

14 December 2025 St John Bosco Parish Niddrie

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A

Rose is the colour of anticipated rejoicing



Bambinelli Sunday

Welcome to all parishioners and visitors on this 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as ‘Gaudete Sunday’ or ‘Rejoicing Sunday’. Today the Rose coloured candle is lit, and rose coloured vestments are worn. These external signs remind us that Christmas is near, but we are still in Advent. We will bless your crib figures, and the church crib after Holy Communion at the 10.30am Mass this Sunday.

Pope Benedict spoke about the tradition of ‘Bambinelli Sunday’, which was begun by Pope John Paul II in Rome many years ago:

The blessing of the “Bambinelli” [Baby Jesus figurines] as they are called in Rome, reminds us that the crib is a school of life where we can learn the secret of true joy. This does not consist in having many things but in feeling loved by the Lord, in giving oneself as a gift for others and in loving one another. Let us look at the crib. Our Lady and St Joseph do not seem to be a very fortunate family; their first child was born in the midst of great hardship; yet they are full of deep joy, because they love each other, they help each other and, especially, they are certain that God, who made himself present in the little Jesus, is at work in their story. And the shepherds? What did they have to rejoice about? That Newborn Infant was not to change their condition of poverty and marginalization. But faith helped them recognize the “babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” as a “sign” of the fulfilment of God’s promises for all human beings, “with whom he is pleased” (Lk 2: 12, 14).

We will bless the crib figures at the end of the 10.30am Mass this Sunday, and enjoy coffee and Panettone together.

Jubilee Year

The Jubilee Year of Hope will officially conclude on the Feast of Epiphany next year in January. There are still a number of opportunities to visit the Pilgrim churches in Melbourne and to obtain the Plenary Indulgence. The closest Pilgrim churches to us are the Polish Marian Shrine in Essendon; St Mary McKillop in Keilor Downs or St Mary Star of the Sea in West Melbourne.

Thank You !!!

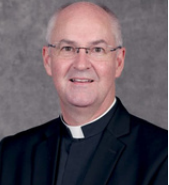
Today is also an opportunity to say ‘Thank You’ to the many volunteers who do so much for us in the parish. Think about the many things that happen each day by dedicated people who give of their time and talent for us and for God. The church is opened and prepared for Mass; ministers assist with reading, Holy Communion, collecting, music, cleaning, flowers. The garden is looked after so well; maintenance and odd jobs are done; Holy Communion is taken to the sick and elderly at home; morning teas are prepared; raffles are organised; St Vincent de Paul volunteers visit those in need; Bible study group meets regularly; Young Adults group meets regularly and other things as well. Much of the voluntary work is unseen by most of us, a wonderful tribute to those who quietly serve the parish.

Announcement from the Archbishop

This Sunday the Archbishop will formally announce the calling of an Archdiocesan Synod in 2026. There are three themes that will form the basis for this Synod: Young Discipleship; Missionary Leadership and Formation and Participation. The Archbishop will soon establish a Synod Commission to guide this process. More information will follow later. The Archbishop asks for our prayers for the success of this event.

Plenary Indulgence for New Years Eve. Jubilee Year of Hope
The Church offers a Plenary Indulgence on New Years Eve for those who fulfil the usual conditions (Confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayers for the Holy Father's intentions) to those who recite the Te Deum (Solemn Prayer of Thanksgiving) publicly in church. We will do this after the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 31 December.

The Parish of St John Bosco and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and the vulnerable in our community. Protection and the dignity of every person is our responsibility.



Contact Us

Parish Priest
Fr David Cartwright
T: 9337 9994
E: Niddrie@cam.org.au
W: melbournecatholic.org/s/niddrie
29 Muriel Street Niddrie Vic 3042
Parish Office
Charles Meneze, Secretary
Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-4pm

Pray With Us

Mass Times

Wednesday - Friday: 9.30am Mass
Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 4.30pm
First Friday 9am, or any time on request
Please call Fr David on 9337 9994

Rosary

Recited at 9am before weekday Mass

Benediction

First Friday after 9.30am Mass

Baptisms

1st Sunday of the month 11.45am, please contact the office. Or by arrangement.

