



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

5 William Hovell Drv, Endeavour Hills 3802
T. 9700 3781 / F. 9700 6228
didi.karkas@cam.org.au
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



First Sunday of ADVENT Year B, 2-3 December, 2023

HOPE (by Pope Francis)

(article extracted from Melbourne Catholic Magazine)

Pope Francis distinguishes between hope and optimism: 'Christian hope is no facile optimism, no placebo for the credulous: it is the certainty, rooted in love and faith, that God never abandons us and remains faithful to his promise: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me"' (Psalm 23:4).

'Christian hope is not a denial of sorrow and death; it is the celebration of the love of the risen Christ, who is always at our side, even when he seems far from us.'

This hope, a certain hope born from the presence of Christ in our midst, is one he encourages young people to nurture in their daily lives.

'After the flame of hope is kindled in us, there can be times when it risks being extinguished by the worries, fears and pressures of daily life,' he writes. 'A flame needs oxygen to keep burning, in order to grow into a great bonfire of hope. The gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit nurtures our hope, and there are several ways that we cooperate in this.'

The best way for people to nurture hope, the pope says, is through prayer. 'Prayer preserves and renews hope ... Praying is like climbing to a mountaintop: from the ground, the sun can be hidden by clouds, but once we climb beyond them, its light and warmth envelop us. We see once more that the sun is always there, even when everything around us seems dark and dreary.'

Ours, he says, is an age in need of hope. 'Nurture the spark that has been kindled in you, but at the same time share it. You will come to realize that it grows by being given away! ... Stay close in particular to your friends who may be smiling on the outside but are weeping within, for lack of hope.'

He quotes the French Catholic spiritual writer Charles Péguy, who pictured faith, hope and love as three sisters walking along pulled especially by hope. Péguy thought that hope is the theological virtue people pay least attention to, even though it is the most important:

*Yes she, the little one,
drags everything along.
Because Faith only sees what exists.
And Charity only loves what exists.
But Hope loves what will be.*

Children's Nativity Play (Christmas Eve 6pm Mass)

A traditional part of our Christmas celebration was the children's nativity play on Christmas Eve. Due to a variety of reasons (the most prominent being the pandemic) this particular practice was halted. This year we are trying to revive the nativity play. We would like to extend an invitation to young children up to 14 years of age to participate in this year's nativity.

If your child (children) wishes to be part of this play, please contact the parish office with your details and we will be in touch. Practices will be at after school hours/ holidays

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm

Sunday
9am, 11am and 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtube.com/live/weMFXvrR8nA?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP
Dcn Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

St Paul Apostle North Primary School

Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

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

Second Sunday of ADVENT Yr B

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep

Psalm

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky

The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Reflection on the readings

Q. How does this gospel passage relate to the Advent season?

Q. How can we continue to prepare the way for the Lord?

ACT OF KINDNESS

A few months ago the Lawless family, who are members of St Paul Apostle Catholic Community joined a pilgrimage to visit orphanages in Vietnam. The group was guided by Fr Peter Gardner from the Passionist Congregation. The family were moved by the experience and on returning to their 'comfortable' surrounds, decided they wanted to engage in some action to support the orphanages. The whole family now are trying to raise funds for a 'Christmas Gift' to those

whom they encountered in Vietnam. A few weeks ago they sold some lemonade and biscuits at a park. They are hoping to do the same at our Church on Sunday, the 10th of December after the 9am & 11am Mass. All proceeds will go to the Vietnamese orphanages and assist the work of Fr Peter. Your support for these young people's 'giving' spirit will be greatly appreciated.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

THANK YOU

The Justice group thank you for your generous support during their egg collection last weekend. The collection generated \$797.80 which will be used to assist the asylum seekers by providing them with eggs.

Thank you!

SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This event will be held on **FRIDAY, the 8th of DECEMBER 2023**. The day will begin with **Mass at 10am** in the Church, followed by lunch in the **ANNEXE**. If you wish to attend, you **MUST** write your name down on the reservation form in the gathering space at the end of Mass, please include both your contact number and the number of persons attending.

Finger food donations are always welcome. If you are not intending to join this lunch, but wish to donate finger food, you are most welcome to do so, however please notify the parish office.



GARDENING—16 December

Our next gardening day is **SATURDAY the 16th of December, commencing at 8.30am** and running for about 2 hrs (however, feel free to come at a time which suits you) All are welcome to help.

Just come along and remember to bring your gardening tools.



ADVENT REFLECTION BOOK—Few copies left

There are only a few copies left at the Piety Stall. Priced at \$7 each (this only covers the cost of obtaining the booklet)

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS at Martin Place

Finally, we have set the date for this annual event. It will be held on **SUNDAY, 17th December after 6pm Mass until 9pm**. Fr Chris and his team will be leading us singing carols. Our parish choirs will also take part during the night. Weather permitting, we will hold the carols at Martin Place (the backyard of the Parish Office). Please come along and join us carolling



HAMPER

Your generosity is evident as our list has been cleared. All families on the list were accounted for within one weekend. Thank you for being so very supportive to this ministry.

Please remember the following:

- 1/ Mark the hamper with the **'CODE'** from the coloured card
- 2/ Bring the hamper to the church by **Sunday 17th December**, before 6pm Mass. We kindly ask you to ensure you deliver your hamper to Church on time

The agencies will be picking them up on Monday the 18th of December, in the morning.

If you wish to make up a hamper, but missed out on one from the list, please feel free to make one up and mark it as 'SPARE'

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

is one of the agencies providing us with the list of families. They are asking for volunteers to assist them with delivering hampers on **Monday the 18th of December from 10.30am**. Please contact us in the parish office if you are able to assist



Readings:

First Sunday of ADVENT Year B

Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 ;
1 Cor 1:3-9 ;
Mark 13:33-37

Second Sunday of ADVENT Year B

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 ;
2 Peter 3:8-14 ;
Mark 1:1-8

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Danny Sugunasekera, Imelda Lynch, Agnes Fernandez, Shirley C. Esteban, Joaquina Braz, Norah Ekanayake, Grace Sprigg, Lara Moyle, Michael D' Silva, Lina Jom, Giorgia Vella, Lucia Lay, Bernardo Cabrera, Anne Ghatt, June Enright, Leang Diep, Roger Gray, Anthona Henderson, Nimal Pandithakorallage, Cecil Harper, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, *and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues*

Those who have died

Serge De Mezieres, Aurora Mesa-Manzanilla Vda de Jover, Marcia Harter, Natividad Inductivo Chua, Sonia Singh, Matthew Brady, Asesela Cokanacagi, Meresiana Cokanacagi, Francisco Bernardes, Rudolph Rances, Russell Sugunasekera *and all who are named in our church memorial book*

May they rest in peace

**"DON'T LET ANYONE
LOOK DOWN ON YOU
BECAUSE YOU ARE
YOUNG, BUT BE AN
EXAMPLE IN THE WAY
YOU SPEAK AND BEHAVE,
IN YOUR LOVE, FAITH
AND PURITY"
1 TIMOTHY 4:12**

ST PAUL APOSTLE

4:12 YOUTH

**\$5
DONATION**

**YEAR'S
5-9**

**CHRISTMAS
EDITION!**



FRIDAY, 15 DEC. 7-9PM

FOOD . FAITH . FUN

FR TIM O'TOOLE ANNEXE

REGISTER THROUGH

LINK OR QR CODE

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