

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

*St Bernadette's Church, 89 Bond St, Ivanhoe West
Mary Immaculate Church, 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe
Mother of God Church, 56 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East*

Parish Priest:	Fr. Thang Vu	63 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East	9499 5440
Priest in Residence:	Fr. Thanh Tran	Parish Secretary: Mrs Ruth Villani	
Parish Office:	4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079	Phone: 9499 1515	Fax: 9499 9959
Parish Website:	www.ivanhoecatholics.com	Email: catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com	
Masses:			
Weekend: Saturday:	6.30pm St Bernadette's	Sunday: 9am Mary Immaculate; 10.30am Mother of God	
Weekday: 9.15am	Tuesday: Mother of God	Wednesday: Mary Immaculate	Friday: St Bernadette's

No. 48

30 November – 1 December 2013

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR A



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 the 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, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

- V. 1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**
- V. 2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **R.**
- V. 3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' **R.**
- V. 4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **R.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: We pray: Come Lord Jesus.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember all in need of prayer at this time including Nancy Gibb, Nita Meagher, Yvonne Homsey, Raffaella Danza, Sheila Mullane, Nora Brown, Mike McGuire, Sheila Ryan and Mary Bezzina. We remember all who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember Ethel Wallis and Terence Hanrahan (father of Sister Joy) who died recently. We also remember Frank Rocca whose anniversary occurs at this time.



Baptisms: We welcome James Parrella and Quinn Toohey who are baptised into the faith community of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. We welcome their families, relatives and friends who have come to share this special occasion, one of many steps in the lifelong journey of faith.

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION

From the desk of Fr Thang: Liturgical Year and the Season of Advent (Part I)

Happy New Liturgical Year! We have commenced a New Liturgical Year. An aspect of the Church's year is the life of Church herself, that is, the life of Christ who is living in his Church:

"The liturgical year, is no cold and lifeless representation of past events, no mere historical record. It is Christ himself, living on in his Church, and still pursuing that path of boundless mercy which 'going about and doing good,' he began to tread during his life on earth. This he did in order that the souls of men and women might come into contact with His mysteries and, so to speak, live by them. And these mysteries are still now constantly present and active... as Catholic doctrine teaches us." (*Mediator Dei*, 177)

During the Liturgical Year, we celebrate the original and unrepeatable events of Incarnation, Birth, Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord. These events are still with us in mystery; they are mystically made present and effective active in those sacred signs which our Saviour left to his Church to celebrate again and again in memory of him until he comes.

In this new Liturgical Year on most Sundays we will hear Jesus-events from the Gospel of Matthew (Year A). The underlying of this whole Gospel is a conviction of the Author that the Lord is us always till the end of time. It is the sense of the abiding presence of Christ, whom he defines as Emmanuel – God-with-us!

Advent is the first liturgical season on the Church calendar. Advent [*Adventus - Latin*] means coming, arrival [*Parousia is the corresponding Greek*]. Advent is a period of four Sundays, not four weeks as we sometimes think, and this year Advent is just 24 days long. On Sunday 22nd December we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve is on Tuesday night (24/12).

During this Season, the Gloria is not used on the Sundays of this season. Unlike its omission during Lent, it is not used at this time in order to allow it to ring out with a certain freshness on Christmas.

There are some good symbols that remind us of Advent: Advent wreath (increasing one by one each week; wreath – round, eternity, ever green); Jesse's Tree; liturgical vestments – violet for three Sundays (1st, 2nd and 4th) and Rose for 3rd Sunday.

The Season of Advent has a threefold coming of Christ: his past coming which we celebrate at Christmas; his future coming at the end of time; and his everyday coming to us in personal relationship. In a nutshell, Advent is a period for spiritual and joyful expectation.

The pattern of the Sunday readings is as follow: on the first Sunday, the return of the Lord; on the second, John the Baptist's call to conversion; on the third, the relationship between John and Jesus; and on the fourth, Mary and the events immediately preceding Jesus' birth. As these readings show, the first three weeks of Advent focus on Christ's second coming at the end of time. It is only from December 17th that the readings and prayers of the Mass start to refer directly to the birth of Christ.

During the week, I have been deeply touched with a poem called '*Advent Bursts*' by the late Good Samaritan Sister Verna Holyhead, a teacher, scriptural scholar, retreat director and liturgist:

Advent bursts
violet and beautiful
like the jacaranda tree
on the very brink
of an Australian summer.
It is a tree of contradictions,
like this southern season
of the Church's year:
green-leafed in winter,
autumn gold in spring,
blossoming from bare trunk
to welcome in November.
A myriad trumpets cluster
for short fanfares
before it lays a purple carpet
to greet its king
who is not yet – but coming.

