

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 (after hours)
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. 49

6 – 7 December 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR B

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: **O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

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: Lord of kindness: **Hear our prayer**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember Sarah O'Shaughnessy, Peter Fleming, Fr Burns Huggan, Margaret O'Brien, Katharina Dimitscheff, Tran thi Kim Chi, Sung Bui, Amy Nguyen, John Coonan, Kathryn Lengyel and Gino Villani who are in need of prayer at this time. We remember those who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember Antonio Segafredo who died recently. We remember Bonnie Ryan whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.



Baptisms: We welcome Tess Jamieson and Charlotte Zappulla who are baptised into the faith community of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe this weekend. 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.

This 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

Saint and Feast Days:

Mon 8 December: Immaculate Conception

Wed 10 December: St John Roberts

Fri 12 December: St Frances de Chantal

Tues 9 December: St Cyrus

Thurs 11 December: St Damasus

Sat 13 December: St Lucy

Next Week's Readings: 3rd Sunday of Advent: Year B

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

Thessalonians 5:16-24

Mark 1:6-8, 19-28

From the desk of Fr Thang: Season of Advent (Part I): Companions for the Advent journey

The Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah was a prophet who lived in the 8th century before the Birth of our Lord. He was both a politician and a poet, and his encouraging words have the power to lift us out of our own world to a life that God is preparing for us. Isaiah's images tumble over one another in their exuberance.

Isaiah is the most frequently heard voice of the Advent season, not only on Sundays but on many of the weekdays. We are given Isaiah as a companion who turns us toward the future, that blank slate beyond our sight that can fill us with fear and anxiety.

Isaiah voices the hope and longing of God's people in exile as they await the time of their release. They dream of the days when God's rule will prevail and wars will cease, the days when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks (Is 2:4)." We long for the time when all hatred and prejudice will cease, when the streets will be safe, and the elderly will not live in fear, when "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the young lion shall browse together (11:6)." This week, Isaiah opens with consoling words: "Comfort my people." His role is to tell the good news of Israel's liberation and to describe the wonders that will attend the return of the captives across the desert to their own land. Because they are God's liberated people and because God is at their head, leading them home like a shepherd, nature will transform itself to ease their path.

In a world where there is so much violence, so much injustice of all kinds and discomforts, we are called to remember Isaiah's image of dead stump sprouting a shoot that will bud and blossom into new life. Isaiah summons us to wait for joy.

The Psalms: A Faithful Companion in Advent

Most scholars generally believe that the Psalter, the Book of Psalms (Psalms) was mostly composed not very long before the Babylonian Exile (6th century BC). But the superscriptions suggest a much earlier date for many of the psalms: David was around 1000BC and Moses may have been as early as 1600 BC. The Psalms we sing and pray may reflect our own sentiments, or may be in conflict with them, but even in conflict, we are able to make them our own prayers. In our praise, they call us to affirm that it is God who creates and sustains us, and to whom we owe more thanksgiving than we can ever express. In our lament, we are assured that this same God will strengthen and love us and see us through the trials.

Walter Brueggemann, an American Scriptural Scholar, has methodically categorised the Psalms around three quite general themes – orientation, disorientation, and new orientation – which, in the sheer exercise of living, relate the Psalms to every aspect of our human experience.

The Psalms of orientation reflect stability in the relationship between those praying and God. There are 4 kinds: Songs of Creation (Ps 8, 33, 104, 145), Songs of Law, the Law is not just about moral values, but God's will and purpose (Ps 1, 15, 19, 24, 119), Wisdom (Ps 14, 37), well-being (Ps 131, 133). Basically in these Psalms we give thanks for the good things in our life – the material blessings and the intangible gifts of God's continuing care for us. We also rejoice in who God is, who we are, and ancient ties that bind us together.

The Psalms of disorientation reflect our hurt, alienation, suffering and death which evoke rage, resentment, self-pity, and hatred (Ps 13, 35, 86, 74, 79, 137). Basically these Psalms lament the ragged, painful disarray we inevitably encounter in our lives. We may feel alienated from each other, and, more tragically, abandoned by God (Ps 22). We experience grief in what we feel has been taken from us, and despair that we are alone.

