



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

St Bernadette's Church, West Ivanhoe

Mary Immaculate Church, Ivanhoe

Mother of God Church, East Ivanhoe

No. 48

26 – 27 November 2011

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR A

Reflection:

These days most people keep vigils because they are anxious. We wait in hospital corridors for news of a sick relative. A parent stays up with an infant who may be teething or has a high temperature. We might even sit by the phone waiting to be reassured that a loved one is safe and well, or that we have passed the exam or got the job. Many of these occasions are highly stressed vigils. Some of the younger or more hardy ones amongst us sometimes keep vigils that are filled with excited anticipation, as when some of us sleep out to get tickets to a sports game or concert, or when we see the old year out and the new year in.

It was not long ago, however, that vigils were a much more common feature of people's lives. We often kept vigil with the dead. We used to keep all night vigils of prayer, especially when parishes had perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps before any of us can remember, there were also vigils kept with the bride the night before her wedding, when she waited and watched for the sign of her approaching groom and his attendants. The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil.



This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, 'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.' Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future event, not the future feast we are about to celebrate.

This is unique. All other feasts of the Church either remember a past event, like those of Holy Week or Pentecost, or they are 'title feasts' which proclaim a truth about God's action among us which the entire church holds to be true, like Trinity Sunday. But not the First Sunday of Advent. Rather than talk about the coming of Jesus at Christmas it helps us reflect on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time. It is the bridge between the 'last days' of the Church's year, which we have been celebrating over recent weeks, and the first days of the Church's New Year.

And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As on a vigil. Not a vigil of anxiety, where we never want to hear the worst news. Not a vigil of excited anticipation where we pin our happiness on entry into an event. But a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death. We place our hope in Jesus the Christ, our brother, saviour and friend. This First Sunday of Advent we look beyond Christmas to the final moment when heaven and earth will be united and our vigil will be complete. On that day we believe the Son will have dawned once, and for all, on the world. Now, don't you think that's something worth being awake to see?

The first week of Advent is like the first days of other vigils wherein we pitch out tents and begin the wait to make sure we have front row seats for what is going to be, when it arrives, the best show in town!

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The lighting of the first Advent candle:

On this first Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for the symbols that help us to focus on the meaning of this special season. The circle speaks of God - without beginning and without end. The four candles mark for us, in human terms, the weeks of waiting, of anticipation. As we light the first candle, we hear the challenge of the Gospel – Watch yourselves! Stay awake! Be alert to needs of the world and of this community. May we be especially alert for ways in which we can make our community truly **inclusive**.

THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face.

V. 1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to my help. **R.**

V. 2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

V. 3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: We pray as one: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember all in need of prayer at this time including Phoebe Chiera Hone, Patricia Robb, Sheila Ryan, Carmela Magrin, Beryl O’Keefe, Vito Micucci, Bev Horne, Sidney Delaney, Cathy Lengyel and Jill Brophy. We remember all who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember Frank Rocco who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



Baptism in our Parish Community:

We welcome Hannah Rose who is baptised into the faith community of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe this weekend. We welcome her family, relatives and friends who have come to share this special occasion, one of many steps taken in the journey of faith.

St Bernadette’s First Friday Devotions - Friday 2nd December:

Mass will be celebrated at 10am, and followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Devotions will conclude with Benediction at 4.00pm. All are welcome to spend time in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament.

This Week’s Readings: 1st Sunday of Advent: Year B

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8 Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

Saint and Feast Days:

Mon 28th November: St Catherine Labouré

Tues 29th November: St Saturninus

Wed 30th November: St Andrew

Thurs 1st December: St Eligius

Fri. 2nd December: St Bibiana

Sat. 3rd December: St Francis Xavier

Next Week’s Readings: 2nd Sunday of Advent: Year B

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Psalm 84:9-14 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

