

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8 December 2024

Readings

Next Week

Second Sunday of Advent

Zeph 3: 14-18

Is 12: 2-6

Phil 4: 4-7

Lk 3: 10-18

in a nutshell

Prepare a Way for the Lord. The season of Advent is a time in which we prepare for the Lord's coming. We prepare for a feast of Christmas which commemorates his first coming as a child in Bethlehem. And we prepare also for his final coming in glory. We do this by heeding John the Baptist's call to repentance, and by striving for 'peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

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

Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, 9 December at 9am

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Since the Solemnity falls on a Sunday this year, the celebration will be on Monday 9 December with Mass at 9:00am.

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 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: The Eucharist is the continuing presence of our Lord's Sacred Incarnation among us. When I was asked, "What would save the world?" I replied, "Prayer. We need every parish to come together before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer." (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

Sacrament of Mercy: It is helpful psychologically and emotionally to be able to unburden ourselves. Moreover, the words of absolution which we hear in confession provide an external assurance of forgiveness which is very important for our inner peace. (Catholic World Mission)

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

Stewardship Corner

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

November Thanksgiving/Stewardship Report

Total income: \$4285.23
Total Expenditure: \$3602.34

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!

And a few silly jokes ...Christmas Bon-bon worthy!!!

- You can't trust atoms. They make up everything!
- Why won't it hurt if you hit your friend with a 2-litre bottle of coke? Because it's a soft drink!
- Why did the mushrooms get invited to all the best parties? He was a fun-gi!
- What has four wheels and flies? Garbage truck.
- I got fired from my job at the bank today. An old lady came in and asked me to check her balance, so I pushed her over.
- What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter? An irrelephant.
- Working in a mirror factory is something I could totally see myself doing.
- I'm terrified of elevators, so I'm going to start taking steps to avoid them.

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

The Road Home

Today's Psalm paints a dreamlike scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing.

It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare Jeremiah 1:1–4, 11). But John is greater than the prophets (see Luke 7:27). He's preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also Acts 28:28).

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

[Dr. Scott Hahn](mailto:Dr.ScottHahn@stpaulcenter.com)
stpaulcenter.com

Prepare a Way for the Lord

The Season of Advent

Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace, and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

In her concern for our salvation, our loving mother the Church uses this holy season to teach us through hymns, canticles and other forms of expression, of voice or ritual, used by the Holy Spirit. She shows us how grateful we should be for so great a blessing, and how to gain its benefit: our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if he were still to come into this world. The same lesson is given us for our imitation by the words and example of the holy men of the Old Testament.

From a pastoral letter by St Charles Borromeo, Bishop

The preparations for the coming of Christ

522 The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "First Covenant." He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.

523 St. John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way. "Prophet of the Most High," John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being "the friend of the bridegroom," whom he points out as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Going before Jesus "in the spirit and power of Elijah," John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

524 When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church