



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

St Bernadette's Church, West Ivanhoe

Mary Immaculate Church, Ivanhoe

Mother of God Church, East Ivanhoe

No. 49

3 – 4 December 2011

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR B

Reflection:



This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

Historical Context – A Baptism of Forgiveness

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God. *Graphics: Liturgyhelp.com.au* © Gregory Sunter, Liturgical Commission, Brisbane 2011

Please note: Leaving Collections at Masses in each church next weekend

As advised by the Archdiocese, there will be Leaving Collections in each church next weekend for Melbourne Overseas Missions. Please see notice in newsletter.

The lighting of the Second Advent candle:

Today we again light the candle that was lit for the first time last week.

The lighting of the second candle tells us that we are a little closer to Christmas. Today, in the Gospel, we hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. Do we hear this as a challenge to prepare a welcome for those who come into our lives, offering them the acceptance and the **hospitality** for which every human heart longs?



THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

V. 1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

V. 2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

V. 3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

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

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Rise up Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember all in need of prayer at this time including Barbara Ballek, Joy Meacham, Phoebe Chiera Hone, Sheila Ryan, 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 all who have died recently. We also remember Michael Doyle, Giuseppe Biviano and Steve Berthelot whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



Baptism in our Parish Community:

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

H A P P E N I N G S	<u>This Week’s Readings: 2nd Sunday of Advent: Year B</u>			
	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11	Psalm 84:9-14	2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1:1-8
	<i>Saint and Feast Days:</i>			
	<i>Mon 5th December: St Sabas</i>		<i>Tues 6th December: St Nicholas</i>	
	<i>Wed 7th December: St Ambrose</i>		<i>Thurs 8th December: Immaculate Conception</i>	
	<i>Fri. 9th December: St Cyrus</i>		<i>Sat. 10th December: St John Roberts</i>	
	<u>Next Week’s Readings: 3rd Sunday of Advent: Year B</u>			
	Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11	Luke 1:46-50, 53-54	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28

ACROSS THE PARISH

Saturday 3 December	10.00am	First Reconciliation – Catechist children	Mary Immaculate Church
Monday 5 December	9.30am	Advent Prayer – Mary Immaculate School	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
Saturday 10 Dec	10.00am	Reconciliation – Second Rite	St Bernadette’ Church
Sunday 11 Dec	6.00-8.00pm	Parish Gathering – see notice in newsletter	Parish Office courtyard
Monday 12 Dec	9.30am	Advent Prayer – Mary Immaculate School	Mary Immaculate Church
Tuesday 13 Dec	9.15am	Mass & St Bernadette’s School - Seniors	St Bernadette’s Church
Wednesday 14 Dec		Outreach Christmas Lunch	Notice in newsletter
Friday 16 December	9.15am	Mass – MOG School Prep – 6	Mother of God Church
Saturday 17 Dec	10.00am	Reconciliation – Second Rite	Mary Immaculate Church

INFORMATION

***Announcement of ‘The Year of Grace’:** Archbishop Philip Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has announced the forthcoming ‘Year of Grace’ to span the time from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013. In a letter to all Catholics he said, "We call the Catholic people in Australia to a Year of Grace. Like the disciples at the first Pentecost, we commit ourselves to start afresh from Christ. We invite you to join us in this journey of prayer so that this ‘Pentecost’ year will be for our nation and all Australians truly a 'year of grace'. Planning for the Year of Grace has already begun in every diocese in the country, so that the Catholics of this nation may respond to this fresh invitation to ‘contemplate the face of Christ’."

For further information visit: www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au

Anima Christi:

*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.*

Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal 10 – 11th December:

Next week there will be Leaving Collections in each church for the Melbourne Overseas Mission which is commended by Archbishop Denis Hart and thanks all parishioners for their generous and ongoing support. Since its foundation in 1969, Melbourne parishioners have supported the mission fund to help developing nations which has marked our Archdiocese for its exceptional generosity. Current and major beneficiaries at this time are Papua New Guinea, Timor, India, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Botswana, Nigeria and Peru.

Change of location of Weekday Masses:

From the beginning of January 2012, there will be a direct swap between Mother of God and St. Bernadette’s. The Tuesday Mass will be at Mother of God and the Friday Mass will be at St. Bernadette’s. The time, 9.15 am, remains the same. This means a simplification of providing the first Friday Mass at St. Bernadette’s.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal:

The local Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be preparing hampers for delivery to deserving families in our area. We invite the parishioners to join us in this activity by placing donations of non perishable food, gifts and funds in the box provided. We also would welcome assistance to deliver the hampers on Tuesday 20th December. Contact: 0419 798 120.



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

LET’S GET TOGETHER!!

WHEN? Sunday, 11th December 6-8 pm.
WHERE? The Garden courtyard behind the parish office. .
WHY? To celebrate the good things of 2011 and wish each other happy Christmas and all the best for 2012.
WHAT TO BRING? Nibbles and drinks to share! EVERYBODY MOST WELCOME!!!

