

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508
St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012

Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825 Contact:
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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 – 19th December, 2021 4th Sunday Advent – Year C

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Keep up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 restrictions on the government website.
Updates are also available from the diocesan website. See details of this week's changes below.

RECENT DEATHS:

We pray for the recently deceased.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Robert Stewart, Eric Fay, Joan Noye & Maree Briody.

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: Anne Beer

Dec 26: Clarrie Johnston

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Sue Mahony

Dec 26: John Jess

Assembly Leader

Today: Angela Gerrard & Genevieve
Johnston

Special Minister

Today: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

Dec 26: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

Dec 19 & 24: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Help might be required on Christmas Eve.

Dec 26: Sue Mahony & Angela Gerrard

Church Grounds December 19 & 24:

Charlie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

Newsletter

December – Bernadette Franc 0427678830

January – Carmel Milenkovic 0407320759

MASS TIMES – for next week

Mass on Christmas Eve Dec 24 at 9 pm

December 26th: MASS 8.30 AM

Feast of the Holy Family

January 2nd: LLA 10.00 AM The
Epiphany of the Lord

Advent Wk 4: Theme is 'smallness'

Micah and Luke reveal that God's
attention is focused on the
insignificant and unknown.

Israel's smallest tribe is praised;

Mary a village woman is blessed.

Who in our communities are God's
'little people', revealing something
of God's presence to us?

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.

Columban Calendars are available from Sue Mahony
for \$8.

A special thanks to all those who have contributed to our
Christmas Box appeal. The Primary School were delighted
To be able to gift it to members of their school community.

The following is an excerpt from an email from Bishop Paul Bird in relation to the most recent 'Covid provisions' :-

As you may have seen, the Victorian Government has announced
new Covid provisions to come into effect from 11.59pm tonight
(Wednesday 15 December 2021).

We will no longer be required to check the vaccination status of those
attending places of worship.

The Victorian Council of Churches has received the following
response from the state government. "From tonight there are no
longer vaccination check-in requirements at places of worship. We
do maintain our strong recommendation that people are fully
vaccinated. QR code check-ins are still required. Quotient
requirements are no longer in force. Masks are not mandatory but
are strongly recommended."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

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

GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

19 DECEMBER 2021

GOD IN OUR LIVES

Judah was not one of the more powerful tribes of Israel. It must have come as a surprise to many when Micah prophesied that it was from Bethlehem, one of the least clans of Judah, that a future king would come. The future king that Micah promised was one who would feed the flock of God's people using his power to protect them. The passage from the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as king Jesus more than fulfilled that promise when he offered his very life as a sacrifice.

In the Gospel, the new age promised by Micah dawns as Mary visits her kinswoman Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah. Elizabeth wonders at the visit of Mary, the mother of the Lord, and she is filled with the Holy Spirit by whose power she recognises that the promises God made long ago are now coming to their fulfilment. Perhaps her wonder at John's birth, against all expectations when hope had been lost, has sharpened her perception of the mysterious ways of God.

Often it is those who have experienced God's unexpected intervention in their own lives who are the most adept at perceiving how God is working in the lives of others. Advent can be the same for us, a moment of blessing that invites us to recognise how God is working in our lives and world, most of all, in the birth of Jesus our Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them

till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power to the ends of the
land.

He himself will be peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine
forth from your cherubim throne. / O Lord,
rouse up your might, / O Lord, come to our
help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look
down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine
and protect it, / the vine your right hand has
planted. **R.**



3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, / the man you have given your strength. / And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;

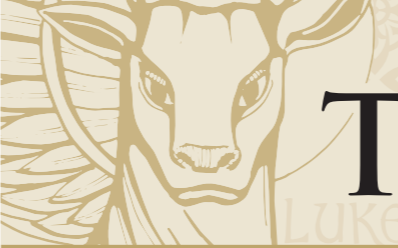
then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



THE SAVING WORD

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / C

25 DECEMBER 2021

You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

DAY MASS

FIRST READING

Isa 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

97:1-6.R.v.3

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might

believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received — yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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MIDNIGHT MASS

FIRST READING

Isa 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

95:1-3.11-13 R.v. Lk 2:11

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**



3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**
4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself

for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Lk 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: