



THE TIDINGS

SERVING THE AREAS OF MELTON, MELTON WEST, AINTREE, BONNIE BROOK,
GRANGEFIELDS, HARKNESS, KURUNJANG, PLUMPTON, ROCKBANK & TOOLERN VALE



The Catholic
Parish of Melton
is committed
to the safety,
wellbeing and
dignity of all
children and
vulnerable
adults

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Year B | 10 December 2023

CLERGY

Parish Priest: REV. FR MICHAEL MOODY

Parish Deacon: REV. DCN CHRIS CREO

Email: Christopher.Creo@cam.org.au

STAFF & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Parish Secretary: VIVIEN LEMALU

Finance Manager: LORRAINE STAFFORD (Thurs & Fri)

Email: Finance.Melton@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Coordinator: LIZ COUSTLEY

Mobile: 0490 885 515 | **Email:** cso.melton@gmail.com

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 96, Melton, Vic. 3337, Australia

PRESBYTERY & OFFICE

20 Unitt Street, MELTON, VIC 3337

Contact: 03 9743 6515 | **Email:** melton@cam.org.au

Website: <http://www.melbcatholic.org/melton>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/parishmelton>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishmelton>

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 9.00am–3.00pm

(The parish office is CLOSED on weekends and public holidays)

MASS CENTRES & MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

• Saturday 6pm (Vigil Mass)

• Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

St Dominic's Church, Melton

Church St, Melton, VIC 3337

• Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.15am

CONFESSIONS

St Catherine of Siena Church

Saturday: 5.45 pm | Sunday: 4.45pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT & ROSARY

St Dominic's Church

• Thursday following the 9.15am Mass

SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH

ST DOMINIC'S PRIMARY SCHOOL (Prep-Year 6)

Principal: Mr Jeffrey Parker

Address: Church Street, Melton, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 9743 6225

Email: enquiries@sdmelton.catholic.edu.au

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC

PRIMARY SCHOOL (Prep-Year 6)

Principal: Ms Carmel Marantelli

Address: 108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 9743 2166

Email: info@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Melton West (Year 7-12) | **Cobblebank** (Year 7)

formerly Catholic Regional College Melton

Principal: Ms Marlene Jorgensen

Address: 109-141 Bulmans Rd, Melton West, VIC 3337

Phone: +61 3 8099 6000

Email: info@sfc.vic.edu.au

Gospel Focus

Preparing the Way

THE gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'.

The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history.

In a very short and sharp passage, the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Today's Scripture Readings

Is 40:1-5,9-1; Ps 84 (85); 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

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

Prayer Requests

Recently deceased: Vimala Madanu, Josef Kozina, Frances Kealy

NOTICE TO PARISHIONERS

Weekday Morning Masses will resume as normal this week from Wednesday to Friday. PLEASE NOTE: 9.15am Mass on Friday 15th December will also be St Dominic's Primary School's End of Year Mass in the Parish Hall.



Parish Stewardship Update

November Pledged: \$6,642.09

Actual: \$5,145.85



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.



WHY WE DO THINGS IN THE MASS

Did You Know?

Getting a Handle on Advent

ADVENT is in many ways difficult to come to grips with. This is especially so in Australia where it comes at the beginning of summer, as the school and working years conclude and beaches and barbeques beckon.

There is a tendency for the busy-ness of shopping, parties and planning for Christmas Day to overtake the rhythm of the church year.

What then do we make of Advent? It is, of course, the curtain raiser and very much part of the Christmas season. Christmas Time does not end on 25th December but continues through the feasts of the Mother of God, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. In the background is always Mary's 'Yes', which grounds these marvellous events and shows us how to respond.

The texts of Advent – the scripture readings, prefaces and prayers – are some of the richest treasures of the Church's liturgy and draw us into the true spirit and purpose of the Advent season.

The special focus of Advent, as the word's origins indicate, can be summed up in the phrase, 'Here he comes.' As we enter its meaning, we look back in time, look forward in time and open our eyes fully to the present.

'Nation will not lift up sword against nation, there will be no more training for war!' announces the prophet Isaiah on



the first Sunday of Advent this year. We can connect with the longing of the Chosen People for peace as they waited for God to intervene and bring justice on earth.

We prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus as the beginning of the decisive answer to those prayers. As we look back in time and identify with our ancestors in faith, we marvel at how God's answer went beyond anything they had dreamt. Here he comes.

