

# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

*St Bernadette's Church, West Ivanhoe*

*Mary Immaculate Church, Ivanhoe*

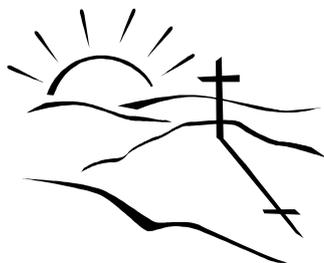
*Mother of God Church, East Ivanhoe*

No. 50

10 – 11 December 2011

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR B

### Reflection:



This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

### **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.

### **Gospel Focus – Same but different**

Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery – it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John's gospel greater emphasis on the conversation around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

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### **Please note: Collectors needed for Leaving Collections at Masses in each church:**

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



### **The lighting of the third Advent candle:**

Today's candle is rose – joyful relief from the penitential purple – signalling that 'the time' is near. When the people asked John the Baptist what they should do, he answers simply – act justly, share with those who are hungry, clothe those who have no tunic. May we remember what we mean when we say we want to be a community who offers loving service to the sick, the lonely, the neglected, the ignored, the newcomers, the very young and the very old.

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## THE WORD

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Rejoice in the Lord always again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** My soul rejoices in my God.

V. 1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

V. 2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R.**

V. 3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Say to the anxious: be strong and fear not, our God will come to save us.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:**

We remember all in need of prayer at this time including Tony Nibali, Barbara Ballek, Joy Meacham, Phoebe Chiera Hone, Sheila Ryan, Beryl O'Keefe, Bev Horne, Sidney Delaney, Cathy Lengyel and Jill Brophy. We remember all who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember Vito Micucci and Fr Peter Robb CSSR who have died recently. We also remember Joan Tobin, Bonnie Ryan and Giuseppina Nibali whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



### **Baptism in our Parish Community:**

We welcome Spencer Sartori 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 lifelong journey of faith.

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### **This Week's Readings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Year B**

**Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11      Luke 1:46-50, 53-54      1 Thessalonians 5:16-24      John 1:6-8, 19-28**

#### *Saint and Feast Days:*

*Mon 12<sup>th</sup> December: St Jane Frances De Chantal*

*Tues 13<sup>th</sup> December: St Lucy*

*Wed 14<sup>th</sup> December: St John of the Cross*

*Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> December: St Valerian*

*Fri. 16<sup>th</sup> December: St Adelaide*

*Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> December: St Olypius*

### **Next Week's Readings: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Year B**

**2 Samuel:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16      Psalm 88:2-5, 27, 29      Romans 16:25-27      Luke 1:26-38**

## **ACROSS THE PARISH**

Saturday 10 Dec	10.00am	<b>Reconciliation – Second Rite</b>	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
Thursday 15 Dec	7.30pm	Mother of God School Celebrates Christmas	Mother of God School
Friday 16 December	9.15am	Mass – MOG School Prep – 6	Mother of God Church
Saturday 17 Dec	10.00am	<b>Reconciliation – Second Rite</b>	Mary Immaculate Church
Sunday 18 Dec		Christmas Lunch after 10.30am Mass	Mother of God Church
Monday 19 Dec	9.30am	Advent Prayer – Mary Immaculate School	Mary Immaculate Church
Monday 19 Dec	6.00pm	St Bernadette's School Graduation & Carols	St Bernadette's Church
Monday 19 Dec	6.30pm	Mary Immaculate School Carols Evening	Mary Immaculate Church
Monday 19 Dec		Mother of God Year 6 Graduation	Mother of God School
Wednesday 21 Dec	7.30pm	Advent Reconciliation – Archbishop Hart	Mother of God Church
Thursday 22 Dec		End of School Term 4	

**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 – 11<sup>th</sup> December:**

This week there will be Leaving Collections in each church for the Melbourne Overseas Mission which is commended by Archbishop Denis Hart who thanks all parishioners for their generous and ongoing support. By providing funding and provision of goods MOM supports communities in some of the world's most remote countries, such as Papua New Guinea, Peru, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. This work helps local communities in education, health and agriculture. Priests, Missionaries and Seminarians work through a global network in a multitude of overseas communities.

**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. Tuesday Mass will be celebrated 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 20<sup>th</sup> December. Contact: 0419 798 120.