House Blessings/ Anointing of the Sick
Please contact the presbytery

Support Us

Thank you for your generosity toward our parish: physically, spiritually and financially. If you are not a regular contributor, we invite your support- please contact the Parish Office.

Tap and Go machines are available at the weekend Mass in the narthex.
Direct Credits can also be made:

Presbytery Account (1st collection, for clergy and presbytery support)
- BSB:083 -347 Acc No.: 6616 52479

Parish Account (2nd collection, for parish expenses) BSB:083 - 347 AccNo.: 6568 74974

The parish relies solely on your support. We receive no funding from external sources or the Archdiocese. We thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue the work of the Gospel.

“God loves a cheerful giver!”

Parish News

Social Media

Don’t forget to ‘Like’ and Follow us on Facebook:

St John Bosco’s Catholic Church Niddrie and *St John Bosco Young Adults*
New to the Faith? Want to Know More?

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, seeking baptism & reception in the Church? Please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr David.

Participating in the Mass

The daily Mass readings and responses can be accessed with this QR Code. The Sunday readings and Mass responses are on the other side of the bulletin.



Advent Timetable

Tuesdays of Advent (16 Dec, 23 Dec)

- 6.30pm - 6.50pm: Adoration & Confessions
- 7pm: Mass each Tuesday of Advent

Saturdays of Advent (20 Dec)

- 10am - 10.30am: Confessions

Sundays of Advent (14 Dec, 21 Dec)

- 10am - 10.20am: Confessions (before 10.30am Mass)

For your Diary: Sunday 14 December ‘**Bambinelli Sunday**’ Blessing of home Christmas cribs and coffee and Panettone after 10.30am Mass. Please bring along the baby Jesus figures from your Christmas cribs to be blessed at Mass this Sunday.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve- Wednesday 24 December
- 5.00pm- Christmas Family Mass
- 9.00pm- Christmas Solemn Vigil Mass
Christmas Day- Thursday 25 December
- 9.30am- Christmas Day Mass
Boxing Day Friday 26 December
- no Mass

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th December 2025:

- 5pm Saturday 27 December Mass
 - 10.30am Sunday 28 December Mass
- New Year’s Day- Thursday 1 January 2026:
- 10.00am- New Year’s Day Mass

Friday 2 January 2026:

- Normal Mass schedule resumes

Profession of Faith

During the Advent and Christmas seasons we will use the Apostle's Creed at Mass in place of the Nicene Creed

Stewardship

The first collection is for the support of the Parish Priest, for retired and sick priests, parishes in need and the Archbishop.

The second collection is for parish expenses like wages, utilities, insurance etc.

Last week:

1st collection: \$707

2nd collection: \$1,927

You can also donate to our Presbytery & Parish accounts using this QR code:



We recall in Prayer

Those who are sick

We pray for all the sick in our parish community

Recently Deceased

All the recently deceased in our community

Anniversaries and Remembrances

Brian Downes; Loretta Barrett; Angela Alessi
Crocitti

Thought for the Week

"What we love we shall grow to resemble"
(Bernard of Clairvaux)

Mass Intentions this week

Wednesday: the housebound in our parish
Thursday: safe holidays for our school children
Friday: for the souls in purgatory
Saturday: for the sick
Sunday: *Pro populo* (for the people of the parish)

Our Liturgical Life

What is a Catholic Mass?

The third part of the Mass is called the liturgy of the Eucharist. ‘Eucharist’ means to give thanks, so it begins by the ‘offertory’ when we offer ourselves to God. This is symbolised by taking up the bread and wine which will become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, and the collection. During the Eucharistic prayer everyone kneels as to worship Jesus Christ who becomes present under the appearance of bread and wine when the priest says the ‘consecration’. The change is not ‘done’ by the priest, but by Christ, and whilst visible, nothing appears to have changed, the change is one of substance, of what it is.

From www.queenofangels.org

Our Spiritual Life

Expressions of Prayer

Vocal Prayer

Most Catholics learn traditional prayers from the time they were young. These normally include the Sign of the Cross, the Hail Mary, the Lord’s Prayer, and a mealtime blessing. They might also include prayers at waking and at bedtime. Over time many people learn other prayers, such as the Memorare, a prayer asking Mary, the mother of God, to pray for us in our time of need.

