

# Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

## Yarra Junction & Warburton



### Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

10 December 2023

#### Readings

##### Next Week

Is 61:1-2, 10-11  
Lk 1:46-50, 53-54  
1 Thess 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

#### in a nutshell

Prepare a way for the Lord. Engulfed by many chores in the lead-up to Christmas, we can fail to hear a voice that cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord. Let us resolve to include some time to pray, to reflect on the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, and to seek reconciliation with God and others, in our Christmas preparations.

#### we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, Margaret Moore, Pauline Bennett.

For those who have died recently: and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

#### of special note

Melbourne Overseas Mission  
Collection this week.

*More information inside!*

#### Raise Your Voices

##### Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

##### Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

##### Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his  
paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

##### Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and  
behold the joy which comes to you from God.

#### The Parish of Sacred Heart

##### Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

##### Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

##### Parish Office Hours

Thursday  
9:00am-4:00pm

#### Weekly Schedule

##### Sunday Mass

Warburton: Saturday—4:30pm (EST)  
7:00pm (EDST)  
Yarra Junction: Sunday—8:30am

##### Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am Yarra Junction  
First Friday—11:30am Warburton

##### Reconciliation

Thursday 6:00pm-6:45pm  
*Thursdays at Yarra Junction*  
*First Thursday at Warburton*

##### Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm  
*Thursdays at Yarra Junction*  
*First Thursday at Warburton*

#### Weddings

*Please contact the office*

#### Baptisms

*Please see Father after Mass*

#### Parish Primary School

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

[www.sjyarrarjunction.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjyarrarjunction.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796  
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: [melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarra](http://melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarra)

Email: [moutevelyn@cam.org.au](mailto:moutevelyn@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 to the toilets.

### Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel  
Janine Meades  
Michael Fahey  
Paul Latham  
Mary Ryan  
Enzo Torresan  
Nino Troiani

### Working With Children

There are a number of parishioners whose Working With Children Check has expired. Could you please check your cards and update if necessary.

### Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday please

[mountevelyn@cam.org.au](mailto:mountevelyn@cam.org.au)

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

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

### Parish Meetings: Wednesday, 7 February

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

## Parish Notices

### Mass Attendance Fourth Sunday Advent & Christmas

As you know, Christmas falls on Monday this year. This makes the Christmas Vigil fall on Sunday night. Christmas is one of two Holy Days of Obligation meaning that we are obliged to go to Mass as we do on every Sunday. This means that we are obligated to go to Mass once for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and once for Christmas (yes, twice this weekend!). The Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent are Saturday night and Sunday morning, which serve for our Sunday obligation. The Sunday evening and Monday morning Masses will be for our Christmas obligation. Please ask father if there is any confusion.

### Special Collection—9/10 December

Melbourne Overseas Mission

### Masses This Week

The school staff and children will join with parishioners at Mass on Wednesday morning as part of their celebrations for the end of the school year.

The Grade 6 Graduation Mass for St Josephs will be held on Thursday 14 December at 6:00pm.

### Christmas Eve at Yarra Junction

Carols will be sung starting at 6:30 followed by the Vigil Mass. Stay and join other parishioners and visitors after Mass for a quick cuppa and some festive treats.

### Unexpected Maintenance Expenses—Donations needed!

Due to plumbing leaks and repairs needed to toilets we have a bill of \$5387.00. This is a major and unexpected expense to the Parish.

Also needing repairs was the security lighting at Warburton at a cost of \$902.

If you can donate towards covering these expenses it would be appreciated.

Contributions can be made via direct debit using the bank details listed below (use the reference 'repairs') or by cash/cheque in an envelope marked repairs. Thanks to those who have contributed to this appeal: **donations to date \$1620**

### Sacred Heart Parish Church

BSB# 083347 Account number 670642723

### Adoration of the Eucharist

The cultivation of your relationship with the Lord must be the top priority of your life. (Bishop Robert Barron)

In order to bring true peace back to my soul, the only way that there exists on the earth is Confession, because Jesus awaits me there with love and mercy. (St. Gianna Molla)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration. Friday mornings 8:00am Mount Evelyn

**Please note Adoration will be cancelled this Thursday due to the Graduation Mass**

### Stewardship Corner

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

### **Archbishop Peter Comensoli's request for Ukraine**

Cards and envelopes are available in the foyer for donations or you can use the bar code to contribute online. More information is available in the foyer.

### **Church Flowers—Donations**

Donations can be made at any time in envelopes marked 'Flowers' or 'Altar Society'.

### **St Mary's Prayer Group— Now Every Week**

The Prayer Group meet every Friday in the church from 2-3 p.m. Come and join us! "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene). All Welcome!

### **Parish Sacramental Program**

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish.

Contact the parish office or [annevan.tilburg@gmail.com](mailto:annevan.tilburg@gmail.com) Contact Anne by mid-December for 2024 enrolments. Please note classes are held at St Mary's.

### **And a few gags ...**

Why is the graveyard so noisy?

