

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

1 December 2024

Readings

Next Week

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5: 1-9

Ps 125

Phil 1: 5-6, 8-11

Lk 3: 1-6

in a nutshell

Your Liberation is Near! The early Christians expected the Lord's return in glory to be very soon. St Paul explained to them that the Lord was delaying in coming for a good purpose, to give them the opportunity to grow in love and make progress in the kind of life they were meant to live. May we also make good use of the present time to deepen our love for one another that we may be ready on the day Christ comes to set us free.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Harry & Dorothy Heering, Jim & Pat Henshaw, Fr Pat Purcell
For those who have died recently: and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

Advent Retreat for children this Sunday.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday

9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday—6:30pm (EST)

5:00pm (EDST)

Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—6:00pm

Thursday—9:00am

Friday—9:00am

Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm

Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition

Tuesday 5:00pm

Friday 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn

Email: mountevelyn@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 family member to the toilet.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH



Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church leaving the front for the truly disabled.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's
Conference 0427 874 374 or Alan Somers
0419 134 300

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday
please: moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese
visit:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee on first and third Saturdays of the month at 8:00 –10:00 am. Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church.
December 7

Parish Meetings: Tuesday,

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

Parish Notices

Waiting for the Light—Children's Advent Retreat Sunday

Sunday 1 December at St Mary's beginning with 10:30 Mass followed by activities and concluding at 3pm. This event is for children aged 5-12. BYO lunch. To register email rachael.oshea44@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

For parishioners who use envelopes, a boxed set for the next year is now available.

Parish Census—Have You Returned a Card?

Thank you to the **45** people/families who have returned the census card. If you consider yourself a parishioner of St Mary's we would appreciate that you return the census card ASAP if you have not already done so. These cards allow us to update our data base and give us a more accurate count of our parishioners.

St Mary's School –Upcoming Events

Thursday Dec 5—Art Show and Carols 4-6pm
Thursday Dec 12—Whole School End of Year Mass 2pm
Monday Dec 16—Graduation Mass 3:45pm

SVDP—Piety Stall

Now in stock the 2025 Columban Art Calendar which includes beautiful artwork, liturgical information and feast days at \$11.00 each. We also have a stock of Christmas Cards in packs of 5.

Giving Tree

St Vincent de Paul Society will be having a giving tree this year. While we will still be assisting people in need, instead of presents we will be giving them gift vouchers so they can get what they need as many have found this year very unpredictable. You are invited to make a donation of a gift voucher or make a cash donation by placing it in an envelope and placing in the box in the foyer by 16th December.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration: It is a joy and happiness to spend some time near Him, to adore Him, and to keep company with your God. What is He doing, this good Jesus, in the Sacrament of His love? He is loving us. (St. John Vianney)

Confession: Through this Sacrament Christ remains an abiding healing Presence in his Church. He meets our individuality and frailty with his love and reconciliation, and shares with us what He has won for us by the bitter pain of his Passion. (Fr. Antony Jones)

Adoration: Tuesday 5:00pm, Friday 8:00am. Yarra Junction Thursday 6:00pm (first Thursday Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (LUKE 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

November Thanksgiving/Stewardship Report

Total income: \$4285.23

Total Expenditure:

Supporting the Parish

There are a number of ways to contribute to the financial viability of the Parish:

- Cash donations and envelopes in the labelled boxes in the narthex
- Tap and Go terminals
- Via the QR code in the bulletin
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Church:** 648531736, **Presbytery:** 649237379

Sacramental Program 2025

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact Anne at annevan.tilburg@gmail.com Lessons will begin Sunday 2nd March after 10:30 Mass for First Communions and Tuesday 4th of March at 5pm for Confirmation.

Melbourne Summer School of Evangelisation: 6-12 Jan 2025

A week-long Catholic retreat for 17-35 year olds hosted by the Disciples of Jesus Community. Summer School is a place to encounter the living God, who desires a personal relationship with you. It's a journey of opening up to God's love, mercy, and healing, making (or renewing) a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, surrendering to the loving action of the Holy Spirit, and being empowered to be witnesses of hope and joy in our world today. Registrations are now open with only 40 early bird spots available. More details at ssemelbourne.org.au. Enquiries: melbourne.sse@gmail.com Poster on noticeboard with more information.

Something to bring a smile!