HAPPENINGS ACROSS THE PARISH

Saturday 26 Nov	10.00am	Reconciliation	St Bernadette’s Church
Saturday 26 Nov	6.30pm	Installation Mass: Fr Thang as Parish Priest	St Bernadette’s Church
Tuesday 29 Nov	10.00am	Mass for Combined Parish Schools	Mary Immaculate Church
Tuesday 29 Nov	7.00pm	Yarra Deanery Advent Gathering	St Clement of Rome, Bulleen
Tuesday 29 Nov	8.00pm	Richard McKinney Advent Lecture	Mother of God Church
Wednesday 30 Nov	8.00pm	Pastoral Leadership Team Meeting	Parish Office
Thursday 1 December	7.00pm	Parish Finance Committee Meeting	Parish Office
Friday 2 December	9.15am	Mass & Mother of God School Year 1	Mother of God Church
Friday 2 December	10am & 4pm	First Friday Devotions	St Bernadette’s Church
Saturday 3 December	10.00am	First Reconciliation – Catechist children	Mary Immaculate Church
Monday 5 December	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting	Parish Office
Tuesday 6 December	9.15am	Mass & St Bernadette’s School Preps F&T	St Bernadette’s Church
Friday 9 December	9.15am	Mass & Mother of God School Prep	Mother of God Church

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION

Anima Christi: *This prayer from around 14th century is still widely used after receiving Holy Communion.*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, heal me.
Blood of Christ, fill me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me. Good Jesus, hear me.
In your wounds shelter me. From turning away keep me.
From the evil one protect me. At the hour of my death call me.
Into your presence lead me to praise you with all your saints for ever and ever. Amen

Installation Mass of Fr Thang Vu as Parish Priest, Saturday 26th November:

The Parish Community welcomes all who have come to celebrate the Installation of Fr Thang as Parish Priest of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe with Archbishop Hart, fellow priests and parishioners. We sincerely welcome Fr Thang's relatives and friends who have joined us for this special occasion. We sincerely thank parish and school communities for their preparations and contributions to this celebration at a variety of levels. You are invited to gather for refreshments which are available in the Cunningham Centre after Mass.

Congratulations: Sincere congratulations to John Caddy OAM who received the "Cross of Honour – *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*" last Sunday 20 November for his service in teaching and music within the Church. This award was awarded to John by the Holy See. The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe would like to take this opportunity to thank John for his assistance and contributions to our parish liturgical celebrations.

Advent Richard McKinney Ecumenical Lectures: *'More than a Happy Ending – Jesus is raised from the Dead'* on Tuesday 29 November, 8.00pm at Mother of God. Supper available after presentation 9.15pm

Prayer on the Piazza: Tuesday November 29th at 7:30 pm at St. Clement of Rome, Egan Drive, Bulleen
Join the eight Parishes of the Yarra Deanery for a moment away from the rush of 'doing' that accelerates as Christmas approaches. Take this opportunity to listen to the Spirit in the journey of our lives and to meet Christ in some people from the parishes around us and have fun talking to them.

Programme: 7:30 pm: Gather & Prayer on the Piazza followed by 8:15 pm Food & Fellowship; Finish 9:30

Lourdes Day Mass: The Order of Malta invites parishioners to join with Archbishop Denis Hart to attend the Annual Lourdes Day Mass for the sick and fragile in our community at **St Patrick's Cathedral, Saturday 3 December at 10.30am.** Gift bag for all attendees includes a bottle of Lourdes Water, Rosary Beads and a Reflective Rosary Card. Wheelchair access available for drop off and collection purposes. Contact: 9926 5760



Outreach Christmas Lunch: Wednesday, 14th December, 12.30pm Christmas Lunch at Yarra Valley Country Club. Cost for 3 course lunch: \$17. Don't forget to bring a Kris Kringle gift to the value of \$5. Pay on the day but please book by Wednesday 30 November. Please contact Helen 9499 7793, Sue 9499 1485, or Eileen 9499 7120 booking or transport.
PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a Social Afternoon on Wednesday 7 December

MI & Parish Office Working Bee - A Big Thankyou:

Thank you to all who gave of their precious time on Saturday 12th November, cleaning out the garage and sheds, loading the skip with all that was pruned and gathered. Fortunately the weather was with us this time and we managed to weed, mow and cut back some of the prolific garden growth, courtesy of the wet!

Thanks to all those generous Parishioners who help maintain and enhance our Parish assets in this essential and practical way - especially Eugene Ballao, Deirdre Ragless, Pat and Sue Kelly, Merle Gilbo, Peter Overton, Robert Erbacher, Lucy Dal Pozzo and Meg Blakeman.

