,
hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever
you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name
of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father
through him.
Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in
the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat
them harshly.
Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is
your acceptable duty in the Lord. Fathers, do not pro-
voke your children, or they may lose heart.

Gospel Acclamation

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the word of Christ dwell in you richly

Psalm 128: 1-2, 3-5

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

Second Reading

Colossians 3: 12-21

Brothers and Sisters,
As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe
yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and,
if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive
each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you

Gospel

Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord ap-
peared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take
the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and re-
main there until I tell you; for Herod is about to
search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got
up, took the child and his mother by night, and went
to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Her-
od. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the
Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have
called my son."
When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly ap-
peared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get
up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land
of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life
are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his
mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he
heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place
of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And
after being warned in a dream, he went away to the
district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town
called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken
through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be
called a Nazorean."

Reflection

In what ways is God at the centre of our family's daily life, and where can we invite Him more deeply
to strengthen our unity and peace?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.
St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



THANK YOU

By 6pm on Sunday the 14th of December, the area adjacent to the altar of our church was covered by many hampers. Those hampers represent the generosity of so many of you. On Monday, we had many other volunteers who came to help deliver the hampers to the recipients.

The 3 charity agencies which we assist, Wellsprings for women, St Vincent de Paul and the John Pierce Centre for the deaf, were overwhelmed with the amount of hampers available for each family. They were amazed by your generosity and ever so thankful for your kindness. Undoubtedly the gifts you have so generously given will bring additional joy to the families who received them.

After the Hamper Mass, we held our Christmas carols. It began with the choir singing a few songs, then Fr Chris and his journeyman group completed the night with their singing. During the night Gerard and Serge were busy cooking sausages for all. Alvita, with the help of some other parishioners, served the sausages in the church.

Thank you to all involved in these events; the givers, the volunteers, the choir, Fr Chris and the journeyman. Most of all we thank you all who have joined the carols evening.

NATIVITY PLAY—for Christmas Eve Mass 6pm

Though our team is now complete, there are still openings for those who wish to join in. If your child/children/ grandchildren (aged 5 to 12 years old) would like to join in this play please come along to our last practice on Tuesday 23rd December at 4pm. Please also note, even if your children are not part of the play, they are invited to come to the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve dressed up as their favourite Biblical Character

CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTERS

By now the special roster for ministers at Christmas Masses are sent out already. We sincerely apologise to those who may missed out this time.

MINISTERS

The livelihood of the Church, including that of our parish, greatly depends on volunteers. Many of you may wish to be more involved in our Church. At this stage, we need help on Sunday's, 11am and 6pm Mass. If you are interested in becoming a communion minister at one of these Masses, please approach Didi after Mass or contact the parish office. We will provide more details regarding the role. You will only be rostered on once a month.

2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

This program is designed for all children who have been baptised in Catholic Church.

Reconciliation:

(child must be at least in grade 4)

Registration form must be in by Wednesday, 11 February 2026

First Family night: Tuesday 17 February at 7pm

(Follow by 3 classes at parish schools or ASRE)

Last Family night : Tuesday 10 March at 7pm

Service : Tuesday 17 March at 7pm

(depending on the number, maybe 2 sessions)

First Communion

(child must be at least in grade 4 and has received Sacrament of reconciliation)

Registration form must be in by Wednesday, 1st April, 2026

First Family Night: Tuesday 5 May at 7pm

(Follow by 5 classes at parish schools or ASRE)

Last family night: Tuesday 16 June at 7pm

First Communion Masses: Saturday 20 June (maybe 2 Masses)

Confirmation

(child must be at least in grade 6 and has received Sacrament of reconciliation and First Communion)

Please note that the registration for this sacrament is required to be in EARLY IN THE YEAR

Registration form must be in by Wednesday, 1st April, 2026

First Family night: Tuesday 15 September at 7pm

(Follow by 4 classes at parish Schools or ASRE)

Last Family Night: Tuesday 17 November at 7pm

Session with Bishop: To be advised

Confirmation Masses: Saturday 21 November at 12pm
(maybe also at 2pm)

**** Donation for is \$25 per child, per sacrament ****

ADORATION GROUP

Invites you to join them on Christmas Eve for an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament (Exposition). Wednesday, **24th December, between 10:00 pm – 11:00 pm**. If you're unable to stay for the full hour, please feel free to come for as long as you can. This is a good chance to have some quiet time as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Readings:

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT Year A

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 11:2-11

www.universalis.com

Feast of the Holy Family Year A

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3: 12-21

Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

John Kelly, Doug McGuinness, Marian Meade-Salzer, Pedro Llerena, Anne McCallister, Mareta Dunlop, Bongsing Noto, Giuseppina Materia, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Tyronne Waller, Cecile Potier, Fr. Michael Willemsen, Sebastian Nowakowski, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Paul Mercieca CP, Salvino Mifsud, Adrian Dal Lago, Cheryl Anthony, Fr Michael Shadbolt, Stephanie Kinson, Mario Clemente, Desiree Madeira, Ron Barber, Annabelle Ghatt, Paul Sanders, Jim Souter, John Santospirito, Samuel Navaratne, Gladys Contardo, Tony Gangemi, Lynn Lawson **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Rinku Arora	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Anne Astin	Marg Keating Luiza Monteiro
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira David Goh Rinku Arora	Sharon Normington Sai Dlinger Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe David Goh Daphne Goh	Naomi Falo Sharon Normington Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora Daphne Goh	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Peng Chee Jenny Catania Marg Keating

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