Because of all the coffin.

I was super lucky to get an Advent calendar this year ...

Because you know their days are numbered.

I couldn't get the chocolates out of my Advent calendar today.

Foiled again.

I was at the in-laws for Christmas dinner last night. Sadly, many are non-believers. At the end of the big meal we were all sitting as a huge cheese platter was brought into the room when my 6-year old son piped up.

Proudly, he said, "I know what the true meaning of Christmas is! Christmas is all about cheeses!"

### **Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley**

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

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

### **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

*N.B. No Morning Mass Tuesday 26 December*

## **Readings Reflection**

### [Straighten the Path](#)

Our God is coming. The time of exile— the long separation of humankind from God due to sin—is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God—the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus towards the promised land (see Exodus 23:20). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see Malachi 3:1, 23–24).

John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from Himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

He has done all this not for humanity in the abstract but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle.

Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives so that everything we do leads us to Him.

Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

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

# **“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Lk 1:28).**

[NOTE: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception was Saturday, 8 Dec]

We address the Virgin Mary several times a day with these words of the Archangel Gabriel. Let us repeat them with fervent joy today, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, remembering 8 December 1854 when Blessed Pius IX proclaimed this wonderful Dogma of the Catholic faith in this very same Vatican Basilica.

How great is the mystery of the Immaculate Conception that the Liturgy presents to us today! A mystery that never ceases to invite the contemplation of believers and inspires the reflection of theologians. The theme of the Congress that has just been mentioned: “Mary of Nazareth welcomes the Son of God into history”, has fostered a deep examination of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary as a presupposition for receiving in her virginal womb the Word of God Incarnate, the Saviour of the human race.

“Full of grace”, “κεχαριτωμενη”: in the original Greek of Luke’s Gospel, the Angel greets Mary with this title. It is the name that God, through his messenger, chose to use to describe the Virgin. This is how he had always seen and thought of her, *ab aeterno* (from all eternity).

In the hymn of the Letter to the Ephesians just now proclaimed, the Apostle praises God the Father “who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (1:3). What a special blessing God addressed to Mary from the beginning of time! Mary was truly blessed among women!

The Father chose her in Christ before the creation of the world, so that she might be holy and immaculate before him in love, preordaining her as the first fruits of filial adoption through the work of Jesus Christ.

The predestination of Mary, like that of each one of us, is linked to the predestination of the Son. Christ is that “seed” that was “to bruise the head” of the ancient serpent, according to the Book of Genesis; he is the Lamb “without blemish”, immolated to redeem humanity from sin.

With a view to the saving death of the Son, Mary, his Mother, was preserved free from original sin and from every other sin. The victory of the new Adam also includes that of the new Eve, Mother of the redeemed. The Immaculate Virgin is thus a sign of hope for all the living who have triumphed over Satan by the blood of the Lamb.

Today let us contemplate the humble young girl of Nazareth, holy and blameless before God in love, in that “love” whose original source is God himself, one and triune.

How sublime an act of the Most Holy Trinity is the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of the Redeemer! Pius IX, in the Bull *Ineffabilis Deus*, recalls that the Almighty “by one and the same decree had established the origin of Mary and the Incarnation of divine Wisdom” (*Pii IX Pontificis Maximi Acta, Pars prima*, p. 559).

The Virgin’s “yes” to the announcement of the Angel fits into the reality of our earthly condition, with humble respect for the divine will to save humanity not from history but in history. Indeed, ever preserved free from all taint of original sin, the “new Eve” benefited uniquely from the work of Christ as the most perfect Mediator and Redeemer. The first to be redeemed by her Son, she shares to the full in his holiness; she is already what the entire Church desires and hopes to be. She is the eschatological icon of the Church.

Consequently the Immaculate Virgin, who marks “the very beginning of the Church, Bride of Christ, without spot or wrinkle, shining with beauty” (Preface), always precedes the People of God in the pilgrimage of faith, bound for the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Mary’s Immaculate Conception the Church sees projected and anticipated in her most noble member, the saving grace of Easter.

In the event of the Incarnation the Church encounters Christ and Mary indissolubly united: “he who is the Church’s Lord and Head and she who, uttering the first fiat of the New Covenant, prefigures the Church’s condition as spouse and mother” (*Redemptoris Mater*, n. 1).

To you, Virgin Immaculate, predestined by God above every other creature to be the advocate of grace and model of holiness for his people, today in a special way I renew the entrustment of the whole Church. May you guide your children on their pilgrimage of faith, making them ever more obedient and faithful to the Word of God. May you accompany every Christian on the path of conversion and holiness, in the fight against sin and in the search for true beauty that is always an impression and a reflection of divine Beauty.

May you obtain peace and salvation for all the peoples. May the eternal Father, who desired you to be the immaculate Mother of the Redeemer, also renew in our time through you, the miracles of his merciful love. Amen!

*Pope St John Paul II, Homily on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception,  
8 December 2004*