The Psalms of new orientation reflect on rebirth, reconciliation, and redemption which fill with images of God's grace prevailing itself through times of distress and peril (Ps 30, 34, 40, 138). These Psalms present joy, hope and assurance of God's continued presence in his people.

The Book of Psalms journeyed with Israelites through the ups and downs especially during the exile period. Psalms express our own exile and can lead us home.

Something to ponder and act on:

- What are obstacles preventing me to yearn for God?
- What are my favourite Psalms?
- Pray with a Psalm this week?

Sources:

- James Wallace CSsR, Three Companions for the Advent Journey, <http://www.catholicireland.net/three-companions-for-the-advent-journey/>
- <http://liturgyhelp.com.au/>
- Walter Brueggemann, *Spirituality of the Psalms* (Minneapolis, MI: Augsburg Fortress, 2001).
- Michael Morgan, "Singing with Psalter," *The Center for Christian Ethics*, 2006, (19-27)

HAPPENINGS ACROSS THE PARISH

Sunday 7 December	5.00pm	Parish Gathering	Parish Office courtyard
Monday 8 December		<i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i>	
Monday 8 December	7.00pm	Yarra Deanery Advent Gathering & Meal	St Clement's Church, Bulleen
Wednesday 10 Dec	12 Noon	Outreach Christmas Lunch	Yarra Valley Country Club
Saturday 13 Dec	10.00am	Advent Reconciliation	Mother of God Church

Baptisms 2015: It is recommended that Baptisms are celebrated as part of the Liturgy of the Mass at weekends in each of our churches in most cases. Baptisms are booked through personal contact made with the Parish Office by the parent/s of the child / children concerned. Baptism preparation sessions are facilitated by Anita Moloney on the first Monday of the month which are held at the Parish Office. In 2015 there will also be an option for Baptism at 2.00pm on the first Sunday of the month at Mother of God Church. - **Fr Thang**

Parish Gathering Sunday 7th December: Is your diary filling up very quickly? That seems a familiar story. So, right now, mark **Sunday, 7th December, 5.00pm** as a **must** and come to the traditional parish gathering in the court yard behind the Parish Office. It's BYO everything so no need to book. **JUST COME**

An Advent Gathering in the Yarra Deanery Monday 8th December: The tradition continues. We gather on the Piazza at St. Clement's Church, Bulleen to listen to stories of the people in our salvation history and to reflect on the message they bring to us. Monday 8th December, feast of Mary Immaculate, beginning at 7.00pm. Everyone is **most welcome** to join this prayerful preparation for Christmas and to stay for supper.



Christmas Lunch at Yarra Valley Country Club - 12 Noon on Wednesday 10 December

We look forward to gathering together for our Christmas Lunch this Wednesday 10 December at 12 noon. Cost: \$25 per person plus KK gift. - Sue 9499 1485, Helen 9499 7793 or Eileen 9499 7120

Christmas Lunch 14 December at Mother of God Church:

All are invited and welcome to the Christmas Lunch after the 10.30am Mass at Mother of God Church on Sunday 14 December. A donation of food items on a plate to share at this gathering will be much appreciated.

Thanksgiving Envelopes 4 January – 28 June 2015 are available for collection in each church.

Mary Immaculate, Mother of God & St Bernadette's are in alphabetical order.

PLEASE NOTE: Thanksgiving Envelopes as from 4 January 2015 new envelopes numbers have been allocated to each person who contributes by Thanksgiving envelopes.

Statements for Thanksgiving envelope contributions 5 January – 29 November are included with envelopes. Statements for Credit Card or Direct Debit contributions will be available on request mid-December.

Please feel free to deliver envelopes to those nearby those or unable to collect them personally assists parishioners concerned, as well as saving postage costs. Thanks to all who assist the parish in this manner. If wishing to contribute to the Parish Thanksgiving program, contact details are: **Mail:** 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079 **Phone:** 9499 1515 **fax:** 9499 9959; or **email:** catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com

If unable or no longer wish to contribute as part of Thanksgiving please contact the Parish Office personally using the details above **as soon as possible** so that envelopes are not sent when no longer required. - Ruth

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal 2014:

The local Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be preparing hampers for delivery to deserving families in our area. We invite parishioners to join us by placing donations of non-perishable food, gifts and funds in the box provided in each church. **Boxes will be collected from each church Sunday 14 December.** We also would welcome assistance to deliver the hampers on Tuesday 16th December. Contact: 0419 798 120.



Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal 6 - 7 December 2014:

As advised by the Archdiocese, there will be Leaving Collections after Mass in each church next weekend for Melbourne Overseas Mission. Melbourne priests, parishes and parishioners have supported Melbourne Overseas Mission for over forty seven years. Major projects have included West Africa - Sierra Leone, Ghana and Gambia; Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Pakistan and Botswana. Each year around half a million dollars of donated goods (medical, educational & clothing supplies) are shipped to 90 locations situated around the Pacific and Africa.

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

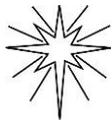
SERVICE

MISSION

Pastoral Leadership Meeting notes - 26 November 2014:

Among the items on the agenda were:

- The gathering of material for the Christmas edition of the parish newsletter.
- The formulation of a mission statement in view of the recent survey.
- The outcome of the recent annual review of the website - its ongoing content and operation affirmed.
- A budget for the next year and the ongoing possibility of dealing with necessary maintenance issues.
- First Eucharist for the 26 catechist children, bringing to an end the sacramental programme for 2104.
- The Mass of Thanksgiving for the children of our three schools celebrating the end of their year of 'Daring to Dream'.



Christmas Cards and Calendars:

Christmas Cards are from St Vincent de Paul.

Cost: **\$3** for a packet of 5 cards and **\$5** for a packet of 8 cards – container provided in each church

Columban Calendars 2015 Cost: **\$9** each.

Graphics: www.Free-graphics.com

St Anthony's Alphington Celebrates 100th Anniversary:

In 2015 St Anthony's Parish Alphington will celebrate its 100th Anniversary with a calendar of events throughout the year! We would like to hear from past parishioners who may have lost contact with our parish. Join us in the preparations and celebrations? Do you have a story to tell, memorabilia to share etc.? We would love to hear from you! **Contact:** 0425 748 738 For details of what is planned visit our history: www.stanthonyalphingtonhistory.webs.com or www.holyspiritandstanthonyparish.com

Year 7, 2016 Enrolments at Marcellin College:

Applications for Year 7, 2016 and beyond are now being accepted. Please note it is the responsibility of each family to submit an application form, including families who currently have sons enrolled at Marcellin. Applications will not be submitted by the parish primary school. The closing date for Year 7 2016 applications is Friday 27 February 2015. A Parent Information Evening for Year 7 in 2016 will be held Tuesday 17 February at 7.00pm. Please contact the College Registrar on 9851 1589 to obtain an Enrolment Application Form or visit website: www.marcellin.vic.edu.au

Christian Meditation: A Gift for Life:

Tuesday 9 December, 8.30am-3pm at Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. Parish Leaders, School Principals, Religious Education Leaders, Teachers, School Chaplains, Catechists, Prayer Group Leaders, Family Coordinators and all those wanting to experience the practice of meditation are invited to a day seminar on Christian Meditation. Hear from renowned speaker Laurence Freeman OSB and other practitioners and learn how you can introduce Christian Meditation to students and adults. This day seminar is hosted by the Australian Christian Meditation Community in collaboration with the Catholic Education Office Melbourne. **Cost: \$30**

RSVP: Complete the booking form and submit to the Australian Christian Meditation Community

Contact: Mirella Pace on 0408 470 114 or mirellapace49@gmail.com.

Prayers of the Sick: *Please note that as from February 2014 our practice is to leave names on the sick list for a month. To extend the time, please make personal contact with the Parish Office.*

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND: 13 – 14 December 2014

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

K. Gillespie

Special Ministers

Sister Carmel, J. Gray

MARY IMMACULATE: Leader

Sunday 9.00am

E. Ballao

Reader

C. Nguyen

Mass Coordinators

E. Ballao

Counters

M. Rocco, P. Shannon

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

J. Taylor

Lector

C. Bellio

Special Ministers

C. Bellio, R. Katerelos, I. Chiera

Altar Society:

F. Tosolini

Choir Coordinator: I. Chiera

First Collection – Thanksgiving:

Envelopes: \$1,711.00

Loose cash: \$703.30

Total:

\$2,414.30

Second Collection – Presbytery:

\$ 841.65

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