

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508  
Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012  
[ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825  
Email:

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

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

**SUNDAY – 4th December 2022**  
**Second Sunday of Advent - Year A**

### RECENT DEATHS:

Roger Molomby,  
Leondis Dean (former parishioner),  
Molly Bruty (Carmel Milenkovic's Mother)

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Tom Mulcahy, Bernard Righetti, Harry Thorpe,  
Emma Williams, Fred Waugh, Adelaide de Souza,

### PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

### ROSTER:

#### ***Introduction & Reading***

Today: Jim Mahony  
Dec 11th: John Jess

#### ***Prayers of the Faithful***

Today: Charlie Franc  
Dec 11th: Genevieve Johnston

#### ***Assembly Leader***

Dec 18th: Gerrard Family

#### ***Special Minister***

Dec 18th: Therese Jess

#### ***Music***

Dec 18th: Carita Clancy

#### ***Church Cleaning, Linen Flowers***

Dec 11th – 18th: Briody Family

#### ***Church Grounds***

Dec 11th - 18th: Briody Family

#### ***Newsletter***

December: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

### MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK

**December 11th**

**8.30am Mass**

**Christmas Eve Mass at 9.00pm**

### Columban Calendars

Available now from Sue Mahony for \$8.

### **St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal**

Phone 13 18 12 or  
visit <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>

### **Thank you**

Thank you to those who have ministered to Roger in many ways over recent years whilst he has been in the Nursing Home, especially our Special Ministers and those involved in visitation.

### **Christmas Box**

Donate for a special Christmas Gift for a local family

### **Parish Request**

Please contact Genevieve if you have any unwanted ribbon in Christmas colours between 2 ½ and 5cm wide or any artificial flowers

### **Invitation**

We are invited to farewell Rev David Thompson at St Andrews Uniting Church, Beaufort at 2.30pm

### **Our Diocesan Community – Issue 3, 2022**

Please take a copy from the Church foyer

### **Diocesan e-News**

The latest edition of e-News is available at <https://mailchi.mp/0c9beb40539a/edition-93-october-8-13816430>.

### **Special Minister Training:**

Online training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion please see the ACU website for future dates and enrolment. A 5-week innovative, comprehensive program: [acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy](http://acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy)

### **2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

Expressions of interest are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11th - 24th 2023 - Jordan, Petra, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, Qumran. Fully escorted, all-inclusive pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll, arranged by Lifestyle Travel Ballarat Contact Fr Justin for further information (Daylesford 0448 220 685) or [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au)

### **Advent Appeal for Ukraine**

A special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine. Collections today and next Sunday For evacuation of people from frontline territories, food packages for people in need or shelters for the displaced. Find out more at [www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)

### **Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal**

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

**GOSPEL**

Mt 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

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

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

4 DECEMBER 2022

## CHANGE OF HEART

By the time Isaiah wrote, Israel had had some centuries of experience of kings, both good and bad. In that time there had been plenty of opportunities to learn what were the qualities that marked an ideal king – the presence of the spirit of the Lord, wisdom, insight, integrity, fairness, faithfulness, and concern for the poor. The longed for messiah would establish true quality of life, where even natural enemies would be able to live in peace.

One of the vexing problems Paul addressed among the Christians of Rome was how to overcome division and encourage tolerance, understanding and peace. His solution was to use the example of Jesus' tolerance and love as the basis and springboard for our way. In this way, even Jewish and Gentile Christians who were divided on the issue of food laws, would be able to live in peace with one another as they waited for the Lord's coming.

As John the Baptist began his ministry the time of the messiah, longed for by Isaiah, was finally dawning. The hope that had sustained generations was now being realised. John looked upon the evils of his day and saw that while the messiah was soon to return the people were not yet prepared to greet him. They mistakenly relied on belonging to the people of Israel by virtue of their birth. John saw that such children of God were as plentiful and as worthless as the stones that made farming so difficult. Then, as now, what was called for was a change of heart and an openness to the invitation to prepare for the Lord's coming among us.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

Isa 11:1-10

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PS

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, / to a king's son your justice, / that he may judge your people in justice / and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

2. In his days justice shall flourish / and peace till the moon fails. / He shall rule from sea to sea, / from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry / and the needy who are helpless. / He will have



pity on the weak / and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

4. May his name be blessed for ever / and endure like the sun. / Every tribe shall be blessed in him, / all nations bless his name. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

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