Mother of God Church Rosters: We are looking for people who are willing to be involved in the roster for next year. If you would like to help with the duties of being a Sacristan, Lector, Special Minister or assist with the flowers. We would be grateful if you could ring Helen Taylor 9499 3041.

Help still wanted! Yes, the Mary Immaculate community still needs help with simple but important tasks:

- o Could you, alone (or with a friend) take a turn once a month in arranging some flowers in the church? Mostly just one vase and, if necessary, flowers can be obtained from a florist!!
- o Different, but equally important, counting the money after 9am Mass ... about once in six weeks.

To talk about either of these possibilities, please catch me when you see me, phone me on 9497 1691 or email: merlegilbo@hotmail.net.au

World AIDS Day – 1 December:

'HIV is still there' is the theme for World AIDS Day this year. HIV remains a huge problem with 33.3 million people living with the virus worldwide (World Health Organisation estimate). HIV+ people are not visually identifiable, and in Australia, most have learned to carefully guard their status with secrecy. They do this to avoid discrimination and social stigma that sadly accompanies the illness. HIV+ people can find themselves socially isolated, and their reduced work ability to work can lead to poverty. Modern treatment is highly effective and HIV+ people can expect to live longer, but not without increasingly complex medical intervention.

Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry is an agency of CatholicCare that supports HIV+ people. Phone 8417 1280 or email am23@ccam.org.au

Mass will be celebrated at St Francis Church, Lonsdale St, Melb at **5.30pm Wednesdays 30 November.**

Get the Christmas Spirit at Ss Peter & Paul's - "Christmas Aid Concert 2011":

Deanery friends are invited to 14th Annual Concert on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, adjacent to the Church at 23 Leeds Street, Doncaster East, to enjoy the evening's variety entertainment by local and invited guest artists. Program will include classics, musicals, instrumentals, including a Schimmel Konzert Grand, and maybe a few surprises. Light refreshments will be served at interval.

Suggested donation is \$10 (Concession \$7). Proceeds will be given to the Notre Dame de Sion Education Fund Jerusalem which is dedicated to supporting education of children of needy families in the region.

Entry Cards are available at the Parish Office, or book by Email to Nadia: doncastereast@cam.org.au and pay on the night.

Amnesty International Ivanhoe Group:

You are invited to attend the End of Year Celebration on Saturday 11 December from 1.30-4.30pm at Scots Uniting Church, 187 Burgundy St, Heidelberg. Past and present members and supporters welcome; feel free to arrive and leave at any time during the afternoon. RSVP for catering: aiiivanhoe@bigblue.net.au **Help**

Refugee and Asylum Seeker families: Please bring non-perishables food or other household items to donate to ASRC. Refer to flyer on noticeboards in each church.



Christmas Cards and Calendars:

Cards and calendars are available in each church. Containers are provided for purchase **costs.**

- Christmas Cards are from St Vincent de Paul. Cost: **\$6** for a packet of 10 cards
- Columban Calendars 2012 Cost: **\$7** each.

Parish Office:	4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079		
Phone:	9499 1515	Fax:	9499 9959
Website:	www.ivanhoecatholics.com	Email:	catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com
Parish Priest:	Fr. Thang Vu	63 Wilfred Rd, East Ivanhoe	9499 5440
Secretary:	Mrs. Ruth Villani	Office hours 9.00am – 5.00pm	9499 1515

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND 3 – 4 December 2011

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

Sister Frances

Special Ministers

A. Pellizzari, Sister Carmel

MARY IMMACULATE:

Sunday 9.00am

Leader
J. Pidutti

Reader

F. Tosolini

Coordinators

J. & D. Jones

Counters

P. & H. Nguyen

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

E. Mount

Lector

E. Mount

Special Ministers

D. Ervin, M. Chin, B. / S. Janus

Altar Society:

P. Mendes

Choir Coordinators: I. Chiera

First Collection – Thanksgiving:	Envelopes: \$2,202.00	Loose cash: \$517.35	Total: \$2,719.35
Second Collection – Presbytery:			\$ 784.60

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