From www.loyolapress.com

The parish office will be closed on Thursday 25 December 2025 & will reopen on Monday 5 January 2026

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the church and can be placed in either collection at Mass. These provide necessary help for the support of the priests of the parish, as well as the sick and retired priests in Melbourne. Thank you for your generosity.

Ministry at our weekend Masses

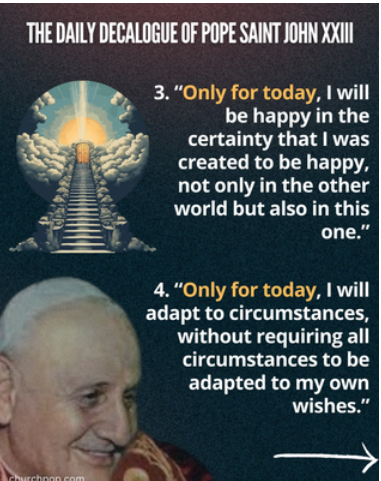
We are blessed to have a good number of volunteers who assist at our Masses with reading, collecting etc. We would like to expand our ministries in the area of music and altar serving. Currently we have a fledgling music ministry at both Masses, which we are very keen to expand. If you would like to join with singing or playing an instrument, please see one of our musicians after Mass or speak to Fr David. Your don’t need to be an expert, just willing to learn. If you would like to assist with Altar Serving on Sundays, please see Fr David.

60th Anniversary of the Opening of our parish church.

Next year, 2026, marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of St John Bosco's current church. It will be an occasion for us to celebrate and give thanks to God. If anyone has any suggestions about how we should celebrate this as a parish, please see Fr David.

Wisdom of the Saints

Saint Philip Neri: “My Jesus, if you want me, cut the fetters that keep me from you.”



GOSPEL Mt 11:2-11
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R: Blessed be God for ever.
P: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
R: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
Through Christ our Lord.
R: Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
P: The Lord be with you.
R: And with your spirit.
P: Lift up your hearts.
R: We lift them up to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R: It is right and just.

PREFACE I OR II OF ADVENT
After the Preface, we sing or say:
All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION
P: The mystery of faith
All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE
P: At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...
P: Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...
R: Amen
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R: And with your spirit.
P: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD
All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
P: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Isa 35:4
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults

and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.
R: Amen

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P: The Lord be with you.
R: And with your spirit.
P: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R: Amen.
P: Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R: Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE ONE WHO IS TO COME
Today’s Gospel focus continues with John the Baptist, introduced to us last Sunday. From prison he sends his followers to Jesus to find out if he is the ‘one who is to come or have we to wait for someone else?’ This question picks up an early memory that some thought John might have been the Messiah. Jesus explicates his Messianic credentials to John’s enquirers: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead raised to life. In other words, Jesus affirms that he is the one who brings restoration, community and healing. Jesus’ self-identification further affirms the blessedness of those who remain faithful to him.
In the biblical world, ‘faith’ was another way of affirming fidelity and commitment to another. This leads Jesus to attest, in this spirit of fidelity and commitment, John’s prophetic mission of desert ascetism and preparation for the coming of the Messiah. As we come into these final days before Christmas, our role becomes like John: we align ourselves in fidelity and faith to the one who is to be born, who will bring healing and hope to our world that struggles to know this.
But we also hear Jesus’ affirming words – the final sentence in today’s Gospel passage addressed to us. Despite John’s greatness as the one who prepares for the coming of Jesus, ‘yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he’. The Gospel’s audience, including us, are affirmed. We have unique status in the eyes of God. This divine promise accompanies us in the days ahead.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A14 DECEMBER 2025

THE BLIND SEE AGAIN. Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus. Many wondered: ‘Are you the one who is to come?’ Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth this Christmas by being good news for the poor.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Phil 4: 4-5
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

GREETING
P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT
P: Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
R. For we have sinned against you.
P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
R. And grant us your salvation.
P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
V. Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.



The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT
O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever
R: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 35:1-6, 10
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
God himself will come and save us.
Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, ‘Courage! Do not be afraid.

‘Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.’
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy in their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4
R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)
1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord, who protects the stranger / and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion’s God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING James 5:7-10
A reading from the letter of St James
You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord’s coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18
Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!