A Saviour has been born for us, has died and risen for us. We look for him to come again, because we do not yet see the fullness of his Kingdom.

This looking forward in time is the second meaning of 'Here he comes.' In the epistle readings of Advent this year, Paul and James urge their communities - and us - to wait patiently for the completion of our salvation.

And here he comes right now. Christ is present today in his Church in word, sacrament and community. We can see him in the faces of the poor, the suffering and the powerless.

Advent is a time to let the Holy Spirit open our eyes to the presence of Jesus Christ alive today, even within ourselves. Every Christian in some way conceives and gives birth to the Word of God. In the faith, we

bring Christ to a world that is waiting.

The period of Advent and Christmas is a time for us to ponder more deeply and proclaim to the world the Word of God made flesh. In this season, every Christian is called to share, through whatever opportunities the Lord provides, the good news that God has entered our human condition to unite us to him.

Maranatha. Come Lord Jesus!

*The article originally published in **LITURGY LINES** (17 November 2016) by Elizabeth Harrington.*



Glancing Thoughts: Comfort

By Eleonore Stump

IN the *First Reading* the prophet reports a command given by God: 'Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God!' In the sorrows of life, who does not long for comfort? Who would not melt with gratitude at the tender comfort of God?

But what is comfort?

Sometimes what we want is just what the good shepherd gives his lost sheep. We don't want to walk along the road of our life to the Lord. We want God to carry us.

But a child that is carried all the time will never learn to walk, to leap and run. That child, weak enough already to have to be carried, will get only weaker as the carrying goes on.

And comfort isn't a matter of giving weakness. It's a matter of giving strength—strength for walking, even over very rough roads.

In fact, the "-fort" in "comfort" comes from the Latin word for "strong." The "com-" in "comfort" is from the Latin word for "with." To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength. He is more able to stand on his own feet and walk because you are with him.

To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength.

But what is the comfort of God? Where is it? How do we find it? The Gospel says that Christ baptizes his own with the Holy Spirit. Because of this baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within

each person who comes to Christ.

That is why no one who comes to Christ and receives his baptism of the Holy Spirit walks the wild and rocky road of life alone. God is so much with him that, in the person of the Holy Spirit, God is within him. If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us? This is strength indeed.

And so no wonder that the other name for the Holy Spirit is "the Comforter."



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NEXT SET OF THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GATHERING AREA OF THE CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

The time has come for the distribution of the next set of Thanksgiving envelopes, and I wish to thank you for your continued support and participation in our Parish Thanksgiving Program.

Your generosity is a great testament to the importance of our Parish to you – past, present and future. It plays a very important role in meeting the Parish's needs and commitments – especially our financial loan debt for St Catherine of Siena Church which is currently \$2,145,116.63.

Our Parish expenditure for the past eleven months has been \$245,630.50 which includes loan repayment (\$66,566 per quarter), insurance and utility costs, office running expenditure, wages, repairs, maintenance and cleaning costs, program costs, etc.

You will also find a statement for the past eleven months (January to November) of your contribution since the last set of envelopes was distributed. Please note that the dates on the statement are the day your contribution was banked – not the day you gave your contribution.

Again, our Parish expresses a heartfelt 'thank you' for your continued support and faithful commitment to our shared faith and ongoing mission in our Parish community.

God bless,

Fr Michael Moody
Parish Priest
Catholic Parish of Melton



Second Advent Candle: Peace

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women." — Pope Francis

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace.

Like the first candle, it is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," the second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all of the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace. As we read in the quote from Pope Francis, this light of peace shone forth from Bethlehem for all the world.

Source: <https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/>

PLEASE RING THE MASS MANAGERS IF UNABLE TO ATTEND:

6 pm	Tania Walters	0492 952 478
9 am	Theo Franken	0411 040 897 Vickie Cassar 0418 348 946
11 am	Bruna Tomassi	9743 0341
5 pm	Josephine Krajina	0407 042 133

2 nd Sunday of Advent			Saturday & Sunday, December 9 & 10, 2023		
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM	
Welcome	Bill McGuinness	Maureen Mohr	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina	
The Word	Tania Walters	Karl Metha	Janet Estrada	Ismael Sosa -Sanchez	
Responder	Tetchie Hadfield	Vickie Cassar	Cira Cleary	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie	
Presentation of Gifts	Robert Obtinalla	Theo Franken	Janet Estrada		
Holy Communion	Leny Obtinalla	Richard Kealy	Lea Jacuta	Michael Higgins	
PowerPoint Operator	Kate Mulholland	Sanyata Creo	Liz Coustley		
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Graham Dempsey	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben	
Choir	Filipino Choir	Veneration Choir	Veritas Choir	Filipino Choir	
Counters	Maria Abela, Tania Walters				