There were two brothers who were the most notorious criminals in a country town. When one of them died, the surviving brother went to the local priest and said, "I'll donate \$10 million to the church if you give the eulogy, but you have to say nice things and tell everyone my brother was a SAINT." The priest scratched his head but finally said, "Ok, I'll do it." The brother was pleasantly shocked that the priest agreed. At the funeral the priest gets up and begins his eulogy, "... This man was a thief, a rapist, a liar and a crook." There's a pause as the congregants look surprised. The priest continues, "There's not one good thing I can say about him! Not one!" The priest then stares at the brother in the front pew and in a loud voice says, "But compared to his brother, HE WAS A SAINT! Amen."

sourced from www.majellan.media

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

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

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

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

Readings Reflection

Heads Up

Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfillment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a "just shoot," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see 2 Samuel 7:16; Jeremiah 33:17; Psalm 89:4–5; 27–38).

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: "Guide me in your truth and teach me. For you are God my savior and for you I will wait all day."

We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the "just shoot," the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting.

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens (see Isaiah 13:11, 13; Ezekiel 32:7–8; Joel 2:10); roaring seas (see Isaiah 5:30; 17:12); distress among the nations (see Isaiah 8:22; 14:25) and terrified people (see Isaiah 13:6–11).

He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a "theophany," a manifestation of God (see Daniel 7:13–14).

Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end-times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is at hand," that "the kingdom of God is near" (see Luke 21:31).

[Dr. Scott Hahn
stpaulcenter.com](http://Dr.ScottHahnstpaulcenter.com)

Advent: A Presence Begun

Confronted with the externalism and distortion to which Advent and the Christmas season are increasingly subject, the Church has experienced the awakening of a lively desire for an authentic Advent based on faith. The unsatisfactory nature of all mere moods, of all mere feelings, however exquisite, has become evident, and we yearn again for the heart of the matter, for that strong solid nourishment for the spirit of which only a glimmer is left for us now in the pious, exalted sentiments we have during the “blessed and joyous Christmas season”. What, then, is the real heart of the Advent experience?

We may start with the word itself. “Advent” does not, for example, mean “expectation”, as some may think. It is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*, which means “presence” or, more accurately, “arrival”, that is, the beginning of a presence. In antiquity the word was a technical term for the presence of a king or ruler and also of the god being worshipped, who bestows upon his devotees the time of his *parousia*. “Advent”, then, means the presence begun—the presence of God himself.

Advent reminds us, therefore, of two things: first, that God’s presence in the world has already begun, that he is present, albeit in a hidden manner; second, that his presence has only begun and is not yet full and complete, that it is in a state of development, of becoming, and maturing toward its full form. His presence has already begun, and we, the faithful, are the ones through whom he wishes to be present in the world. Through our faith, hope, and love, he wants his light to shine over and over again into the night of the world.

The lamps we light on the dark nights of this winter season are both a comfort and a warning. They are a comforting assurance that “the Light of the world” has already begun to shine in the dark night of Bethlehem and that the unholy night of man’s sin has been transformed into the holy night of God’s forgiveness. They are also a warning: this Light wants to keep shining and will do so only if it shines in those who as Christians carry on Christ’s work through the ages. Christ seeks to illumine the night of the world with his light by having us be lights in our turn. His initial presence is to grow through us.

Therefore, during the holy night of Christmas, when we hear again and again the words resound: “*Hodie Christus natus est*”: Today Christ is born, it should remind us that what was begun at Bethlehem is meant to increase through our constant new beginnings and that the holy night truly can be, and is, “today” whenever man allows the light of goodness within him to shine through his self-centeredness and egoism. That night is “today” whenever the “Word” again becomes “flesh”, the reality of deeds. “The Christ Child comes” in a real sense whenever men act out of authentic love for the Lord and do not settle for a mere exchange of “gifts”.

Advent means the arrival of the Lord that has already begun but has only just begun. This also means that the Christian looks not only to the past and what has been but also to what is coming. Amid all the catastrophes of this world, he has a transcendent certainty that the seed of the Light is growing in secret, until one day the good will achieve a definitive victory and all else will be made subject to it. On that day, Christ will come again. The Christian knows that the presence of God that has now only begun will someday be a full and complete presence. This knowledge sets him free and gives him an ultimate security...

The world is not a futile commotion of drudgery and pain, for all the world’s distress is supported in the arms of merciful love; it is caught up and surpassed by the forgiving and saving graciousness of our God. The person who celebrates Advent in this spirit will legitimately be able to speak of “the joyous, blessed, and grace-filled season of Christmas”. He will know that there is much more truth to these words than is believable or imaginable to those people for whom Christmas is just a time for picturesque sentimentality or merely a sort of simplified carnival celebration.