



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

St Bernadette's Church, West Ivanhoe

Mary Immaculate Church, Ivanhoe

Mother of God Church, East Ivanhoe

No. 51

17 – 18 December 2011

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR B

Reflection:



On this final Sunday of Advent the Church moves our gaze to the Annunciation. The whole scene hinges around one word: 'Yes.' Mary's fiat sets in motion the entire Christian drama. In his film *Jesus of Nazareth* Franco Zeffirelli pictures the Annunciation this way: Mary is asleep at night when a gust of wind opens a high window. Afraid at all the commotion Mary gets up and starts to pray. As she prays, we see her face change and her body bend over. With tears in her eyes, Mary looks up through the window to the moonlit sky and simply says, 'Yes'. The swirling wind dies down at once.

In recent years successive popes have reminded us that the best devotion to Mary is one that leads us to do what she did: say 'yes' to Jesus. Mary is not a stop on our journey of faith; she is a guidepost that always sends us on to Christ. Mary does not save us, for we believe she needed to be saved by Christ as well. That's why she could say yes in the first place. Mary recognised the gift and the giver and became the bearer of God for the world.

In this final week of Advent let's keep reminding ourselves of this simple but life-changing fact: Jesus saves us. Jesus saves us from death. Jesus saves us from living lives devoid of purpose and meaning and Jesus saves us from ourselves. We don't save ourselves. We cannot earn salvation by good works or prayers or penance. And, as difficult as it is to hear, we cannot save anyone else. That includes our children, spouse, grandchildren, parents or friends.

Our prayers, good works and faith are the responses we make to the salvation of Christ we claim here and now. And how we live is the way by which those we love will find the gift of God's salvation for themselves. In the midst of this frantic final week before Christmas when so many other things can distract us from what this grace-filled feast is really all about, let's take a moment to join Mary in accepting into our lives and hearts the greatest of all gifts – our undeserved salvation, Jesus Christ the Lord.

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The lighting of the Fourth Advent candle:

Mary's time of waiting – and ours – has nearly reached its end.

As we light the fourth candle, we remind ourselves that Jesus' birth in time was the beginning of his **mission** – a **mission** he calls us to share – to be the loving presence of God in our world. O come, O come Emmanuel. *Graphics © The Liturgical Commission, Brisbane 2012*

THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: **I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

V. 1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

V. 2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

V. 3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'

I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done. Alleluia!**

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **The Virgin is with child, and shall bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel.**

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 those who have died recently. We also remember Kerry Carroll whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.



Baptism in our Parish Community:

We welcome Remy Pasinati 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.

This Week's Readings: 4th 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

Saint and Feast Days:

Mon 19th December: St Anastasius

Wed 21st December: St Peter Canisius

Fri. 23rd December: St John of Kanty

Tues 20th December: St Fachanan

Thurs 22nd December: St Flavianus

Sat. 24th December: Christmas Eve

Next Week's Readings: Christmas Day: Year B

Isaiah 9:1-7 Psalm 95:1-3, 11-13 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

HAPPENINGS ACROSS THE PARISH

Saturday 17 Dec	10.00am	Reconciliation – Second Rite	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	

INFORMATION

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.

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.

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION

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.*

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 at Mother of God and Friday Mass will be at St. Bernadette's - the time, 9.15 am, remains the same. This means will assist in providing First Friday Mass at St. Bernadette's.

Advent Reconciliation Wednesday 21st December:

Archbishop Denis Hart will be the Principal Celebrant for the Parish Advent Reconciliation Service to be celebrated at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st December at Mother of God Church. This Advent Reconciliation Service will be Second Rite with other priests available for individual Confession and Absolution.

Christmas Lunch at Mother of God Church:

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

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.

Parish of Ivanhoe Playgroup:



The Parish of Ivanhoe Playgroup offers a welcoming and supportive environment where parents and children can play, learn and have fun together.

Ages: The playgroup suits children aged between 0- 4 years

Venue: Mary Immaculate Church Hall, 4 Waverley Ave. Ivanhoe

Session Times: Wednesday 9 - 11am or Thursday 9 - 11am

Activities: Coordinated weekly art/craft activities, educational toys to explore, books, shared singing time, large sandpit and bikes for outdoor play and so much more.

For more details: Contact Liz Shearer: Phone 0411 345 664 or Email: liz.shearer1@gmail.com

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 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

Yarra Deanery Newsletter:

The Christmas edition of the Yarra deanery newsletter is available this weekend. It's free and well worth reading. Please take a copy.

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 21st December. Transport can be arranged at time of booking. For further information: Pat Griffith 9499 1304

Newsletter notices, items and anniversaries need to be given to the Parish Office **no later than 5.00pm, Wednesday each week**. Notices received after this time will be placed in the following week's newsletter. Notices and items can be left in the locked letterbox near front door of the Parish Office at 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe. Contact details: phone 9499 1515, fax 9499 9959; or email: catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com



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 expressed understanding and support in respect to school building programs. 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. Thank you to all concerned for your consideration and thoughtfulness in relation to parking in areas near churches and schools.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2011

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December:

Family Masses

6.30pm St Bernadette's
 7.30pm Mary Immaculate
 7.30pm Mother of God (Carols from 7.00pm)

Later Mass

9.00pm St Bernadette's – Korean Catholic Community

PLEASE NOTE: There is no 10.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve



Christmas Day

Sunday 25th December:

Morning Masses

9.00am Mary Immaculate
 9.00am St Bernadette's
 10.30am Mother of God
 11.00am St Bernadette's - Korean / English Mass



NEW YEAR 2012

New Year's Eve

Saturday 31st December:

6.30pm St Bernadette's

New Year's Day

Sunday 1st January:

9.00am Mary Immaculate

10.30am Mother of God

11.00am St Bernadette's - Korean

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 24 – 25 December 2011

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

Family Mass

Special Ministers

- to be advised

MARY IMMACULATE:

Sunday 9.00am

Leader

To be advised

Reader

To be advised

Coordinators

M. Gilbo

Counters

MOTHER OF GOD:

Christmas Eve

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

M. Hoban

Lector

M. Hoban

Special Ministers

By arrangement

By arrangement

By arrangement

By arrangement

Altar Society:

P. Caddy

Choir Coordinators:

By arrangement

First Collection – Thanksgiving:

Envelopes: \$1,492.00

Loose cash: \$448.00

Total: \$1,940.00

Second Collection – Presbytery:

\$ 726.90

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