3 rd Sunday of Advent			Saturday & Sunday, December 16&17, 2023		
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM	
Welcome	Kate Mulholland	Karl Metha	Liz Coustley	Frank Unferdorben	
The Word	Manoj D'Silva	Vickie Cassar	Cira Cleary	Michael Higgins	
Responder		Jennifer Peters	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina	
Presentation of Gifts	Robert Obtinalla	Vickie Cassar	Bruna Tomassi	Brian Dean	
Holy Communion	Bill McGuinness	Asther Creo	Liz Coustley	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie	
PowerPoint Operator		Sanyata Creo	Adela Marinjira	Daniella Ahmet	
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Maureen Mohr	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina	
Choir		Samoan Choir	St Anuarite Choir	Tongan Choir	
Counters	Karl Metha, Anne Stokie, Maureen Mohr				



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PLEASE JOIN US FOR

SIMBANG GABI

CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

An Advent Preparation for the Birth of Jesus

DECEMBER **15-23** 8-9PM

St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West

LOOKING FOR BABY JESUS!

Do you have or know of a newborn who can play Jesus at Christmas time? We need YOU! No experience necessary. No Working With Children Check required.

OPEN TO ALL BABIES LESS THAN 4 WEEKS OLD



NEW CHRISTMAS ITEMS AND CARDS FOR SALE AT THE PIETY STALL



New Christmas items are for sale in the display cabinet in the Gathering Area of the church. Feel free to have a browse!

NEW TO OUR PARISH? WELCOME!

Please collect a Welcome Pack from the Gathering Area of the church. Once census form is completed place it in the white return box in the Gathering Area.

MISSED OUT ON THE TIDINGS?

Back issues of the parish Tidings are available on our parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton



CLICK to VIEW PREVIOUS BULLETINS



Mailing List

Would you like to receive The Tidings prior to the weekend Masses?

Send an email to melton@cam.org.au requesting The Tidings or subscribe on our website.

APPLICATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR OUR PARISH'S ST LUKE'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024



for children and young people who do not attend a Catholic School, or attend a Catholic secondary school, and wish to receive the Sacrament of Penance, Eucharist or Confirmation.

Available online on our Parish Website. Hard copies are available in the Gathering Area of the church.

PLEASE NOTE:

When applying for a Working With Children Check or renewal as a volunteer, please state that the organisation is:

**Catholic Parish of Melton
20 Unitt St, Melton VIC 3337**

NOT St Catherine of Siena Parish, Bulmans Rd., as this is not the name of our Parish.

VINNIES SOUP VANS STREET SERVICE MELTON



Soup Vans will continue its Street Service around Melton as follows:

Tuesday

6.00-6.30pm **Melton Town Centre Amphitheatre**
Palmerston St, Melton

7.00-7.30pm **Melton Station Square Shopping Centre**
11-25 Station St, Melton South

- Fruit and vegetables
- Non-perishable pantry items
- Toiletries
- Soup, sandwiches, hot food



SOUP VAN VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Scan the QR code to sign up to help with preparing and packing food, assisting with loading the Soup Vans, distributing food on a 'Soup Van Run' and assisting in cleaning up the kitchen and vehicle as a team.

- Vinnies Welfare Assistance—1800 305 330 (Monday-Friday 10am-3pm)
- Opening Doors(24hr State-wide Support Crisis Accommodation) —1800 825 955
- Lifeline (24hr Crisis Counselling) - 13 11 14
- Safesteps Family Crisis Response (24hr service) - 1800 015 188
- Ask Izzy (A-Z Directory of services) - askizzy.org.au

HOME VISITATION & BLESSING REQUESTS

For Home Visitation & Blessing requests, please speak to Deacon Chris safter Mass or fill out the online request form:

<https://tinyurl.com/HBlessing>

PARISH BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Announcements & Notices: Please submit your announcement or notices not later than 5pm every Wednesday. Bulletin notices are normally retained in **The Tidings** for two weekends. Notices and announcements submitted after the deadline will be considered for publication on the following weekend.



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