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 please contact Helen Taylor 9499 3041.

A Response and still a need!!

I’m so pleased to be able to say that **our counters’ team** is back to full strength. Thanks to those who have stepped forward in consideration of the reality that the more on the team, the fewer times everyone is called on. We still need **help with flowers!!** Don’t think you need to have to have a florist’s skills. It’s just a matter of doing what you would do at home! - Merle

Important notice all parishioners:



The parish has received phone calls and expressions of concern by nearby residents in reference to parking as part of Mass attendance at each of our three churches. Residents have also expressed understanding and support in respect to building programs. It appears that over a considerable period of time, residents have had difficulties with reasonable access in and out of their residences because cars have been parked across their driveways on regular occasions. Last Saturday night was an exception with inclement weather and limited parking. Thank you to all concerned for consideration and thoughtfulness in relation to parking in areas near churches and schools.

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION

Heidelberg Choral Society – Handel’s Messiah:

Heidelberg Choral Society and West Gippsland Chorale will be performing Handel’s Messiah next Saturday 10th December at 8.00pm in the Performing Arts Centre at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School, Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe. Soloists include Hannah Dahlenburg, Tania Ferris, Christopher Cox and Nathan Lay with conductor, Peter Bandy. Tickets: \$30 or \$25 concession. Bookings: 9458 1727 or www.hcs.asn.au - Ruth

Installing and celebrating a new Parish Priest for Ivanhoe

Last Saturday night the formal installation of Fr Thang as Ivanhoe Parish Priest was joyously celebrated in a special Mass at St Bernadette's Church. The Principal Celebrant and Homilist was Archbishop Denis Hart and the MC was Vocation Director Fr Binh Le. As part of this liturgy, the Mass was enriched with additional symbolism incorporating Reading the Letter of Appointment (Fr Gregory Bourke), Presentation of the Keys to the Church, Presentation to Fr Thang by Archbishop Hart of the Pastoral Leadership Team and Staff, Renewal of Ordination Promises, the new Parish Priest opening and kneeling at the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament (Tabernacle) and incensing the Baptistry (Baptismal Font); Archbishop Hart seating the new Parish Priest in the Reconciliation Room (Confessional), a visit to and Prayer at the Marian Shrine and finally, the new Parish Priest incensing the Holy Oils.

Towards the end of the Mass, PLT Chairperson Chris Dixon spoke of the way Fr Thang had been so readily welcomed and accepted into the Parish. Introducing a presentation to Thang as a mix of spiritual and technology components, he presented the former on behalf of the people of Ivanhoe Parish then introduced St Bernadette's Principal Kathy Lowe to make a presentation of the latter on behalf of the three Parish schools. The Korean Community also then presented a gift to Fr Thang. In congratulating Fr Thang Archbishop Hart spoke of his uncertainty at first that a recently ordained Fr Thang would be willing to accept the challenge of Ivanhoe Parish, but like the people of the Parish was later delighted when he did. Archbishop Hart also acknowledged the (much loved) former Parish Priest, Fr John Cunningham as one of the co-celebrants. A modest but beaming Fr Thang thanked the Archbishop, Priests in attendance and Servers, all others who came including relatives, the Parish Choir led by soloist John Caddy, Organist Helen Wentworth, young Korean violin soloist Paul Moon, Pastoral Leadership Team and Staff, Liturgy Group and many others across the parish who had greatly helped in preparation for this celebration. He acknowledged predecessors Fathers John Cunningham and Len Thomas. The night was also significant with the first such Mass in Ivanhoe Parish, first official use of the new Missal, and the start of Advent and the New Church year. - *John Costa, 26 Nov 2011*

Advent Reflection with Mary MacKillop – Melbourne CBD December 7, 14 & 21, 12:15pm – 12:45pm:

Like 30 minutes of quiet in your busy day? Join us as we reflect with Mary MacKillop at this Advent Time. Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St, East Melbourne. **RSVP:** 03 9926 9300

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 10 – 11 December 2011

ST. BERNADETTE’S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

C. Dixon

Special Ministers

B’ Jowett, T. Nibali

MARY IMMACULATE: **Leader**

Sunday 9.00am

Costa family

Reader

tbc

Coordinators

J. Costa

Counters

P. Black, P. Fanning

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

J. Curry

Lector

J. Curry

Special Ministers

M. Pollard, G. Reardon. M. / P. De Silva

Altar Society:

T. McCarthy

Choir Coordinators: A. Pollard

First Collection – Thanksgiving:	Envelopes: \$1,234.00	Loose cash: \$1,006.30	Total: \$2,240.30
Second Collection – Presbytery:			\$ 994.60

**LONERGAN
FUNERAL
SERVICE**

This newsletter is kindly sponsored by

**Caring professional Funeral services at reasonable rates.
Secure Pre-paid Funeral Plan available
9489 8711 & 9499 6698**