

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508
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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Anne Beer 0417 369 322 / 5349 2168

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830 Anne Beer: 0417 369 322

SUNDAY – 5th December, 2021 2nd Sunday Advent – Year C

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Keep up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 restrictions on the government website

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>.

Updates are also available from the diocesan website.

RECENT DEATHS:

John P Treacy

ANNIVERSARIES:

Alex Cuthbertson, Rona Hutchinson, Trish Larkens,
Patricia Hains, Ben Holmes, Thomas Luke Jess,
Con Mulcahy, Jacinta Packer, Bill Kirkpatrick, Margaret
Harney, Lynette Vogels,
Frances Herbertson, Jim Davis, Brian Lane, Rita
Waugh, Sharon Barker, Agnes & Perc Lunn, Mary
McMahon, Mary Agnes Doyle, Michael McCluskey,
John Pearce, Tom Mulcahy, Harry Thorpe,
Emma Williams, Fred Waugh & Adelaide de Souza.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby,
Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy,
Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan
and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Readings

Today: John Jess

Dec 12: Bernadette Franc

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Bernadette Franc

Dec 12: Charlie Franc

Assembly Leader

Dec 5: Angela Gerrard

Dec 19: Angela Gerrard & Genevieve Johnston

Special Minister

Dec 5: Therese Jess

Dec 19: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

Dec 12: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

5-12 December: Briody Family

Church Grounds

December: Briody Family

Newsletter

December – Bernadette Franc 0427678830

MASS TIMES – for next week

December 12th: MASS 8.30 AM

3rd Sunday of Advent

*Mass on Christmas Eve Dec 24 at
9 pm*

Time to set up our Nativity Scene if
anyone has time to help today.

Advent has a twofold character: As a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Returns

26th Festival of Fine Music 7th – 9th January 2022 for information and bookings: www.ballaratorgans.com.au

Ordination to the Diaconate

Seminarians Matthew Restall and William Lowry will be ordained Deacons for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, December 10, 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Attendance requirements for the Cathedral is QR code or registration upon entry and full vaccination status needs to be provided to the COVID check-in Marshalls.

International Volunteers Day – Sunday, Dec 5, 2021

Within our parish communities are many volunteers who provide their talents and time to contribute to the mission of our church.

We thank God for these people who continue to strive to make our parishes a place of welcome and prayer.

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

This Christmas donate to Vinnies. Your gift can change a life. There are families who are experiencing poverty and homelessness this Christmas and your help can provide them with much needed essentials like food, clothing and a place to call home. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-kindness>

Our Diocesan Community – Issue 3 2021

The final edition of ODC 2021 is available for collection. Please feel free to take copies to the homebound, Nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of
God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

05 DECEMBER 2021

TRUST IN GOD'S HELP

As we prepare for the Lord's return, today's readings encourage us to continue the journey we have started but challenge us as well. Baruch gave heart to the generation of the exile by speaking about the highway that God was building for their return. At the dawn of the time of the Messiah, John the Baptist makes use of the same image but reminds us that the highway that is being built in the desert is not only God's work but ours. Our co-operation is needed as the rough places of our hearts are smoothed, the mountains we force God to cross are made level, and the valleys filled in.

Paul calls the Christians of Philippi to take heart as they wait for the Lord's return. Paul was devoted to all Christian communities he had founded and ministered to, but the Philippians had a special place in his heart, and he called them his jewel and crown (cf. Philippians 4:1). They were a Macedonian community that had suffered much (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:1-3) and yet supported him greatly in his ministry emotionally, financially, and spiritually (Philippians 4: 14-16).

We see the encouragement that Paul gives them as they prepare for the Lord's return. He knows that it is not always easy to discern what is good and necessary but he reassures the Philippians by reminding them that the Lord who started the good work in them will bring it to completion.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant
that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the
glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will
provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of
his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears / carrying seed for the sowing; / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

■ The word of the Lord.