**From the Pastoral Leadership Team 30 November 2011:**

- The official Installation of Fr. Thang as Parish Priest was a memorable event - with wonderful participation from all parts of the parish.
- The Parish Secretary will have some leave during January so publication of the newsletter will be limited.
- Our schools all reported a satisfactory outcome of the building programmes and are looking forward to the use of their new facilities.
- The Outreach Group has continued to offer entertainment and hospitality through monthly lunch and games, lunches out, bus trips, fund raisers for Ryder Cheshire. More helpers would be welcome.
- The Finance Committee is currently working on the 2012 budget.
- 14 catechist children are preparing for their First Reconciliation to be celebrated on 3 December
- The Liturgy Group reported on: the Installation Mass, preparations for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, End of Year Mass for the three schools and looking for ways to involve our young parishioners in Sunday Masses. The group will take a break too - no multimedia for a few weeks.
- The meeting affirmed the many people who contribute to the life of the parish - in so many different ways.

**LET'S GET TOGETHER!!**

WHEN? Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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!!!

**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 school 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 your consideration and thoughtfulness in relation to parking in areas near churches and schools.

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**Outreach Christmas Lunch:**

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> 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. For transport: Helen 9499 7793, Sue 9499 1485, or Eileen 9499 7120.

**Christmas Lunch at Mother of God Church:**

There will be a lunch after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone welcome. The donation of a plate of food would be appreciated.

**Thanksgiving Envelopes & Giving Statements**

Thanksgiving Envelopes 1 Jan – 24 Jun 2012 & Giving Statements available for collection in each church. *Mary Immaculate – in Street order* *Mother of God & St Bernadette's – in alphabetical order.*

For your reference, giving statements are enclosed with Thanksgiving envelopes; and are also available for those who contribute via Credit Cards or Direct Debit for the period from 1 July – 4 December 2011.

Please feel free to deliver envelopes to those nearby or unable to collect them personally. If you wish to contribute via Thanksgiving envelopes, Credit Cards or Direct Debit please refer to details below.

If however circumstances have changed and you are either unable or no longer wish to contribute please contact the Parish Office **as soon as possible**. The Parish Office **needs personal contact made** using one of the following options so that we can respond to and respect your wishes; and thus not mail envelopes when they are no longer required. **Phone:** 9499 1515 **mail:** 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079 **fax:** 9499 9959; or **email:** catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com – Ruth

**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

**Christmas Lunch & Carols – A joint venture with St James Church, Ivanhoe and Banyule Council:**

Banyule residents are invited to Christmas Lunch at St James Anglican Church at 12.00pm on Christmas Day with Carols sung in the church at 11.00am. Bookings need to be made with Barbara Dixon 9457 4242 before 21<sup>st</sup> December. Transport can be arranged at time of booking. For further information: Pat Griffith 9499 1304

**Exodus 2012 Family Camp Appeal:**

You are invited to support a person or family, to attend the Exodus Family Camp in January at Jungia, Thornton (near Lake Eildon). Donations will be accepted until the end of December 2011. Cheques should be made payable to: The Olympic Village Exodus Community and sent to: Lisa Gillies, 59 Martin St, Heidelberg 3084. Unfortunately, the Exodus Community is not able to offer a Tax Receipt, but on request, will send a receipt for your donation.

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

**ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND 10 – 11 December 2011**

<b><u>ST. BERNADETTE'S:</u></b> Saturday 6.30pm	<b>Lector</b> K. Gillespie	<b>Special Ministers</b> E. Crawley, J. Gray	
<b><u>MARY IMMACULATE:</u></b> Sunday 9.00am	<b>Leader</b> K. Bator	<b>Reader</b> J. McCormack	<b>Coordinators</b> S. & P. Kelly <b>Counters</b> T. McKinley, E. Ballao
<b><u>MOTHER OF GOD:</u></b> Sunday 10.30am	<b>Sacristan</b> A. Patterson <b>Altar Society:</b>	<b>Lector</b> I. Chiera	<b>Special Ministers</b> C. Bellio, R. Katerelos, I. Chiera <b>Choir Coordinators:</b> M. De Silva

<b>First Collection – Thanksgiving:</b>	Envelopes: \$2,001.00	Loose cash: \$466.60	<b>Total: \$2,460.60</b>
<b>Second Collection – Presbytery:</b>			<b>\$ 537.95</b>