



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

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B | 17 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@sfcc.vic.edu.au

Have you thought?

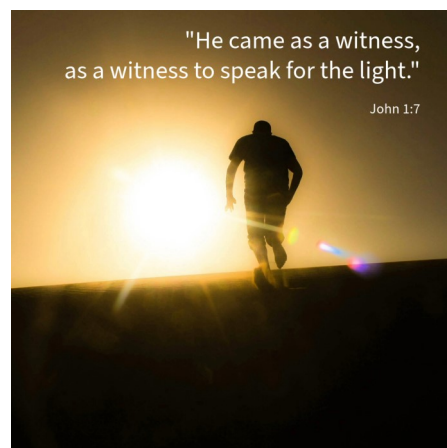
A Time to Rejoice!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday.

Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent.

The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained.

The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

Alleluia!

Today'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

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 88 (89); Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

WEEKDAY MASSES & OFFICE CLOSURE

Weekday Morning Masses will resume as normal this week from Wednesday to Friday.

The Parish office will close on Friday December 22nd 2023 and will reopen on Tuesday January 16th 2024.



Parish Stewardship Update

November Pledged: \$6,642.09

Actual: \$5,145.85



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



Glancing Thoughts: Third Sunday in Advent B

Joy in the Lord

By Eleanor Stump

“I **REJOICE** heartily in the Lord,” the prophet says in the First Reading. And why wouldn’t he? He has glad tidings. The poor will be taken care of, the broken-hearted will be healed, the captives will be freed, and the prisoners will be released.

Who wouldn’t rejoice in these things?

As the winter dark and cold encroach on our days, and as the birth of the baby Jesus draws near, we hear these beautiful words everywhere. But the problem is that, for so many people, this is a time of depression, not of joy.

And why? Because the poor are still poor; the people are still broken-hearted; and the captives and prisoners are only slowly released. In this country, the bank still forecloses on the house of a person who has lost his job; a friend still becomes treacherous; a spouse succumbs to alcoholism.



What has happened to the promise and the beautiful words? How is joy possible?

The answer lies in Mary’s words in the Magnificat. “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,” she says. Does anyone think that she took these words back when she stood by the cross as her son was crucified?

How can Mary maintain the words of the Magnificat even at the foot of the cross?

How can Mary maintain the words of the Magnificat still at the foot of the cross? The answer is that the greatest love of the Lord was there. The words of joy that Mary spoke, before the Lord was born, are only more true in the suffering she bears at his cross. His love doesn’t take away her suffering at his crucifixion (how could it)? But her suffering is enveloped in great love, and so it is transfigured.

Joy in the Lord is compatible with waiting for the final redemption from our suffering and our sin—because Christ is Emanuel, God with us. Even now, since his love infuses all our suffering, our souls can proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits can rejoice in God.

Our Lord transfigures the suffering of our lives in his love.

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			

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASSES				
4 th Sunday of Advent				
Saturday Dec 23,		Sunday December 24, 2023		
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM—Cancelled
Mass Managers	Maria Abela	Theo Franken	Bruna Tomassi	
Welcomer			Chelsea Amato	
The Word		Michael Higgins	Lea Jacuta	
Responder		Anne Stokie	Cira Cleary	
Presentation of Gifts			Chelsea Amato	
Holy Communion	Bill McGuinness	Maureen Mohr	Bruna Tomassi	
PowerPoint Operator			Liz Coustley	
Gift Shop				
Choir	Divine Mercy	Veneration Choir	Veritas Choir	
Counters: Elizabeth Marshall, Jennifer Peters				
Sunday December 24				Monday Dec 25
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	8 PM (No Deacon Cris)	10 PM (No Deacon Cris)	10 AM
Mass Manager	Michael Higgins	Lea Jacuta	Bruna Tomassi	Liz Coustley
Welcomer				
The Word	Josephine Krajina	Michael Higgins	Janet Estrada	Cira Cleary
Responder			Bruna Tomassi	Vickie Cassar
Presentation of Gifts				Cira Cleary
Holy Communion	Michael Higgins	Michael Higgins	Anne Stokie	Liz Coustley
	Maureen Mohr	Lea Jacuta	Bruna Tomassi	Vickie Cassar
PowerPoint Operator			Chelsea Amato	Adela Marinjira
Gift Shop				
Choir	Tongan Choir	Samoan Choir	Filipino Choir	St Anuarite Choir
Counters				



Third Advent Candle: Joy "Gaudete Sunday"

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'" — Lk 2:10-12

As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our **joy** grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the "**Shepherd's Candle**," and its colour is pink or rose, the liturgical colour for joy.

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

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

HELPING FAMILIES CHOOSE SAFE TECH GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

How do you choose tech gifts that are both fun and safe for kids?

The eSafety Gift Guide is here to help. We've gone through the latest tech trends to bring families straightforward advice to help make smart and safe tech gift choices for children and young people.

This year, the digital playground has evolved, especially in the world of online gaming. Read our guide for the latest updates and find practical tips on a range of tech gifts - from gaming memberships and virtual currencies, drones, smartphones, wearable tech and more.



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

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE DURING SUMMER HOLIDAYS

During the summer break, children often spend more time online. Help them to have fun and keep them safe from online risks like inappropriate contact, online grooming and sexual extortion.

Here's how:

1. **Stay involved** – regularly check their online activities and connect with them by playing online games together.
2. **Set family rules together** – decide which devices and apps are okay and when to use them.
3. **Teach consent** – Use holiday photos to discuss why asking people before taking or sharing their picture is important. These everyday opportunities to talk about consent can make it easier to say no to an online request that makes them feel uncomfortable.
4. **Stay informed** – A new joint resource with Crime Stoppers NSW and the ACCE includes tips on signs to look out for and ways to protect your child online. eSafety also has several resources for parents on how to keep your child safe online.
5. **Know where to get help** – If your child is under 18, the best way to get help on inappropriate contact is to report it to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. For reporting to eSafety, learn what you can report and how to report.

Keep your child safe online and enjoy the holidays!



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

CHRISTMAS

2023 MASS TIMES

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, MELTON WEST

15th-23rd Dec	Christmas Novena Masses	8pm
23rd Dec	Saturday Vigil Mass	6pm
24th Dec	Sunday Mass	9am
	Sunday Mass	11am
	Christmas Vigil Family Mass	6pm
	Christmas Vigil Mass	8pm
	Midnight Mass	10pm
25th Dec	Christmas Day Mass	10am
	Christmas Day Swahili Mass	1pm

Christmas Carols will begin 30 minutes before Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day masses.

O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

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.

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



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Wishing Tree

A huge thank you to the Parish community for your generosity in donating to the Wishing Tree.

As a result of your donations we were able to collate 20 Christmas Hampers full of treats just in time for Christmas. The Hampers have been delivered to families in our community and have been received with love.

Merry Christmas!



Enrich your Marriage with The Marriage Kit by SmartLoving – 50% off Advent Sale



An enrichment course for married couples wanting a lasting, passionate relationship as God intended. Accessed from the privacy of your home on your own timetable, this online course will energise your relationship, revitalise your passion and equip you with practical tools for every day.



For 50% off use coupon code: **Advent**

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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