(I have a permission from the Sisters of the Good Samaritan to use this poem. I wish to thank them for this.)

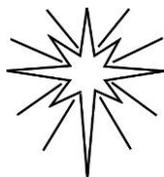
As Advent begins we pray:

"Keep us alert, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that, when he comes and knocks, he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise." (Collect, Monday of 1st week of Advent)

Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal 7 - 8 December 2013: Leaving Collections for the Melbourne Overseas Mission next weekend. Melbourne priests, parishes and parishioners have supported Melbourne Overseas Mission for over forty years. Major projects have focussed on Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone; and other projects include Peru, Pakistan and Botswana. Each year half a million dollars of donated goods (medical, educational & clothing supplies) are shipped to 90 locations situated around the Pacific and Africa.

Mother of God Church Roster 2014:

Anyone who wishes to volunteer assistance at 10.30 Sunday Masses in the role of Sacristan, Lector, Special Minister, helping out with the flowers, assisting with the choir or and/or preparing power point presentations for Mass and running this at Sunday Masses please ring Helen Taylor: 9499 3041. Volunteers are most welcome. Alternatively, if any person on the roster wishes to make changes, please contact Helen as soon as possible. Thank you to all concerned for volunteering in the various roles in the church. – Helen 9499 3041



Christmas Cards and Calendars:

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

- Christmas Cards are purchased from St Vincent de Paul Society.

Cost: **\$3.50** for a packet of 8 cards (plain cards) & **\$5** for a packet of 8 card (with pictures)

- Columban Calendars 2014 Cost: **\$9** each.

Graphics: [www. Free-graphics.com](http://www.Free-graphics.com)

Fundraiser – MIPPS Sustainability Garden:

Mary Immaculate School is planning the development of a Sustainability Garden which includes vegetable garden, Frog Bog and a paved area. A fundraiser has been organised and you are invited to purchase paving bricks which will create a memorial in the school yard.

Offer closes Friday 6 December. Forms available at Mary Immaculate Church and from Mary Immaculate School, 9 Rockbears Grove, Ivanhoe; phone: 9497 1827. Queries: Sue Pesavento: sue.den@optusnet.com.au

Your views on Family invited and encouraged – now: - John Costa, Thursday 27 November 2013

A news item below (Pope calls synod to discuss families, divorce and remarriage, Catholic News, 8 October) reports that the Vatican has called an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops from around the world October 5 -19, 2014 to consider "pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization." Comments on family issues from as many people as possible are *invited and encouraged* for a preparatory meeting to be held in Rome in February 2014. To make responding quick and easy, an **online Survey facility** has been established by the Melbourne Archdiocese, and various other Dioceses / Archdioceses. Respondents are free to answer as many or as few questions as appropriate, and the final question in particular allows free comment on any relevant matter. *This is a unique and historical opportunity to offer your thoughts to the Pope on significant Family issues.* Online Responses are required by 6 December (hard copy responses are also still welcome).

Archdiocesan Website: www.cam.org.au/synod. Parish website: www.ivanhoecatholics.com/news2013.htm

Recent Parliamentary Inquiry - links:

- Retired County Court Judge (and parishioner) David Jones talks about restorative justice: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st-mpwd-xew&feature=c4-overview&list=UUUP9TKG5Y8TKgX15X4dDhOw>
- Melbourne Response - Archbishop Denis Hart welcomes Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry report 13 Nov: <http://www.cam.org.au/News-and-Events/News-and-Events/Melbourne-News/Article/15871/Archbishop-Denis-Hart-welcomes-Victorian-Parliamentary-Inquiry-report#.UpZ5ZsQW2So>
- Truth, Justice and Healing Council: www.tjhcouncil.org.au (Francis Sullivan, Chief Exec. Officer)
- Facing the Truth: www.cam.org.au/facingthetruth

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND: 7 – 8 December 2013

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

S. Moorhen

Special Ministers

B. Jowett, T. Nibali

MARY IMMACULATE:

Sunday 9.00am

Leader

E. Ballao

Reader

C. Nguyen

Mass Coordinators

E. Ballao

Counters

M. Rocco, P. Shannon

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

J. Curry

Lector

J. Hodge

Special Ministers

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

Altar Society:

MOG Mothers

Choir Coordinator: P. Verocchi

First Collection – Thanksgiving:	Envelopes: \$1,726.00	Loose cash: \$833.55	Total:	\$2,559.55
Second Collection – Presbytery:				\$1,120.35