

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508 Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825  
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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 – December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**DEATHS:** Yvonne Dridan

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Margaret Ryan, Doris McKenzie, Lorna James, Shane Broadbent, Alex Cuthbertson, Rona Hutchinson, Trish Larkens,, Patrician Hains, Ben Holmes Thomas Luke Jess, Con Mulcahy, Jacinta Parker, Bill Kirkpatrick, Margaret Harney, Lynette VogelsNola Wheeler, Frances Herbertson, Jim Davies & Brian Lane

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Tony Collins, Frank Meehan, Wilma Tiley and all those in need of prayer.

**ROSTER:**

**Introduction & Reading**

Today: John Jess

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>: Sue Mahony.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

Today: Angela Gerrard

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>: Bernadette Franc

**Assembly Leaders**

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

**Special Minister**

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>: Gail Hall

**Music**

Sue Mahony

**Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers**

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>: Carmel Milenkovic & Judy Franc

**Church Grounds:**

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>: Peter Milenkovic & Charlie Franc

**Newsletter:**

November Carmel Milenkovic 0407320759

December Bernadette Franc

**MASS TIMES**

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>; **Mass 8.30 am**

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**FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

“It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus open doors of hope.”

Pope Benedict

Advent is a period of waiting in hope and anticipation for the coming of our Lord, not just as a historical event, but as a deep, personal experience that rejuvenates our faith. It's a time to come together in prayer, to listen attentively for God's call in our lives, and to prepare our hearts for the deeper entry

of Christ into our world and our personal lives. Take a moment each day to brighten someone's world, a smile, a small gesture, a thoughtful word. As we anticipate the joy of Christmas, let the spirit of giving and compassion guide us through the days of Advent, creating a ripple effect of warmth and connection. In these simple acts, find the true magic of the season, making each day leading up to Christmas a testament to the power of kindness.

**Christmas Gift Box is at the front of the church for non perishable items .Last day for donations will be Sun Nov 17th.**

**NOTICE:** Community Advent Concert and Carols with the Pyrenees Chorale & Beaufort Munciple Band ,TODAY at St Andrews Uniting Church starting at 2.30 pm.

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

**Catholic Diocese of Ballarat e-News** Edition 124 link to view is [enew@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:enew@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**Advance Notice 2024**

**Rite of Election 2024:** Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

**Mass of the Oils 2024:** Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall.

**“Organs of the Ballarat Godfields’** will be on again on January 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> 2024.for information and bookings go to [www.ballaratorgans.com.au](http://www.ballaratorgans.com.au)

*Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Matthew 24:40-42*

*Little Harry's family moved a lot, going from one country town to the next, one day at his new school the teacher asked Harry a question. Harry, if you have \$3.00 in one pocket and 25 cents in the other pocket what would you have? Little Harry replied, someone else's pants Miss.*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

### WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Dr Rosemary Canavan as our reflection writer. Rosemary is Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. In her reflection, she will briefly consider each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Christopher Monaghan CM, for his insightful reflections on the readings over the past three years.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2023

## WATCHING AND WAITING

The liturgical year begins, Advent dawns, and the readings call us into reflection and renewal of our relationship with God. The prophet Isaiah's plea resounds across the ages, lamenting the current state of affairs. Having already asked God to see how bad things are, he beseeches God "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Then and now, God's help is needed to turn our lives around.

The psalm invites us to raise our voices in response "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Paul writing to the Corinthians offers a thanksgiving to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ and prays with all gratefulness so that they, and we, "will not be without any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."

In today's Gospel four imperatives emphatically call upon our hearts: "see" and "be alert" come in rapid succession, then "stay awake" is repeated. This warning to stay awake is echoed twice to the disciples in Gethsemane. The beginning of Mark's Gospel announces, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ" (v1) and "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (v15). The ultimate moment of revelation of Jesus comes with the resurrection and the empty tomb. This is our time to turn our hearts to God, to hear the good news, to wait with gratitude and renew our souls before celebrating anew the birth of Jesus, God among us.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and  
come down — at your Presence the mountains  
would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but  
you act like this for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,

all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

**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

1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to  
the Corinthians.

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces  
you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank  
him that you have been enriched in so many  
ways, especially in your teachers and preachers;  
the witness to Christ has indeed been strong  
among you so that you will not be without any  
of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting  
for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he  
will keep you steady and without blame until  
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
because God by calling you has joined you to  
his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

■ **The word of the Lord.**